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PUBLIC MEETING SESSION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
DRAFT LOWER SNAKE RIVER JUVENILE SALMON MIGRATION  
FEASIBILITY REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
WITH  
FEDERAL CAUCUS CONSERVATION OF COLUMBIA BASIN FISH  
"ALL-H PAPER"

DOUBLE TREE HOTEL  
2525 NORTH 20TH AVENUE  
PASCO, WASHINGTON

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

FEBRUARY 17, 2000  
1:50 P.M.

COURT REPORTER: WILLIAM J. BRIDGES, CM, RMR, CSR

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1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: What I am going  
2 to do, because in the past sessions that we have had,  
3 we have only read the first three folks, and so people  
4 had no clue when they were going to talk. So let me  
5 first go through the first 30 people that we are going  
6 to hear, and you might want to write down where you  
7 hear your name coming up, or if you hear it, and it  
8 will be three minutes per person.

9 We will begin with Bill Burke. Followed by  
10 Thomas Morning Owl. Followed by Bill Quaempts.  
11 Followed by Bob Jensen. Followed by Bob Jepsen. They  
12 are not brothers. Followed by Fred Bennett. Followed  
13 by Dean Burton. Then Max Benitz. Edwin Thiele. Les  
14 Wigen. Rella Reiman. Mark Booker. Joyce DeFelece.  
15 I think --

16 Let me apologize right now for  
17 mispronouncing your names. I will do that, I am sure,  
18 today. I really apologize for doing that. I should  
19 apologize, too, Mike Krouse for calling him Bill  
20 Krouse earlier.

21 So with that, let's keep going. John  
22 Barkley come after Joyce. Then Frank Harkenrider.  
23 Followed by Sue Miller. George Hash. And LeRoy  
24 Allison. Then followed by Neil Toothaker. Brad  
25 Casper. Ken Peterson. Kathleen Gordon. I think it

1 is Lynne Health, Heath, Heal. Health. I'm not sure  
2 what that is. I think it is Lynne. You were number  
3 two on the yellow sheet. Tom Flint will be after  
4 Lynne. Followed by Alanna Farrow. Followed by Victor  
5 Moore. Followed by Cliff Wogsland. Followed by Leo  
6 Hill. Then Leonard Ross. And Tom Clyde.

7 Is that about 30 people? Is that right?  
8 We are going to start there.

9 So, with that, let me turn to our first  
10 speaker. The first folks are the elected officials.  
11 That's exactly what it is.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I apologize.

13 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
14 much. And thank you for raising that. If people have  
15 questions throughout today, please come on up over to  
16 me over to the side and I will try to answer  
17 questions.

18 I'm also trying to keep you all right so  
19 you get your chance here. So bear with me on that.  
20 And may we begin with Bill Burke, and again followed  
21 by Thomas Moore -- Morning Owl, I'm sorry, and on deck  
22 is Bill Quaempts.

23 And if everyone could keep it down so our  
24 court reporter could hear things.

25 Again, your name and your organization.

1 Bill Burke.

2 MR. CHARLES KILBURY: I am an elected  
3 official. I have a statement. I have been in here  
4 since we started, much before. I think I should be on  
5 that list.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. If I  
7 could get your name, we will start with Bill, I will  
8 add you to the list.

9 MR. CHARLES KILBURY: Okay.

10 MR. BILL BURKE: Could we start?

11 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Yes.

12 MR. BILL BURKE: My name is Bill,  
13 William H. Burke, Chief, one of the Chiefs of the  
14 Walla Walla Tribe for the Confederated Tribes of the  
15 Umatilla Indian Reservation.

16 I want to welcome you here to the homeland  
17 of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian  
18 Reservation and other reservations within the area.

19 I'm grateful to be here today, and I am  
20 grateful that you all are here today, grateful to know  
21 that our Creator is here today, as well. And here to  
22 speak to you about the environment. And the natural  
23 resources, the salmon in particular. The land, I am  
24 talking about, as well, the land and the water and  
25 again the salmon. And as the son witnesses what is

1       said and done here today, I am grateful for that, as  
2       well.

3                       We do have a witness, that's all of us  
4       here. And I want to say that I have come to know in  
5       my late years that there is a power much greater than  
6       any of us here, and he had a vision, and I have come  
7       to learn that my work today is to oversee, to  
8       appreciate his skillful creations, and one of those  
9       being the salmon. And I need to oversee the continued  
10      existence of the salmon in the Columbia River.

11                      And that is my purpose for being here  
12      today. And I think that I can recognize the fact that  
13      many of you are here with a very close eye on the  
14      purse strings, and I can appreciate that. But I would  
15      like to say as well that we're here to consider an  
16      ecosystem, and not an egosystem. That's very  
17      important to us. And we should keep that in mind.

18                      We need to open up our minds, we need to  
19      open up our hearts, and our very beings, and seriously  
20      consider breaching the four Lower Snake River dams.

21                      Thank you.

22                      MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
23      much, Bill.

24                      Thomas Morning Owl, followed by Bill  
25      Quaempts, and then Bob Jensen.

1                   MR. THOMAS MORNING OWL:    My name is  
2                   Thomas Morning Owl.  I am on the general council,  
3                   chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla  
4                   Indian Reservation.

5                   I would like to thank all of you for  
6                   participating this afternoon.

7                   I would like to express the policy and the  
8                   position that we as a nation, the Umatilla tribal  
9                   nation, the Confederated Tribes have taken, we would  
10                  like, we stand firm in the belief that the four Snake  
11                  River dams should be breached.

12                  And Mr. Mogren had spoke about that there  
13                  are 22 -- there are 12 stocks that are being affected.  
14                  However, that is erroneous.

15                  We are talking about four stocks that we  
16                  are trying to mitigate here on the Snake River system.

17                  I would like to say that the economic  
18                  benefit that would be a part of this community is  
19                  something greater than all of us put together.

20                  This ecosystem was developed over thousands  
21                  and thousands of years, which our people were a  
22                  witness to.

23                  Within the last decades, I tell you,  
24                  decades that we have brought forth our technology onto  
25                  this reser- -- onto these systems, we have done

1 nothing but corrupt the ecology that's involved with  
2 any of these types around here.

3 And you talk about the economic benefit.  
4 Well, who is benefiting? No one else but corporate  
5 America. There are 13 corporate farms, not mom and  
6 pop farms, not the farms that you have as yourself,  
7 but 13 corporate farms.

8 Are we subsidizing corporations here? Yes.  
9 There are two barge lines that are being affected.

10 When you have the ability here that you  
11 built with your own sweat and your own way of life,  
12 your rail system here, the pride of this Inland  
13 Northwest, that could take up the slack of those  
14 barges.

15 I worked for the railroad at one time, and  
16 I know that.

17 I would like to say that there are  
18 alternatives that we are putting forward in a spirit  
19 of cooperation, will be something that will be an  
20 economic benefit in many ways, the restoration of the  
21 natural ecosystem, the benefits that you will receive  
22 working together, we propose that we can work together  
23 to get this through, this much I say.

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
25 much, Thomas.

1 Bill Quaempts, followed by Bob Jensen,  
2 followed by Bob Jepsen.

3 MR. BILL QUAEMPTS: Good afternoon.  
4 My name is Bill Quaempts. I'm a member of the Board  
5 of Trustees for the Confederated Tribes of the  
6 Umatilla Indian Reservation.

