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# PORT OF MATTAWA

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The Commissioners for the Port of Mattawa are on record that opposes any dam removal on the Snake & Columbia Rivers. We have followed with much interest the All-H process over the last several years and find the recommendation that call for breaching to be almost fanatical and without any real economic consideration.

The best numbers that support breaching would have us believe that increasing wild fish on the Snake over the next 50 years by only 2000 fish are worth the price! This just does not make any sense to take this kind of chance on something that will not increase these runs back to catch able levels. The true facts are as follows: The wild runs were all but eliminated in the late 1800's by over fishing, way before any dams were built. We have a current population of approximately 12,000,000 people living in the Pacific Northwest, the sheer numbers have and will have major impacts on all fish & wildlife, we do not think any one is going back to the 1800's standards of living because of fish problems. The anadromous fish spend most of their lives in the ocean and what happens out there has a major impact on returning numbers, just look at what has happened on many of the coastal rivers without dams!

The NEGATIVE ECONOMIC impacts of Dam removal on the Northwest Economy cannot be underestimated. Even though the LOWER SNAKE Dams represent only 5% of the NW energy supply, we are already in short supply and we have reduced the capacity of the Hydroelectric system by 15-25% because of fish concerns, we cannot afford to lose any more! The alternative is to build more fossil fuel burning plants to meet the increased electrical needs of the Northwest at a price of more pollutants being pumped into out atmosphere.

**THE DAMS HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN FISH RECOVERY, BUT REMOVAL IS NOT THE ANSWER**

Sincerely,

*Richard Lutz*  
Commissioner