

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2004

Steven J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

D. Robert Lohn
Northwest Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Brigadier General William T. Grisoli
Commander and Division Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Northwestern Division
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Dear Administrator Wright, Administrator Lohn and Brigadier General Grisoli :


We are writing regarding the recent analysis by the federal agencies of a variety of summer spill regimes for the Federal Columbia River Power System. According to this analysis, spill during July and August provides limited biological benefit at a significant cost to ratepayers. Your recent work was consistent with results from a July study by staff for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

We also understand that you have done some analysis of potential biological offsets for various reduced spill regimes. Your analysis shows that full mitigation for the biological harm resulting from reduced spill could – in theory – be achieved at lower cost to ratepayers. We believe this analysis should be tested, beginning this summer, for a period of time (perhaps 2-3 years) sufficient to determine whether the expected cost savings and biological benefits can be achieved.

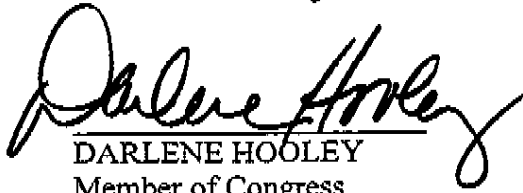
We support your efforts to explore more cost-effective means of salmon recovery. We urge you to continue those efforts. We also support the principle that the biological impacts on salmon runs from changes in hydrosystem operations should be mitigated. Mitigation actions should assure salmon runs are left in an equal or better condition than exists today. We believe it is important that decisions be made early this year in order to assure that any biological offset measures are put in place in time to mitigate any changes in this year's summer hydrosystem operations.


Finally, we are aware that state fish and wildlife agencies have raised questions about the proposed changes in summer spill. We urge you to address in writing these questions and concerns raised by other interested parties and to make these documents available to the public. We thank you for your efforts in pursuing actions that can meet our twin goals of achieving salmon recovery and striving for a strong economy.

Sincerely,


PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress


GEORGE NETHERCUTT
Member of Congress


DARLENE HOOLEY
Member of Congress

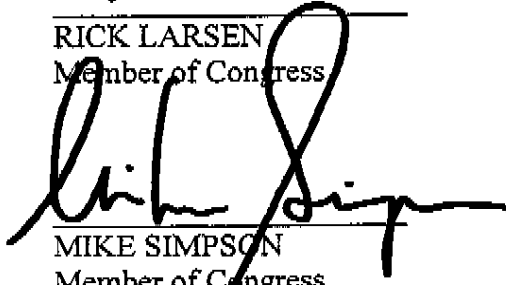

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Member of Congress


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