7 You people are probably thinking this guy  
8 doesn't look much Indian, but I have six bands, or  
9 Tribes, in my blood, and I compare my looks to how we  
10 lost our land.

11 While these six Tribes and bands were  
12 fighting over how I was going to look, my quarter  
13 German stepped in and took over.

14 However, I would like to convey some  
15 feelings I have. The facts are all in front of us.  
16 Everyone has their own decision. I would maybe like  
17 to just give a part of my feeling and maybe my  
18 lifestyle.

19 I married an almost full blooded beautiful  
20 Indian woman. We have two kids. We live in  
21 Pendleton. We live on the Reservation. Our kids go  
22 to school in Pendleton. Both my kids play sports.

23 And with our homeland, our ceded  
24 boundaries, my kids have to go travel to other towns  
25 and listen to the racial slurs because they are the

1 darkest skins on the floor. Wagon burner, spear  
2 chukar, go back where you come from.

3 This type of thing hurts. We are  
4 foreigners in our own homeland anymore.

5 One comment that I always stick in my mind  
6 is to go back to where you came from.

7 This is where we came from. This is our  
8 home. We have no other home we call home. This whole  
9 area we cover, we took care of this land. Sure we had  
10 our Indians -- our differences amongst Tribes.

11 By building these dams, you are basically  
12 telling the salmon the same thing, you have no home  
13 here. They have no place to go back to either.

14 We are just like the salmon. We have to  
15 fight every day for our right to live, our rights that  
16 are written in these treaties.

17 So I feel as one with the salmon. I know  
18 there's good people in this country that believe in  
19 saving our environment and these fish. Working  
20 together, this can happen.

21 This is proof on our Umatilla River, we  
22 might have 3,000 spring Chinook come back this year.

23 We're not greedy. We are going to share  
24 that with you people. We are going to catch, when we  
25 get a quota, we are going to catch half and we will

1 give you people half, sports fishermen.

2 Remember, people, we are ruining this  
3 environment for money. Remember, money can't bring  
4 these fish back when they are gone.

5 Science has proved that the only way is to  
6 take out these dams.

7 I can't tell you to go back where you came  
8 from. This is your home now, too. We have to work  
9 together, though.

10 If the salmon are gone extinct, the human  
11 race is next. It's not going to be Indians or white  
12 guys or Asians or Chicanos or whatever. It's going to  
13 be us.

14 If we can't take care of the species, we  
15 are next. So, please, look within your heart, and  
16 look to the future, not the next generation, not two  
17 generations. Look, the next millennium, are we going  
18 to be here? We know the salmon aren't going to be  
19 here if we continue.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
22 very much, Bill.

23 Bob Jensen, followed by Bob Jepsen,  
24 followed by Fred Bennett.

25 MR. BOB JENSEN: Thank you. Are we

1 on?

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: We are on.

3 MR. BOB JENSEN: Thank you. I would  
4 like to congratulate the panel and the Federal Caucus  
5 for all of the work that they have done on this topic.  
6 It has certainly taken a lot of time, a lot of energy,  
7 and we appreciate your efforts.

8 Though we certainly have at times  
9 disagreed, and we reserve the right, if you please, in  
10 the future, to disagree.

11 I would also like to thank all of the  
12 people who are here, people who have taken time out of  
13 their day, out of their work schedule, with the  
14 different views that you have to come and share your  
15 concerns and your opinions regarding this very  
16 important process that we are going through.

17 A few months ago I was at a similar  
18 meeting, not nearly as large a crowd, and  
19 unfortunately it was jammed with attorneys. It was a  
20 symposium at Lewis & Clark College of Law. The  
21 director, Northwest Regional Director of National  
22 Marine Fisheries Service, Will Stelle, was there. He  
23 gave a keynote speech during the lunch hour.

24 And a number of things from his speech that  
25 struck me, but one of them I want to mention today,

1 was it really bothered him, it really bothered him  
2 when he came over to Eastern Oregon, or Eastern  
3 Washington, and the folks over here brought up the  
4 subject of the caspian tern, as though the caspian  
5 terns were the answer, the solution to the problem of  
6 the diminished salmon runs.

7 And I remember he said the same thing then  
8 that he said to us today, that the issue is it's  
9 multiple causation. One thing is not going to solve  
10 the problem.

11 I feel much the same way when we talk about  
12 the dams. If it is the dams, you know, that are going  
13 to save, as though it were the dams that were going to  
14 save, or the removal was going to save the salmon.

15 It is a multiple problem, and it is only  
16 through addressing all of the Hs, cooperatively, all  
17 of us, working together, that we are going to restore  
18 these precious species for us.

19 So I would urge the cooperation, I urge you  
20 to look at all of the variables.

21 And thank you very much.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
23 very much.

24 Bob Jepsen, followed by Fred Bennett,  
25 followed by Dean Burton. And if you could say who you

1 are with, Bob.

2 MR. BOB JEPSEN: Okay. Good  
3 afternoon. My name is Bob Jepsen, spelled  
4 J-e-p-s-e-n. And I am the Mayor for the city of  
5 Heppner.

6 I spent my long life raising wheat and  
7 barley. We worked hard at getting transportation up  
8 and down the Columbia River. We worked real hard to  
9 get the John Day Dam in because that was the missing  
10 link to the total navigation. After that we could  
11 fill a barge full of wheat or barley.

12 I appreciate the good comments. I would  
13 say that a lot of things that we are talking about  
14 today, and in the past, what we have read in the  
15 papers, is hypothetically -- hypothetical. It refers  
16 to me a lot like those blind men that were feeling the  
17 elephant, and trying to figure it out. One of them  
18 said it's like a piece of rope because he hit the tail  
19 and so forth. They all came up with different  
20 conclusions.

21 Only if those blind people could have  
22 opened their eyes after they stepped back and had  
23 looked at the whole picture would they have been  
24 surprised.

25 Well, these four dams that we are talking

1 about breaching is really, we're only one person  
2 taking one look at it, in order to recover the salmon  
3 and also to keep the navigation.

4 What I'd like to say is that no study has  
5 been complete in the lives of salmon, the cycles and  
6 the history and so forth.

7 How many of the smolts that hit the mouth  
8 of the Columbia River to go in the ocean, how many of  
9 those survive?

10 What about water temperatures? What about  
11 food supply? How many of them are harvested in the  
12 ocean? How many of them meet up with predators? And  
13 then how many of them return back to the river? And  
14 how many of them actually get to their spawning  
15 grounds?

16 We can learn a lot by studying this thing  
17 further.

18 The coastal rivers that have no dams, fish  
19 have been released from hatcheries near the mouth of  
20 many of those rivers. Believe it or not, less than 1  
21 percent of those salmon ever come back. So they  
22 disappear out there somewhere.

23 Last Monday in Heppner our City Council put  
24 up a resolution that said that we feel that we could  
25 have our salmon and we could also have our dams.

1                   So we believe this big bang that was talked  
2                   about earlier can be achieved by all of us working  
3                   together. And I believe that is a good decision.

4                   Thank you.

5                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
6                   very much, Bob.

7                   Fred Bennett. Followed by Dean Burton,  
8                   followed by Max Benitz.

9                   MR. FRED BENNETT:     My name is Fred  
10                  Bennett, and as Commissioner of the Port of Walla  
11                  Walla, I am representing 54,000 voters.

12                 As a preface, our Commission thinks that  
13                 the region needs a recovery plan with a clear vision,  
14                 goals and priorities. We need a plan that rebuilds  
15                 healthy fish runs by maintaining a healthy economy.

