



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Oregon House Votes to Create Willamette Falls Locks Authority**

*House Bill 2564 creates a public corporation to administer the development of the Willamette Falls Locks project*

SALEM, OR—The Oregon House voted in support of [House Bill 2564](#), a bill that creates the Willamette Falls Locks authority, a public corporation that will establish ownership, oversight and management of the Willamette Falls Locks project. That would include repairing, maintaining, upgrading and operating the Willamette Falls Locks project and associated properties and facilities for commercial, transportation, recreational, cultural, historic, heritage and tourism purposes. This legislation is the most recent step to re-operationalize the Locks since they were declared non-operational in 2011.

“This bill is the work of years of compromise, economic and engineering reports, and partnerships with the state and Army Corps of Engineers,” said [Rep. Mark Meek](#) (D-Oregon City), one of the bill’s Chief Sponsors whose district includes the Locks. “A Public Corporation will be able to operate in an entrepreneurial manner while still being accountable to the public and will ensure the Locks remain a public asset to be used and enjoyed by all Oregonians.”

This legislative concept was previously brought forth during the 2020 session as [House Bill 4150](#). The bill passed unanimously in the House but died in the Senate after Senate Republicans walked out, effectively ending the session.

HB 2564, which passed 54 to 3, will now move to the Senate for consideration.

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