

# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION LOCAL #21

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President  
TYLER GORTON

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MAR 24 2000

February 27, 2000

Federal Caucus Comment Record  
c/o BPA-PI  
707 W. Main Street, Suite 500  
Spokane, WA 99205

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to inform you that the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local #21 is opposed to the breaching of the four Snake River dams and/or the drawdown or breaching of mainstream Columbia River dams.

Nearly 1,000 ILWU members based on the Columbia River depend to a great extent on the exporting of agricultural products for their livelihoods. 43% of U. S. wheat exports are currently shipped out of Columbia River ports. Much of this includes agricultural products that are barged down the Snake River - Columbia River system. Nearly 30% of our work on the river is directly related to the shipment of grain and other agricultural products.

Any drawdowns or breaching of this river system would jeopardize these jobs and eliminate the most cost effective and environmentally sound method for Northwest farmers to get their products to ports to be shipped. These farmers are already facing tough economic times and the added burden of increased transportation costs could be devastating to them.

We agree that salmon recovery is vital to our region but let's not put the burden of restoration on two very critical Northwest industries.

Sincerely,

Ty Gorton  
President  
ILWU Local #21