16                 Our area predominantly opposes dam  
17                 breaching. This is not a fish versus economy issue.  
18                 Because both are important. Therefore, breaching the  
19                 dams is not the total answer.

20                 Of the 34 runs listed under the ESA, only  
21                 four pass the Snake River dams. Therefore, again, dam  
22                 removal is not the answer to the total problem of  
23                 saving salmon in the Northwest.

24                 We should focus on the broader common  
25                 issues. Ten years ago the best scientific information

1       said that only 10 to 30 percent of salmon smolts  
2       survive the trip past the dams.

3               Today NMFS says the survival is as high as  
4       it was in the 1960 and '70s before the dams were  
5       built. Given that the survival through the reservoirs  
6       is as high as it now is and was before the Snake River  
7       dams were built, returning to pre-dam conditions is  
8       not the answer either.

9               Dam removal is not the silver bullet. It  
10       is extreme and it's risky. It may not help the fish,  
11       they say, but it will certainly hurt the economy.

12              Our jobs and our Northwest way of life are  
13       at stake. Dam breaching will create significant  
14       negative environmental impacts with the loss of  
15       habitat for resident fish and wildlife and increased  
16       air pollution from trucks and from fossil fuel burning  
17       power plants.

18              In reference to the Corps' Snake River EIS,  
19       we oppose Alternative 4, the breaching of the four  
20       lower Snake River dams.

21              The EIS asks the wrong question. Can we  
22       breach dams? The question should be, what is the best  
23       way to rebuild fish runs throughout the region? The  
24       EIS says that there are uncertain biological benefits  
25       from breaching the dams.

1                   The EIS further shows that there is a  
2                   certainty for economic harm. Our jobs and our way of  
3                   life are at stake.

4                   And we thank you for your concern.

5                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
6                   very much.

7                   Dean Burton, followed by Max Benitz,  
8                   followed by Edwin Thiele.

9                   And if you can resist that desire to clap,  
10                  I would really appreciate it. I know it's tough, it's  
11                  tough.

12                  Dean Burton, are you out there? There you  
13                  are. Great. Just go ahead.

14                  MR. DEAN BURTON: Okay. Fine. I am  
15                  Dean Burton, Garfield County Commissioner and I am  
16                  here on behalf of the citizens of Garfield County.

17                  And I'm appealing to you on behalf of those  
18                  citizens of Garfield County, this issue is salmon  
19                  recovery.

20                  The possible removal of the four Lower  
21                  Snake River dams would have a devastating effect on  
22                  the economy of every person in this region. Garfield  
23                  County has -- or excuse me.

24                  Garfield County uses this waterway to get  
25                  our agriculture products to the Pacific Coast ports.

1 The loss of this important avenue of transportation  
2 would devastate Garfield County residents and  
3 businesses.

4 The United States Corps of Engineers has  
5 spent over 21 million dollars on the feasibility study  
6 of the dams. The Bonneville Power Administration has  
7 spent countless dollars on how to make these dams more  
8 fish friendly.

9 What we don't understand is why the four  
10 dams on this port -- or on this part of the river was  
11 picked to study when we all know that salmon spend  
12 most of their lives in the Pacific ocean.

13 We would like to suggest to you before any  
14 dams are removed or breached that we make a complete  
15 study of the ocean to make sure that breaching is the  
16 answer, and not some quick fix that may not work.  
17 Sometimes it pays for all of us to get a second  
18 opinion.

19 It is our view we can save the fish, the  
20 dams, the jobs, if we all put our effort into  
21 scientific proven -- improvement -- improvements, not  
22 only on the rivers but also in the ocean that are  
23 applied with common sense and patience.

24 On behalf of the citizens of Garfield  
25 County I thank you for the chance to speak to you

1 about the very important study, not only for the fish  
2 but also for the residents of that county.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
5 Dean.

6 Max Benitz, followed by Edwin Thiele,  
7 followed by Les Wigen.

8 MR. MAX BENITZ: Good afternoon. My  
9 name is Max Benitz, Benton County Commissioner. I am  
10 representing about 140,000 people in Benton County.

11 We have a statement. The Board of  
12 Commissioners offers the following comments for the  
13 draft Snake River Mitigation EIS, the All-H process.

14 The Board of Benton County Commissioners  
15 vigorously oppose any attempt at removal or breaching  
16 of the dams located on the lower Snake or the Columbia  
17 system.

18 Such proposal would cripple our regional  
19 economy which is highly dependent on hydropower  
20 production, transportation, recreation, and  
21 irrigation.

22 Even worse, breaching of the dams along the  
23 Columbia and the Snake would put thousands of lives  
24 and property at risk because of the severe floods.

25 At this time we would like for the Corps of

1 Engineers to go back and take a look at a document you  
2 put together that is the history of the Lower Snake  
3 River development controversy and compromise.

4 This document I think puts things in  
5 perspective, and I would urge each and every one of  
6 you panelists to read that document so you can better  
7 understand why the four river -- or four Snake River  
8 dams were built.

9 The Draft Feasibility Report Environmental  
10 Impact Statement includes appendices, main reports,  
11 and summaries. This entire document is approximately  
12 4,000 pages long.

13 The federal agencies ten-year focus on the  
14 river and the drawdown or the breaching has impaired  
15 the credibility for the region's key stakeholders.  
16 Misaligning of staff and resources and tens of  
17 millions of dollars have been used without any action  
18 for salmon recovery.

19 Some of the things that we see that's going  
20 to have a direct impact on the economy here in our  
21 region with removal of the dams is that the system has  
22 36 ports in three states and that serves over 40  
23 states in the United States.

24 If barge navigation was halted,  
25 transportation services would be severely impacted.

1 An additional 12,000 new rail cars, 700,000 new semi  
2 trucks that is on the road.

3 We can't afford that kind of impact.

4 But we also have some other aspects. A  
5 concern of the agricultural industry that plays a big  
6 part in Benton County. And that is the impairment of  
7 the existing water rights, decreased property values  
8 and groundwater depletion. All of these need to be  
9 figured into your formula.

10 In closing, I would like to say that the  
11 Board of Benton County Commissioners have a new water  
12 management alternative for the Columbia River Basin.  
13 We would like to send this to you and this would  
14 resolve our problems.

15 We also support the Northwest Power  
16 Planning Council as a legitimate and appropriate  
17 authority to develop the recommendation measures for a  
18 regional salmon recovery.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
21 Max.

22 Please hold your applause here so we can  
23 get through everybody as fast as possible. I would  
24 really appreciate that.

25 Edwin Thiele followed by Les Wigen followed

1 by Rella Reiman.

2 I am not trying to be problematic, just  
3 trying to get you all up and speaking.

4 Edwin Thiele.

5 MR. EDWIN THIELE: Thank you. Am I  
6 on?

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Yes.

8 MR. EDWIN THIELE: I am Ed Thiele,  
9 Benton County Commissioner --

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Hang on a  
11 second. You're not on.

12 MR. EDWIN THIELE: I am Ed Thiele,  
13 Okanogan County Commissioner.

14 I come from the area where last year the  
15 federal agencies shut down all of our section 7  
16 irrigation projects. These are projects that either  
17 started from or go through federal lands.

18 I could be very, very strong minded and  
19 tell you about all the problems, but I would rather  
20 take and read a letter from Senator Bob Morton, our  
21 State Senator from the seventh district, and I would  
22 like to read that instead of me saying something about  
23 it.

