



DICKMAN FARMS, INC.

March 28, 2000

Department of the Army
 Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers
 Attention: Lower Snake Rive Study
 201 North Third Avenue
 Walla Walla, WA 99632-1876

To whom it may concern:

Please add me to the list of those who strongly oppose dam breaching on the Lower Snake River, as proposed in the Corps of Engineers' Lower Snake Draft EIS. I cannot understand why we should consider a plan which is not only expensive, but has hidden costs which cannot be fully evaluated, and no certainty of benefit to the fish.

Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest is an American success story. Although I don't bring crops to market via barge, or utilize water from the Columbia or Snake for irrigation, my production in the Willamette Valley is dependent upon being a part of this larger-area industry, with its attendant infrastructure, and market development. Without an efficient transportation system to bring wheat from throughout the Northwest to Portland's ocean harbor, my wheat would be worth less in, because Portland's efficient market and shipping structures wouldn't be in place. And my irrigation would be much more expensive, without the benefit of economical hydroelectricity.

Removing dams is not fair to me, and it's even more unfair to those who will lose valuable transportation links, water sources, and through these actions, significant value in their production base. Farmland values will shrink, bringing another financial crisis on an industry which is already in financial trouble. There is no way the EIS can address the additional transportation costs, the loss in property value, or the environmental impacts.

I won't labor you with more specifics: The Oregon Wheat Growers League, among others, has given you more clear definition on all these problems and shortcomings. But please know this: While I'm concerned for salmon, and for all the environment, I'm also concerned for the people who live and work here. Please add my name to the list of those who oppose dam breaching: There is no regional consensus on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Dickman

Copy: Daren Coppock, OWGL