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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000

### Statement of Congressman Doc Hastings For the Pasco Hearing on the All-H Paper

I would like to thank each of you for attending this hearing today. Whatever differences may exist among people in the Pacific Northwest about how best to protect salmon, clearly there is a consensus that they must be protected.

Unfortunately, in recent years too much attention has been paid to proposals to breach the four lower Snake River dams. Proponents of dam breaching overlook a number of important facts:

- Of the 34 west coast salmon and steelhead runs listed, or proposed for listing, under the Endangered Species Act, only four pass through the lower Snake River dams.
- Survival of migrating salmon is now as high as it was before the Snake River dams were built.
- Removing the four Snake River dams would cost approximately \$1 billion, plus \$300 million per year in lost power revenues.
- 50-70 million cubic yards of sediment would be released into the Snake and Columbia rivers.
- Dam breaching would result in the loss of clean and renewable hydropower, which would have to be replaced by sources that adversely impact air quality.
- Breaching the Snake River dams would end navigation above the Tri-Cities and would result in 120,000 more rail cars and 700,000 more trucks on our highways.
- It would take nearly half a century before we could expect to see any potential benefits from dam breaching for salmon.

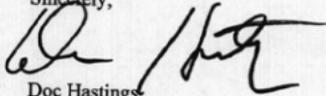
Most importantly, the proponents of dam breaching overlook the fact that any plan to remove dams would have to be approved by Congress. Which is highly unlikely. We must focus our efforts in the future on those options that provide an immediate benefit to restore our salmon. Rather than focusing on options whose benefits are unknown and not supported by the available science.

Although the agencies' "All-H Paper" appears to be a step in the right direction, more needs to be done. For example, additional research is needed into the impact of ocean conditions and serious steps need to be taken to address predation by birds and marine mammals. The region must also continue its work to address harvest by

implementing the Pacific Salmon Treaty, improve spawning and estuary habitat, and improve hatchery practices through technology to support recovery efforts.

The people of the Pacific Northwest can and will save the salmon, and they will do it without sacrificing their economic future or way of life. I look forward to reading the comments from this series of public hearings, and thank everyone for taking this opportunity to participate in this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress

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Joyce Defelice  
Congresswoman

Joyce Defelice

Congresswoman's

~~deputy~~

District Director