



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY OF CASSIA

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CLERK OF THE COURT
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March 20, 2000

APR 10 2000

Department of the Army
Walla Walla District COE
Attn Lower Snake River Study
201 North 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA. 99362-1876

Re: Position of Cassia County Idaho on Breaching of the Lower Snake River Dams.

Dear Sirs:

We are writing as the elected Board of County Commissioners of Cassia County, Idaho, representing the interests of the people of Cassia County, Idaho. Cassia County is a county located in south central Idaho situated on the south shore of the Snake River.

We are writing to express our opposition to the breaching of the dams on the lower Snake River.

It is our position that the breaching of these dams would destroy an essential part of the fundamental infra-structure that has been built over the decades in our region of the country. We do not believe that there is sufficient scientific evidence to show that the breaching of the dams would restore the declining salmon and steelhead runs. We believe that other appropriate solutions have been proposed and additional alternative solutions will be developed in the future which are far more likely to solve the declining salmon and steelhead runs.

What is certain however, is that the breaching of the dams will cause severe detriment to Idaho workers and Idaho's economy. Breaching of the dams will result in increased energy costs— this at a time when our agricultural based economy is stretched to the limit and can not afford such increased costs. The amount of power generated by the four dams is a significant factor in our region. Making up the deficit in power that would result from the loss of these dams would require significant other generating facilities with attendant environmental costs and problems.

We believe that breaching the dams is a risky and radical solution to the problem and it is far from certain that it would solve the problem it was designed to solve. We also believe that

the effects of removal would do more harm than good, not only to the salmon and steelhead, but also to the economy and employment opportunities in the State of Idaho and in Cassia County specifically.

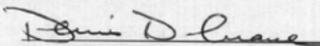
We therefore urge you in making your decision to reject the proposed solution to breach the lower Snake River dams and to look seriously at other solutions which are more likely to be successful, less risky and which do not involve the deliberate destruction of significant amounts of hard earned and costly infra-structure developed over the decades in our region.

Sincerely,

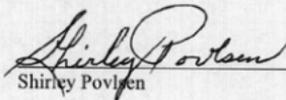
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CASSIA COUNTY, IDAHO**



Paul Christensen



Dennis R. Crane



Shirley Povlsen