24 Dear distinguished group. We appreciate  
25 our right to express my appreciation for you

1 conducting this public hearing and I apologize that I  
2 am not here in person to attend due to the session of  
3 voting responsibilities here in Olympia.

4 I believe it is imperative before any  
5 consideration be given to breaching the Snake River  
6 dams that more scientific data be gathered, especially  
7 in reviewing of the Pacific Northwest cycle of warming  
8 and cooling temperatures and the occurrence of the  
9 Pacific Northwest coastal waters.

10 Recent reviews of this scientific data  
11 reveals that we have been in a warming cycle which  
12 traditionally has caused the downturn in the Northwest  
13 salmon populations.

14 These 20 to 30 year historical cycles would  
15 indicate that we are now heading into a cooler cycle  
16 which will result in an upturn in the Northwest salmon  
17 populations.

18 I also feel it is of utmost importance that  
19 we address the known predation of salmon populations.  
20 For example, we must address the situation at Rice  
21 Island in the mouth of the Columbia where it is known  
22 that up to 30 percent of the total population of the  
23 salmon smolts is consumed by caspian terns and  
24 cumerans.

25 Of course the breaching of dams would

1 greatly impact our Northwest economy and  
2 transportation system.

3 Thank you for your attention in these  
4 serious matters. Cordially, Bob Morton.

5 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you.  
6 Edwin.

7 Les Wigen, followed by Rella Reiman,  
8 followed be Mark Booker.

9 MR. LES WIGEN: Yeah. I am Les  
10 Wigen, Whitman County Commissioner, representing  
11 30,000 citizens, born and raised in Whitman County,  
12 live 15 miles from Central Ferry.

13 I watched Little Goose come on line and I  
14 also watched Central Ferry come on line, and that  
15 became our Lake Washington on our side of the state.

16 I have here a 1961 brochure of the four  
17 lower Snake River dams that was put out to all the  
18 citizens of Eastern Washington and it talks about the  
19 dams and Snake River navigation, recreation,  
20 hydroelectric power, other benefits and safety rules  
21 for swimming, boating and skiing.

22 But I want to say, the Corps' done a good  
23 job, they built a good system, this is our I-5  
24 corridor to the world. I say, leave them alone, they  
25 are the greatest asset that we have in the Pacific

1 Northwest.

2 I also was in Lewiston on the day they had  
3 the drawdown to 60 feet or 80 feet, and Governor Cecil  
4 Andrus got on his jet boat from Lewiston, went to the  
5 base of Granite Dam, and I was there that day, and he  
6 came back and said, I'm going to save the salmon.

7 And I was there and I saw that. And it's  
8 bothered me ever since.

9 So I want to tell you the rest of the  
10 story, in my book. Let's hear the rest of the story  
11 about the salmon versus dams argument that has the  
12 media presenting both sides which is crucial to the  
13 economy of the Pacific Northwest.

14 Tell the whole truth, and let the people of  
15 Idaho, Washington and Oregon know that the Idaho  
16 Department of Fish and Game poisoned the Sockeye  
17 salmon in lakes in Idaho off the Salmon River called  
18 the Stanley basin.

19 Yes, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
20 poisoned and eradicated Kokanee, Sockeye and yellow  
21 boiley from Stanley lakes, all Sockeye producers in  
22 the upper Salmon Basin river to convert the lakes to  
23 trout production.

24 If you don't believe it, here are the  
25 facts, and they are all public record. Sockeye salmon

1 in Idaho were never a sought after sport fish. In  
2 fact the Idaho Fish and Game by blocking several  
3 Sockeye lakes purposely kept Sockeye salmon from  
4 entering.

5 The rumor was that Sockeye did not  
6 contribute to the Idaho fishery. Yet Sockeye salmon  
7 and other unwanted fish were eliminated and replaced  
8 with rainbow and cut throat trout.

9 The Idaho Fish and Game programs were  
10 deliberate efforts to substitute trout fisheries for  
11 Sockeye.

12 In 1992 retina got into the Salmon River  
13 and killed adult hatchery, wild salmon and smolts.

14 Governor Cecil Andrews knew about this and  
15 was very upset, and this is part of the public record  
16 and it's in the Idaho Statesman, and I have asked for  
17 that record, and I haven't been able to get it yet.

18 The National Marine Fisheries Service and  
19 the environmental community are using the Snake River  
20 Sockeye as an excuse to breach the four Snake River  
21 dams, in my opinion.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Les, I'm  
23 afraid your time's just up, if you could wrap up real  
24 quick there.

25 MR. LES WIGEN: Okay. All I will

1 say, let's work together, we can save the dams, we can  
2 save the salmon, we can save the recreation, the  
3 hydropower, the irrigation. If we can put a man on  
4 the moon, we can save our salmon, we can save our  
5 dams.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Thank  
8 you very much, Les. Rella Reiman, followed by Mark  
9 Booker, followed by Joyce DeFelece.

10 MR. RELLA REIMAN: I am Rella Reiman,  
11 President of a family farm, owned and operated by us  
12 all operating out of the Ice Harbor pool, and I have  
13 been asked to read Senator Kaford's statement.

14 I commend each and every person that took  
15 the time out of his or her schedule to offer their  
16 opinion on this important subject.

17 By your presence you correctly recognize  
18 that the federal government must be held accountable  
19 for the policies it proposes to make law over its  
20 citizens.

21 My comments will be general and directed  
22 primarily toward the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
23 Draft Lower Snake River Feasibility Study.

24 I can state that no federal proposal to  
25 remove Snake or Columbia River dams will see the light

1 of day in Congress, at least not while this Senator is  
2 representing you.

3 The position against breaching the Snake  
4 River dams is bolstered by evidence found in the  
5 Corps's own feasibility study. The Corps found that  
6 with existing dam conditions the average survival rate  
7 through all four dams and reservoirs on the Snake  
8 River for juvenile salmon is over 80 percent, and for  
9 adult salmon is 88 to 94 percent.

10 Yet in all the documents I did not see any  
11 concrete verifiable biological or scientific data  
12 which can prove that the removing of even one inch of  
13 these dams could restore salmon runs.

14 At the same time much of the Corps' own  
15 evidence in a feasibility study verifies that the  
16 economic and social checks caused by dam breaching  
17 would be devastating to the region.

18 The annual cost for the region would be 745  
19 million dollars, which would include lost hydropower,  
20 lowered farm values, pump modification costs and  
21 increased modifications to highway and rail to replace  
22 barging.

23 On top of that the government through your  
24 taxpayer dollars would have to find an estimated one  
25 billion dollars just to accomplish the job of removing

1 of the dams.

2 I question the Corps' assertions that  
3 communities in Eastern Washington would receive any  
4 measurable economic or recreational benefits if the  
5 dams were in fact breached.

6 I also note that throughout this study the  
7 Corps acknowledges that breaching dams would have an  
8 adverse effect on the environment. Resident fish and  
9 wildlife would be subjected to higher water  
10 temperatures along with 50 to 57 million cubic yards  
11 of eroding sediment traveling down the river. Our air  
12 would have increased dust and emissions from replacing  
13 hydroelectric power with natural gas and barging with  
14 highway and rail traffic.

15 This traffic would greatly increase annual  
16 pollution and safety concerns.

17 I again call on the administration to move  
18 their focus away from dam breaching and to join me in  
19 advocating local salmon recovery efforts put forth by  
20 the citizens of the Pacific Northwest, that if proven  
21 to be more effective in their results and costs take  
22 bureaucratic measures from Washington, D.C.

