

PORT OF CHELAN COUNTY



COMMISSIONERS:

James H. Knapp, District No. 1
John R. Stoltenberg, District No. 2
Bonnie L. Cannon, District No. 3

March 28, 2000

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
Attention: Lower Snake River Study
201 North Third Ave
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

RE: Corps Snake River Environmental Impact Statement

The Board of Commissioners of the Port of Chelan County hereby express their formal opposition to the breaching of the four lower Snake River Dams. As elected officials of a large rural Eastern Washington county, the Commissioners share the concern of virtually everyone in the region over the future of salmon in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. However, they oppose breaching of the dams for the following reasons:

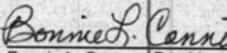
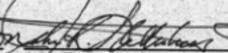
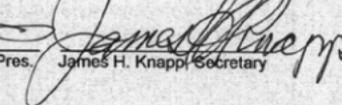
1. The biological benefits to the fish are uncertain
2. Dam breaching will cause economic hardship to our rural communities—these communities are not sharing in the prosperity of the urban west side of the state; the economic impacts of dam breaching may prove catastrophic
3. Dam breaching will cause the loss of habitat for other forms of resident fish and wildlife, and increase air pollution by shifting the movement of freight, goods and commodities to other less fuel efficient means of transportation
4. Dam breaching is not the "silver bullet" that so many are looking for—the solutions are likely far more complex.

We share the view of many, many citizens of the area most impacted by the dam breaching proposal that the dams produce a significant level of public benefits, including clean low-cost power, irrigation, and energy efficient navigation to move our region's agricultural products to markets all over the world.

We are opposed to the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams.

Sincerely,

Board of Commissioners of the Port of Chelan County

Bonnie L. Cannon, President John R. Stoltenberg, Vice-Pres. James H. Knapp, Secretary