

Hello. My name is Bob Gronholz and I am a Commissioner of the Port of Whitman County and our Port says: SAVE OUR DAMS!!!!

The Port of Whitman has invested millions of taxpayer dollars into our river Ports of Wilma, Almota and Central Ferry and these Ports generate over 759 jobs as well as provide immense tax revenues for our county. 759 jobs may not seem like much, but in towns like Colfax, Garfield and the other small towns of the Palouse, even one more job or one new business can make an immense difference.

The face of Whitman County is changing. Agriculture has seen new challenges in the past few years and our farmers are hurting. The loss of barging for grain and other commodities on the Snake River would be economically devastating to these farmers. And, because our farmers are hurting, our whole economy is hurting. Just walk through Colfax, our County seat, and one can count the empty storefronts and name at least 4 businesses that have closed their doors in the last year alone. Inevitable you say? It's a changing world, you say. Take out the dams and the economic strife in Whitman County and our region will increase tenfold.

The ports, with the ability to incubate new businesses and accommodate large existing businesses are essential to the economic base of Whitman County. We offer affordable rent to a diverse cross section of industry, affordable

access to the barging of commodities and recreational opportunities to our citizens through our operation of Boyer Park and Marina. None of this would be possible without the dams and the continuation of slack water navigation on the Snake River.

Please join me, and the citizens of Whitman County, in our efforts to save our dams and insure the economic survival of our entire region.

Thank you.

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