23 Copies are available in the lobby.

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
25 much, Rella.



1       wasted on this effort. That is intolerable by the  
2       citizens. It cannot be allowed.

3                 Why cannot National Marine Fisheries and  
4       the agencies hear that message? Why is there an  
5       administrative crisis over water on the Columbia  
6       River? Flow augmentation could easily be reduced to a  
7       more than adequate four million acre-feet per year  
8       instead of the up to 16 million acre-feet each year.  
9       And four million acre-feet may be more than adequate  
10      if you just look at the data.

11                Spring flow augmentation affects water from  
12      Canada. Canadians put nutrients in their lakes and  
13      rivers several times, up to six million dollars,  
14      Canadian dollars of nutrients go into the river.

15                Our river managers, who must be the most  
16      arrogant people in the world, demand that flushing for  
17      spring flow augmentation, that should be stopped also.

18                We also oppose any future study of draw  
19      down on McNary Dam reservoir as a waste of time, just  
20      like Senator Gorton has said, and we oppose the  
21      breaching of dams because that's going to steal our  
22      future.

23                The Corps of Engineers presented a 217  
24      million dollar electric costs addition. Talk with  
25      Laurie Bordie. Those four dams provide 200 million

1 dollars of gross revenue to the BPA.

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
3 very much, Mark.

4 Joyce DeFelece, followed by John Barkley,  
5 followed by Frank Harkenrider.

6 MS. JOYCE DE FELECE: Good afternoon.  
7 Members of the panel and folks in the audience.

8 My name is Joyce DeFelece, and I am  
9 Congressman Doc Hastings' district director.  
10 Congressman Hastings represents the fourth district of  
11 Washington State. And he's in Washington, D.C.,  
12 today, and he asked me to attend this on his behalf  
13 and read a statement.

14 I have already provided a copy of the  
15 signed statement to the reporter, and I would like to  
16 now read it verbatim.

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

22 Unfortunately, in recent years too much  
23 attention has been paid to proposals to breach the  
24 four Lower Snake River dams.

25 Proponents of dam breaching overlook a

1 number of important facts.

2 Of the 34 West Coast salmon and steelhead  
3 runs listed or proposed for listing under the  
4 Endangered Species Act, only four pass through the  
5 Lower Snake River dams.

6 Survival of migrating salmon is now as high  
7 as it was before the Snake River dams were built.

8 Removing the four Snake River dams would  
9 cost approximately one billion dollars, plus 300  
10 million per year in lost power revenues.

11 50 to 70 million cubic yards of sediment  
12 would be released into the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

13 Dam breaching would result in a loss of  
14 clean and renewable hydropower, which would have to be  
15 replaced by sources that adversely impact air quality.

16 Breaching the Snake River dams would end  
17 navigation above the Tri-Cities and would result in  
18 120,000 more rail cars and 700,000 more trucks on our  
19 highways.

20 It would take nearly half a century before  
21 we could expect to see any potential benefits from dam  
22 breaching for salmon.

23 Most importantly, the proponents of dam  
24 breaching overlook the fact that any plan to remove  
25 dams would have to be approved by Congress, which is

1 highly unlikely.

2 We must focus our efforts in the future on  
3 those options that provide an immediate benefit to  
4 restore our salmon. Rather than focusing on options  
5 whose benefits are unknown and not supported by the  
6 available science.

7 Although the agencies' All-H paper appears  
8 to be a step in the right direction, more needs to be  
9 done.

10 For example, additional research is needed  
11 into the impact of ocean conditions, and serious steps  
12 need to be taken to address predation by birds and  
13 marine mammals.

14 The region must also continue its work to  
15 address harvest by implementing the Pacific Salmon  
16 Treaty, improving spawning and estuary habitat, and  
17 improve hatchery practices through technology to  
18 support recovery efforts.

19 The people of the Pacific Northwest can and  
20 will save the salmon, and they will do it without  
21 sacrificing their economic future or way of life.

22 I look forward to reading the comments from  
23 the series of public hearings and thank everyone for  
24 taking this opportunity to participate in this  
25 decision.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
2 much, Joyce.

3 John Barkley, followed by Frank  
4 Harkenrider, followed by Sue Miller.

5 MR. JOHN BARKLEY: Good afternoon.  
6 John Barkley, Commissioner, Tribal Water Commission  
7 for the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla.

8 Not long ago there were a multitude of  
9 migrating salmon seeking their birthplace in the  
10 headwaters of the Snake River and its tributaries,  
11 seeking to repeat a harmonious ceremony of rebirth  
12 from instructions from our Creator.

13 This is a national fishery numbered so  
14 great that they were provided ample subsistence to the  
15 native people of this region. So impressive and  
16 endeared to the natives that they are revered in our  
17 religion, our culture and tradition.

18 The significant importance was  
19 acknowledging our treaty of 1855 between my people and  
20 the U.S. federal government. In which ancestors  
21 received the right to harvest these fish and the  
22 abundance that was there.

23 Since then we have suffered greatly. We  
24 have made many sacrifices. So much so that we could  
25 preserve for the future these awe inspiring creatures.

1       So much sacrifice happened that those that cry to save  
2       the dams cannot begin to fathom the price that we have  
3       paid in lives and discrimination and in the way of  
4       life.

5                   For what? For land, for grain, today for  
6       stocks, bonds, new Cadillacs, trucks or SUV, and also  
7       for pollution, degradation of a ecosystem that is so  
8       fragile and sensitive to cheap electricity, clean  
9       barging, and cheap labor.

10                   What may seem so clean to those corporate  
11       benefactors and political purveyors is realistically  
12       very costly to the environment and especially to the  
13       lives of salmon, and to my people from my elders to my  
14       children.

15                   These young salmon, these juvenile  
16       creatures, called smolts, must attempt to swim in  
17       essence in a cesspool from Clarkston to Pasco, with  
18       predation, chemicals and four inauspicious monoliths.  
19       My ancestors and yours agreed for us to maintain our  
20       religious ties to salmon.

21                   To do otherwise is a form of religious  
22       discrimination. And I don't think you would accept  
23       that if it was done to you.

24                   Is there any honor in upholding the  
25       agreement between our ancestors? We can afford to

1       adapt to our own needs, no matter how detrimental it  
2       can be to Mother Earth, or so we think.

3               But these beautiful creatures cannot adapt  
4       to our actions, nor are they able to speak on their  
5       behalf today.

6               I implore upon behalf of my fellow  
7       creatures for you to visualize and sense their  
8       predicament. Feeling of putrid waters permeated with  
9       nitrates trying to evade bigger voracious predators  
10      themselves.

11              Hear the whine of killer turbine blades as  
12      they swim in these warm waters, pools of death.

13              MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:   John, could I  
14      ask you to wrap up, please.

15              MR. JOHN BARKLEY:    I just want to say  
16      in wrapping up that in our own Umatilla River basin we  
17      have restored salmon, and in the fish ladder baling  
18      room at Three Mile Dam, we see salmon smolts migrate  
19      down stream, and they swim backwards to feel that  
20      oxygenated water come through their gills.

21              MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:   Okay. Thank  
22      you very much, John.

23              Frank Harkenrider, followed by Sue Miller,  
24      followed by George Hash.

25              MR. JOHN HARKENRIDER:   Am I on?

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: You are on.

