

COLUMBIA

RIVERKEEPER

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VIA FAX (509) 527-7832

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Attention: Lower Snake River Study
Department of the Army
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers

RE: Lower Snake River Study

Dear Army Corps. of Engineers:

I am writing on behalf of Columbia Riverkeeper (CRK) to express our support for partially removing four dams on the lower Snake River to recover endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead. If partial dam removal is not implemented, the risk of extinction is unacceptably high.

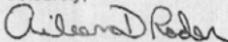
Dam removal will actually benefit the Region's economy by ending spending on ineffective recovery measures and avoiding reparations to native tribes and Canada for broken treaties. Dam removal will benefit the commercial fishing industry. Further, the Northwest economy can benefit greatly through increased tourism by providing prized whitewater recreation opportunities and recovering sport fishing locations.

CRK recognizes that some local communities and specific industries have come to depend on these dams. However, we believe, with your leadership, we can design and implement mitigation packages and transition plans that will allow us to shift to a salmon-friendly economy without significant upheaval. The Clinton administration and its agencies must make sure that such mitigation and transition studies are done and made available for consideration with the revised draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for release later this year.

Removal of the four Lower Snake River dams is the best choice for the Northwest and the Nation. I urge the Administration and Congress to defend the people of the Northwest and the salmon by making dam removal the preferred alternative for Snake River Salmon Recovery.

Please include this as part of the official comment for the National Marine Fisheries Service's All-H Paper and the Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,



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Senior Counsel, Columbia Riverkeeper

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