

APR 24 2000

WASHINGTON STATE
HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



Federal Caucus Comment Record
C/O BPA PL
707 W. Main Street, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

RE: Comments on All-H Paper

Dear Federal Caucus Representative:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the All-H Paper and salmon recovery efforts in the Pacific Northwest. My comments reflect the views of the Washington State Horticultural Association, the state's largest tree fruit organization. We represent 3,400 people involved in the growing and packing of tree fruit in Washington State. Tree fruit is the state's leading production value crop. As you read these comments, keep in mind that one of the tree fruit producing regions in the state resides between the Columbia and Snake rivers, known within the tree fruit community as the Columbia Basin.

We want you to know that we believe it is possible to have both dams and salmon.

The science developed through years of research by members of the federal caucus supports this concept. The most recent studies suggest that breaching dams would cost hundreds of millions of dollars annually and disrupt the economy of the region while returning only minimal benefits at best for salmon as compared to non-breaching alternatives. In fact, the same studies suggest that breaching dams could have an overall negative effect on the environment, from the release of silt to the increase of truck and rail transportation due to the loss of river barging.

The river drawdown and dam breaching issue now stands in the way of meaningful salmon recovery. We need to stay focused on the issue at hand – implementing meaningful salmon recovery. It's time to move ahead and eliminate dam breaching as an option.

1 We would recommend that the federal caucus move beyond the debate over dams and direct their energies toward the following areas: improving existing project bypass and fish transportation facilities; restructuring the existing National Marine Fisheries Service flow augmentation program; and improving water management within the region by implementing a water management alternative developed by water right holders.

We need to remember that salmon recovery is the goal, not dam breaching.

Sincerely,

James M. Hazen
Executive Director

CC: WSHA Board of Directors
Gov. Gary Locke
Washington State's Congressional delegation
Director Jim Jesernig, Washington State Department of Agriculture