2 MR. JOHN HARKENRIDER: Thank you. I  
3 am Frank Harkenrider, Mayor of Hermiston, population,  
4 12,165 people. I have a resolution number 1581.  
5 Resolution opposing all dam breaching and river  
6 drawdowns on the Snake and Columbia River.

7 Whereas, environmental and economic reviews  
8 for salmon recovery have been conducted by the Corps  
9 of Engineers, the Bonneville Power, the U.S. Bureau of  
10 Reclamation, the National Marine Fisheries and U.S.  
11 Fish & Wildlife Service, and,

12 Whereas, the federal agencies, ten-year  
13 focus on river drawdown and dam breaching of the  
14 Columbia River Basin has impaired the credibility with  
15 the region's key stockholders, misallocating staff  
16 resources and tens of millions of dollars that could  
17 have been in use for meaningful salmon recovery  
18 actions, and,

19 Whereas, the federal agencies have failed  
20 to provide compelling biological and economic  
21 information to pursue river drawdowns or dam breaching  
22 proposals, identifying minimal or speculating  
23 environmental benefits but costing the regions  
24 hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and,

25 Whereas, the river drawdowns and dam

1 breaching issues are now the single greatest  
2 impediment to the review and implementation of  
3 meaningful salmon recovery measures.

4 Now therefore be it resolved that the  
5 Hermiston City Council unequivocally opposes any  
6 breaching of dams and river drawdowns on the Snake and  
7 the Columbia Rivers, and,

8 Further, the Northwest Congressional  
9 delegation should remove from all federal agency  
10 budgets any funding that allows for further review or  
11 implementation of river drawdowns or dam breaching  
12 measures, and ,

13 Further, for regional salmon recovery the  
14 federal agencies should direct their efforts towards  
15 improving existing project bypass and fish  
16 transportation facilities, restructuring the existing  
17 flow augmentation program, improving water management  
18 within the region, by implementing the new water  
19 management opportunity. And, in giving priority  
20 measures that will protect and enhance tribal fishing  
21 rights.

22 And last, further, the regional governors  
23 should support the Northwest Power Planning Council as  
24 a legitimate and appropriate authority to develop and  
25 recommend measures for regional salmon recovery.

1                   One other comment. If you breach these  
2 dams, which have been the greatest impact on our  
3 economies, from Lewiston to the Portland area, you are  
4 going to flush all the economy down the toilet.

5                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
6 very much, Frank.

7                   Sue Miller. Followed by George Hash.  
8 Followed by Charles Kilbury.

9                   MS. SUE MILLER: Good afternoon. I am  
10 Sue Miller.

11                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Excuse me,  
12 everybody. Go ahead, Sue.

13                   MS. SUE MILLER: Good afternoon. I  
14 am Sue Miller, Franklin County Commissioner.

15                   My fellow Commissioners and I represent  
16 almost 45,000 people. Franklin County appreciates the  
17 opportunity to comment on the recently developed All-H  
18 paper as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
19 Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Recovery Migration  
20 Draft Feasibility Report or EIS.

21                   Franklin County, which borders the lower  
22 Snake River, has many concerns regarding the salmon  
23 recovery issue currently being debated for the Lower  
24 Snake River and the possible impacts and effects on  
25 the river's four dams; Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental,

1 Little Goose and Granite. The Corps of Engineers  
2 started Alternatives 1 through 3, the county does not  
3 support Alternative 4, which is dam breaching. The  
4 loss of hydropower generation, the possible increase  
5 in electric rates, the impacts on transportation  
6 systems, the impacts on the farming community, in  
7 addition to the short and long range loss of local  
8 improvement opportunities makes Alternative Number 4  
9 impossible for Franklin County to support.

10 Franklin County does not -- does support a  
11 holistic braced evaluation of the salmon recovery  
12 issue. The All-H paper exams the areas of hatchery  
13 operations, harvesting policies, hydro operations, and  
14 habitat conditions. In addition the federal  
15 government has stated that strong measures are needed  
16 in the next -- in the near future to reverse the  
17 decline of fish population throughout this region.

18 While there is no immediate or simple  
19 answer to this very complex problem, Franklin County  
20 supports a common sense approach to this biological  
21 analysis that does not solely focus on dam breaching,  
22 but does holistically examine the hatchery issues  
23 affecting the declining salmon runs.

24 Dam breaching and actively pursuing a  
25 recovery alternative that focuses on dam breaching is

1 not an approach to the salmon recovery process that  
2 would be supported by Franklin County. The social and  
3 economic effects that result from this process would  
4 have a negative impact on the local county residents  
5 and would be a tremendous step backward in the  
6 progress and stability of the county's agricultural  
7 community.

8 Franklin County's preferred course of  
9 action is to utilize a common sense resolution to this  
10 very complex problem, a resolution that does not focus  
11 solely on the issue of dam breaching.

12 Once again Franklin County appreciates the  
13 opportunity to comment on these documents.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
16 Sue.

17 George Nash, followed by Charles Kilbury,  
18 followed by LeRoy Allison.

19 MR. GEORGE HASH: I am George Hash,  
20 Mayor of Umatilla, and on behalf of the people of  
21 Umatilla, let me present two compelling reasons why we  
22 should never breach any of the four dams on the Snake  
23 River.

24 First is the economic devastation that  
25 would result in such drastic measures. These dams

1 were built to provide navigation, flood control,  
2 recreation, and irrigation and power. With the  
3 assurance from our federal government that these  
4 benefits would be in place, the people of Eastern  
5 Oregon and Eastern Washington invested millions of  
6 dollars in irrigation and ag related industries as  
7 well as much needed electrical power.

8 And I don't think there's a one of us here  
9 that want to go back to the cold oil lantern days  
10 again.

11 Many of us remember the flood of '48 and  
12 '49 is very clear in my memory. It washed away the  
13 entire community of Vanport just outside or on the  
14 edge of Portland.

15 Had these dams been in place at that time,  
16 this never would have happened.

17 This winter, if it were not for these dams,  
18 Portland would again be experiencing some devastating  
19 flooding.

20 This does not even address the tremendous  
21 loss of revenue from recreation and boating and  
22 hunting and fishing and the other related recreation  
23 opportunities that are served by those dams.

24 And this, when we look at the  
25 transportation loss, and the transferring of this

1 transportation from the barges to trucks and rail, we  
2 have not even addressed the additional cost for roads  
3 and road construction. And the cost for road repair  
4 that would go on forever.

5 Now let me present a second compelling  
6 reason never to breach these dams. If all of these  
7 dams were removed today it would have very, just a  
8 very minimal effect on the restoration of our salmon  
9 runs.

10 Dams are only one factor in a very  
11 complicated problem. And it is clear that these dams  
12 do need some attention. We do need to make them more  
13 fish friendly.

14 But where are the studies on the effects of  
15 the thousands of tons of salmon that are taken in the  
16 ocean every year. And these with sophisticated  
17 fishing methods that were not even heard of a hundred  
18 years ago. What about the terns and the sea lions and  
19 the other predators that take millions of our fish not  
20 only on the way to the oceans but also as they are  
21 returning to our rivers again.

22 Has any study been made of the effects of  
23 the gillnetters and the set nets that cover the entire  
24 river from the mouth of the Columbia to McNary Dam?

25 We are a nation that can put men on the

1 moon, I'm sure that we have the ability and we have  
2 the scientific know-how that we can restore the salmon  
3 runs without destroying our economy.

4 You know, the greatest environmentalists in  
5 our country today, it's the men and women who put  
6 bread and meat and potatoes on your table. We  
7 theorize and we fund studies, and they are doing  
8 something about it.

