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2/23/00

MAR 17 2000

Mr. Greg Graham
U.S. Corps of Engineers
201 3rd Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99367

Dear Greg,

As a small business owner, I have grave concerns over the possibility of removing four Snake river dams to enhance salmon runs. First of all, I do not think that dam removal would be very successful. The main problems are:

- 1. Uncontrolled fishing by fishing vessels that have the very latest technology, and are fishing the schools of salmon guided by satellite technology that keeps them right on top of the schools of fish. An observer for the Fisheries Dept. recently reported vessels catching 200 tons a day. No wonder adult fish do not return.**
- 2. The predators need to be controlled. This includes seals, walrus and Terns at the mouth of the river and inland.**
- 3. "Sport" fishing needs to be controlled. On any trip down the Columbia River you can see from 200 to 400 gill nets stretched across the river. I know the Indians claim that it is their right. but they have turned this into a commercial venture and are selling the Salmon.**

A recent report, by the Northwest Power Planning Council, indicates that there is a 1 in 4 chance that we will have some brown outs, due to a coming shortage in electricity, in the next 4 years, even with the dams in place.

Many businesses are located in the Northwest because of the lower cost of hydroelectric generated power.

Some of these businesses may leave the State of Washington because of the price of electricity. There are many more economic losses involved. Loss of barge freight rates, increased use of highways and the related costs, economic losses to agriculture etc. I'm sure you have heard them all.

In closing, I would give up ALL of the Salmon rather than breaching the dams in what would be a completely unproven experiment. Once the breaching has been done, it would be 20-30 years before anyone would know whether or not it was successful. The damage would already be done.

I hope you will consider my opinions when it comes time to make a decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dean Culbertson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dean Culbertson; owner