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Submitted
17 Feb 00
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CITY OF UMATILLA

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Let me present two compelling reasons why we should never breach any of the four dams on the Snake River!

First, is the economic devastation that would result in such a drastic measure.

These dams were built to provide for navigation, flood control, recreation, irrigation and power. With the assurance of these benefits, the people of Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington invested millions of dollars in irrigation and ag-related industry as well as much needed electrical power. None of us want to go back to the coal-oil lantern days.

1 Many of us remember the flood of 1948-1949 that washed away the entire community of Vanport! Had these dams been in place that would never have happened! This winter, if it were not for these dams, Portland would be experiencing flooding! In addition, this does not address the tremendous loss of revenue from recreation, boating, hunting and fishing! When we look at transportation loss and the transfer to truck transportation,

2 I do not believe anyone has figured in the added cost of road construction and repair -- this would be no small expense and it would go on forever!

Now, let me present the second compelling reason to never breach these dams.

If all of these dams were removed it would have only a minimal effect on restoring our salmon runs.

Dams are only one factor in a very complicated problem, and it is clear that these dams can be made more fish-friendly. But, where are the studies on the effects of the thousands of tons of salmon taken in the ocean -- and taken by sophisticated fishing methods not even heard of 100 years ago.

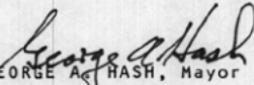
What of the Terns and Sea Lions and other predators that take millions of fish on their way to and from the ocean. Has any study been made on the effects of the gill netters and the set nets that cover the river from the mouth of the Columbia to McNary Dam?

We are a nation that can put men on the moon and I cannot believe that we cannot devise ways and means to restore our salmon runs!

The greatest environmentalists in our country are those people who put bread, meat and potatoes on your table! We talk and theorize and fund studies -- they do something about it!

The irrigators of our area are a showcase for the nation for the efficient and conservative use of water. With their own money and hard work they are improving the habitat along our spawning streams, and they are not only willing but anxious to reach out in cooperation to help solve this salmon restoration problem.

Let me close by saying it would be criminal to take from them and others whose living depends on the water provided by these dams!


GEORGE A. HASH, Mayor
City of Umatilla