9 Our area is the show case for efficient  
10 management of water. And these farmers and these  
11 ranchers are doing more than anyone else in restoring  
12 our streambeds and the habitat there to ensure that we  
13 have salmon. Not only in the Columbia River, but all  
14 of the other rivers along the coast that do not have  
15 dams.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I hate to cut  
17 you off, George.

18 MR. GEORGE HASH: Thank you.

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
20 very much.

21 Charles Kilbury, followed by LeRoy Allison,  
22 followed by Neil Toothaker.

23 MR. CHARLES KILBURY: Thank you. I  
24 am Charles Kilbury, Councilman for the city of Pasco.

25 In the over ten years the federal agencies

1 have looked at the salmon and steelhead problem they  
2 have come up with a number of proposals which have  
3 largely failed to improve the fisheries.

4 And now the Corps of Engineers has proposed  
5 that the John Day reservoir should not be lowered, for  
6 there is too much cost and impacts to the Northwest of  
7 the lowering of John Day reservoir.

8 Now we are seeing a proposal to breach the  
9 four Snake River dams in Washington without affecting  
10 the Idaho dams on the Snake River which have no means  
11 of passage for salmon and steelhead.

12 Even those who favor breaching these  
13 days -- dams agree that it would take 30 years before  
14 any positive results will show.

15 In the meantime, barging salmon all these  
16 years would have delivered a huge majority of those  
17 salmon to the sea without breaching the dams.

18 In the meantime, by breaching the dams,  
19 barging traffic would be eliminated above passing.  
20 And consequently, would cost 25 million dollars in  
21 additional transportation cost.

22 This would add 700,000 trucks to our  
23 highways and would destroy most of them. There would  
24 be no transfer of any consequence by rail because it  
25 would be impossible to obtain a hundred thousand rail

1 cars and they would not be supplied by the railroad.

2 Modification of private and municipal  
3 pumping stations and agricultural intake pipes would  
4 add millions to the cost of the water delivery  
5 program. Replacing the lost manpower to hydropower  
6 generated by higher cost power would amount to almost  
7 300 million dollars per year.

8 Worst of all, loss of 3,000 jobs, or a  
9 hundred thousand in wages, and additional loss of  
10 22,500 jobs because of the increased power rates.

11 Therefore, the City Council of the city of  
12 Pasco by resolution opposes the breaching of the four  
13 Snake River dams and drawdown of John Day Dam.

14 Thank you for letting me present my  
15 testimony.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
17 very much, Charles.

18 LeRoy Allison, followed by Neil Toothaker,  
19 followed by Brad Carper.

20 MR. LeROY ALLISON: Yes. My name is  
21 LeRoy Allison. And I am a Grant County Commissioner  
22 from Grant County, Washington. It is a population of  
23 70,000 people.

24 I testified in Spokane, and gave more  
25 technical comment there.

1                   I am here today to bring you a simple  
2 message from our 70,000 citizens from Grant County,  
3 and that is, leave the dams alone.

4                   The greater issue of concern to me is that  
5 it appears a vocal minority is driving public policy.  
6 And that vocal minority has caught the ear or heart of  
7 the Clinton/Gore administration.

8                   It is obvious when we look, we the public,  
9 look at this panel and support staff, and we realize  
10 we are seeing over a million dollars worth of salaries  
11 represented, of taxpayers dollars, dollars squandered  
12 on this politically driven destruction proposal.  
13 That's right. Destruction. Destruction of necessary  
14 human infrastructure, built to meet human needs.

15                   The irony of the federal government saying  
16 one thing and doing another concerns my constituents.  
17 I'm not surprised that the Clinton/Gore administration  
18 is sending foot soldiers to talk about this  
19 destruction proposal. While continuing to espouse  
20 preservation and conservation from Capitol Hill. Even  
21 in the Presidential campaign.

22                   It should be no surprise to the American  
23 public when we remember recent history, with  
24 administration while wagging its finger at the camera,  
25 made statements like, quote, I never had relations,

1 and you know the rest of that story.

2 The public understands that perjury in a  
3 court of law is perjury to the American people.

4 Ladies and gentlemen of the panel, it will  
5 take real leadership on your part to do the right  
6 thing and to take our message back up the steps of  
7 capital hill to the White House.

8 Ladies and gentlemen of the silent  
9 majority, speak now, get vocal, take your point of  
10 view all the way to Washington, D.C.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Neil  
13 Toothaker, followed by Brad Carper, followed by Ken  
14 Peterson.

15 MR. NEIL TOOTHAKER: For point of  
16 order, that's Neil Toothaker, if that will help you  
17 out.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I'm sorry.  
19 Thank you very much.

20 MR. NEIL TOOTHAKER: And I apologize  
21 for raising my voice, but I am a little concerned in  
22 the matter, look at the crowd of people you have here,  
23 and I respect our politicians, but there's many of  
24 these people that stood out there for hours and hours  
25 and hours, are not going to be able to speak today,

1 because of so many I guess so-called politicians that  
2 were given the respect over the taxpayers of this  
3 area.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
5 much for making that comment.

6 MR. NEIL TOOTHAKER: My question,  
7 excuse me, Colonel, and Colonel, I respect your  
8 uniform, and these aren't addressed to you, because I  
9 honor the military uniform, they are addressed to the  
10 Corps of Engineers.

11 I am from Clarkston, Washington, and it  
12 wasn't that many years ago that the Corps of Engineers  
13 came, selling us on a bill of goods of the dams, the  
14 slack water, the navigation, the recreation, the  
15 irrigation, all of these fine features that we would  
16 enjoy out of a new way of life. We accepted this new  
17 way of life.

18 Now we have this new way of lie, and due to  
19 some lawsuits and so forth, extremists, now we are  
20 battling again to take this new way of life away from  
21 us. And we don't understand this up in my country.

22 I'm an individual, as I say, a taxpayer,  
23 and an individual. I guess, I don't have any fancy  
24 degrees, I guess just kind of common sense. I don't  
25 know where the millions and millions of dollars have

1       come for you individuals that stand up there, and have  
2       gone through your studies, because the studies that I  
3       have read, just between you individuals up there,  
4       yourselves do not agree.

5               And so that confuses me, that we're relying  
6       on your reports for us to change our way of life when  
7       you cannot get along yourselves on your final reports.

8               And my question is, as far as the dams that  
9       we have on the Snake River, I question the manager of  
10      Dworshak fish hatchery, which is in Orofino, Idaho. I  
11      asked him about the fall Chinook run.

12              He said, "Neil," he says, "we had  
13      approximately 8,000 fish back." He said, "but  
14      someplace below the Lower Granite pool we lost about  
15      40 to 45,000 fish."

16              So, we know they are coming up through  
17      three dams. So it's your responsibility, not our  
18      responsibility, to take care of the problem.

19              Your panel there, and especially the Corps  
20      of Engineers, you owe us the responsibility of taking  
21      care of what you sold us, and take care of our life,  
22      and don't put us through the burden and the stress  
23      that you are trying to do now. We are taxpayers of  
24      this area.

25              Thank you.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
2 very much, Neil.

3 Brad Carper, followed by Ken Peterson,  
4 followed by Kathleen Gordon.

5 MR. BRAD CASPER: I am Brad Casper,  
6 not Brad Carper.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Sorry, Brad.

8 MR. BRAD CASPER: I'm a local farmer  
9 in the Basin city area. I own a farming -- a family  
10 farm in that area. I am also a native of this region.

