

RESOLUTION NO. 15-17

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO CREATE A WILLAMETTE FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA AND URGING DESIGNATION OF SUCH BY CONGRESS

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape; and

WHEREAS, the proposed national heritage area extends from historic parts of Lake Oswego, West Linn and Oregon City – following the river through French Prairie to Willamette Mission State Park; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette Falls Area is an important nexus of the geologic formations created by the Missoula Floods, including the Willamette Meteorite and the foundation of the unmatched fertility of the Willamette Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette Falls Area was a prominent gathering place for fishing and trade among numerous tribes for centuries prior to white settlement; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette River and Willamette Falls Area has been and continues to be an important transportation hub for tourism, commerce and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the 2,000-mile journey over the Oregon Trail ended in the Willamette Falls Area (a destination point for one of the largest unforced migrations in world history), and helped to secure the nation's boundaries from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the power of Willamette Falls inspired human industry since its discovery, for early sawmills and flour mills, and eventually hydroelectric power for woolen and paper mills, but especially for the world's first long distance transmission of electricity; and

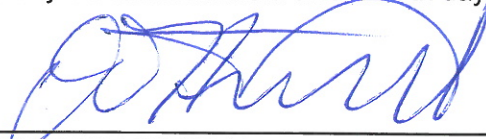
WHEREAS, the discovery of mineral wealth in Lake Oswego helped to build the Pacific Northwest's infrastructure, through its iron mines and iron smelters; and

WHEREAS, the industrialization in the Willamette Falls Area was the birthplace of industry in the American Northwest; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated approach to managing and promoting this area as a national and statewide resource is a unique opportunity to collaborate on cultural & heritage tourism, natural resources, recreation and historic preservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of Oregon City supports the efforts of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition to attain National Heritage status for the Willamette Falls Area; urges the National Park Service to find that such status is merited, and urges Congress to designate and create a Willamette Falls National Heritage Area.

Approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Commission held on the 17th day of June 2015.




DAN HOLLADAY, Mayor

Attested to this 17th day of June 2015:



Kattie Riggs, City Recorder

Approved as to legal sufficiency:



City Attorney

GSB:7104860.1