

# Willamette Falls

## LEGACY PROJECT

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736  
[www.willamettefallslegacy.org](http://www.willamettefallslegacy.org)

### Partners Group:

September 22, 2017

#### Oregon City

Mayor Dan Holladay  
Commissioner Renate Mengelberg  
City Manager Tony Konkol

Mr. George Heidgerken  
Falls Legacy LLC  
3408 South Union Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington 98409

#### Clackamas County

Commissioner Paul Savas  
Commissioner Martha Schrader  
County Administrator Don Krupp

#### Metro

Council President Tom Hughes  
Councilor Carlotta Collette  
COO Martha Bennett

Mr. Heidgerken,

#### State of Oregon

Senator Alan Olsen  
Representative Mark Meek  
Metro Regional Solutions  
Coordinator Raihana Ansary  
Deputy Director State Parks  
MG Devereux

Oregonians have invested money, time, ideas and trust in creating public access to one of the state's natural wonders: Willamette Falls. As public partners, we are responsible for delivering on the community's vision – a commitment that we hope is shared by Falls Legacy LLC. Your cooperation is critical to move forward with the construction of a public riverwalk and deliver on the project's core values of economic redevelopment, public access, healthy habitat, and historic and cultural interpretation. We remain steadfast in our belief that bringing people close to the Falls will inspire the private sector to take action, creating the prosperous and vibrant place we all envision.

As stewards of public resources, we are concerned about your reluctance to follow through on commitments – and we are considering all of our options for responsibly moving the project forward. We ask that you re-engage in planning economic development at the site and fulfill your obligation to sign our permit application to the State of Oregon and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

As you know, the easement you signed in December 2014 clearly sets forth each party's obligations. By signing that document, Falls Legacy agreed to work hand-in-hand with the public to design the future of this scenic, historic and cultural treasure. We have shared the community's plans with you every step of the way, and incorporated your comments when we received them. Unveiling the community's vision for a public riverwalk this past June should have been the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Willamette Falls, Oregon City and all of Oregon, providing the boost that's needed to stimulate private development.

However, you have declined to sign the application that will allow the project to move forward – citing concerns that we have already addressed. Furthermore, you walked back from our core value of economic redevelopment when you stopped grant-funded work to plan private

development. You also failed to make the \$200,000 payment due to public partners in January 2017, as spelled out in the easement. Your failure to follow through on commitments is delaying the project's timeline, and we are now at risk of having to return \$5 million in funding from the State of Oregon for the riverwalk.

It is our obligation to act in the best interest of the public, who has put their trust in us to make the most of Willamette Falls. Working together, we have the opportunity to do right by one of Oregon's iconic places – and the people who believe in it. We hope you will decide to keep your commitments and sign the application. If you do not, we will consider alternative actions to ensure that Oregonians benefit from the values of this special place: economic redevelopment, public access, healthy habitat, and historic and cultural interpretation.

Sincerely,

Willamette Falls Legacy Project Partners



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Konkol".

Tony Konkol, City Manager  
Oregon City



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Krupp".

Don Krupp, County Administrator  
Clackamas County



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Bennett".

Martha Bennett, COO  
Metro



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raihana Ansary".

Raihana Ansary, Metro Regional Solutions Coordinator  
State of Oregon

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MG Devereux".

MG Devereux, Deputy Director, State Parks  
State of Oregon