11 I disagree and strongly oppose breaching as  
12 an option. I believe the dams are not one of the main  
13 issues to the declining salmon population.

14 Many other reasons can be pointed at, as  
15 the problem for the decline of these fish populations.  
16 The terns, sea lions, drag nets in the ocean, and  
17 gillnets in the river are what I feel are some of the  
18 main problems that need to be looked at.

19 I feel that we should put forth effort to  
20 improve the salmon populations, but not put our  
21 livelihoods at risk to do that. We are putting the  
22 expense at the total -- on the shoulders of the  
23 citizens of this region, and I totally oppose removing  
24 the dams, that it will benefit the fish populations.

25 Lastly, I would like to say that I am

1 totally opposed, or excuse me, I am appalled that we  
2 live in a society today that values fish over human  
3 life.

4 And I thank you.

5 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
6 very much, Brad.

7 Ken Peterson, followed by Kathleen Gordon,  
8 followed by Levi Holt.

9 MR. KEN PETERSON: I am Ken Peterson.

10 First, no disrespect to any organizations  
11 or agencies, group of people or individuals, but I'm  
12 not with the Sierra group and I'm not, I don't  
13 represent -- I am with thousands of people that really  
14 believe in saving our dams and our salmon. It's  
15 important and can be done.

16 It's in my opinion, as well as many  
17 thousands of others, taxpayers, that our tax dollars  
18 be removed from fundings that allow any further review  
19 and study of river drawdowns or breaching of the dams.

20 I feel the agencies need to be refocused,  
21 spend the energy that has been put into the drawdowns  
22 and breaching into other areas.

23 I'm sure that other things have been  
24 thought of, but all has been stopped short of any real  
25 studies.

1                   It also seems we have many committees with  
2                   nothing better to do than focus on only the dams. I  
3                   know if I spend my money on something, I would rather  
4                   seek a more inexpensive way to do something first.

5                   But it looks like a typical government  
6                   move, to just spend the taxpayers' money, without  
7                   looking at the bigger pictures.

8                   Doesn't it make sense -- excuse me, more  
9                   sense to do all other options first, such as stop  
10                  fishing in the river? Stop netting in the river?  
11                  It's the year 2000, and time to revisit the tribal  
12                  rights agreement. Stop netting in the oceans. Line  
13                  out a few miles, get ahold of Canada, Japan, Russia,  
14                  and, yes, even the U.S. fishing companies to stop  
15                  netting until at least a more thorough study can be  
16                  done.

17                  Let's look at the whales and the dolphins  
18                  for example. They were becoming rare, and look at  
19                  what's happened. They have made a big comeback. And  
20                  a lot of people got together and said, hey, stop  
21                  netting. And stop hunting for these fascinating  
22                  creatures. They are making a big comeback, but still  
23                  need our help.

24                  Please stop fishing, netting, and netting  
25                  the salmon.

1                   And finally, if the above mentioned doesn't  
2 work, then and only then, look at other options.

3                   Thank you.

4                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Okay.  Thank  
5 you, Ken.

6                   Kathleen Gordon, followed by Levi Holt,  
7 followed by Tom Flint.

8                   MS. KATHLEEN GORDON:     I am Kathleen  
9 Gordon, from the Confederated Tribes with the Umatilla  
10 Indian Reservation.  And I'm one of the elders there.  
11 I'm a grandmother, a mother, a great grandmother.

12                   I'm not a scientist, but I'm here to just  
13 give you some of my concerns about our salmon.

14                   The salmon was given to us by our Creator,  
15 a sacred gift for our subsistence, and for our  
16 existence here on this earth.  And we have come here  
17 today because we have lived off of those resources  
18 that our Creator gave us.  We wouldn't be alive today  
19 if it wasn't for the salmon and the gifts from the  
20 Mother Earth that we survive on.

21                   And since time immemorial we have been  
22 taught by our ancestors to preserve our resources  
23 given to us as a gift from our Creator, for  
24 subsistence and survival, and for the preservation and  
25 protection of our water.  The source of all life.  And

1 our foods, for generations to come after us.

2 We are here today because of the wisdom of  
3 our elders, their teachings and their practices. And  
4 we urge you to assist us in the protection and  
5 preservation of these sacred resources.

6 That's all that we are here for. To try to  
7 get you to understand that we believe in our hearts  
8 about all of creation, and the salmon is a part of  
9 that creation. To destroy the salmon is to destroy  
10 the future lives of future generations.

11 And as the man said a while ago, that  
12 salmon is superseding human life. Well, without  
13 salmon, there won't be a human life. We need to  
14 protect all of our resources so that the future  
15 generations will have food and resources when they  
16 come into this world.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
19 very much, Kathleen.

20 Levi Holt, then Tom Flint, and then Alanna  
21 Farrow.

22 MR. LEVI HOLT: Yes. Levi Holt, Nez  
23 Perce Tribal member, also known as Black Beaver.

24 I'm here today to speak on behalf of the  
25 salmon. It seems that again the humans have a very

1       overwhelming voice, and logically so. It is us as  
2       humans who are left here today to speak and it is the  
3       salmon who are missing.

4               Long before these dams went up many of your  
5       ancestors and your elders enjoyed the fisheries off of  
6       the Columbia, the Clearwater and the Snake Rivers.  
7       Many of your livelihoods were brought in to this world  
8       based on an old lifestyle and an old resource called  
9       the salmon.

10              From the first day the stones went into the  
11       Columbia and on the Snake, we knew as Indian people  
12       that salmon would die. It didn't take very many  
13       generations for this to become true. Yet we had lived  
14       with those animals for hundreds and perhaps thousands  
15       of years.

16              Where are we today? The hydro systems must  
17       come out, particularly these lower four Snake River  
18       dams. If you have ever toured those dams and looked  
19       what the fish passage is like, you would be appalled.  
20       To think that any animal could get through a small one  
21       and a half foot pipe with water pressures exceeding  
22       many tons perhaps per inch, square inch that is, and  
23       to look at the conditions of the hydro, the turbines  
24       themselves, and to expect that the low mortality that  
25       is being pointed to is insignificant, is insane.

1                   We have to change. And the power  
2 generation that's represented with the four Lower  
3 Snake River dams is, I'm told, is less than 6 percent.  
4 That is retained in this region.

5                   Where are those dollars going? Where is  
6 that power being farmed out to? Why are we being  
7 based and harnessed with this burden? The bureaucrats  
8 understand where this money is going. And yet we're  
9 being poised with struggling amongst each other to  
10 find an answer.

11                   I would say the 4-H paper is not your  
12 savior. You will need the 4-H paper and you will need  
13 these dams breached in order to maintain and to  
14 recover the salmon as we believe they should be.

15                   And it's a farce in many ways that Indian  
16 people have sat back and watched the many dollars go  
17 by, down the river, with studies that are meaningless,  
18 when the Corps and NMFS look at the Columbia drainage  
19 and approve dredging at a time when we're facing  
20 extinction.

21                   This is illogical. It makes me wonder what  
22 sort of thought process is there. The Tribes have  
23 their own recovery plans. And we should consider them  
24 as well. "Cosiata" for today.

25                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very

1 much.

2 Tom Flint, Alanna Farrow, and then Victor  
3 Moore.

4 MR. TOM FLINT: Thank you for this  
5 opportunity to speak with you today.

6 I'm Tom Flint. I'm a fifth generation  
7 farmer. We are a family farm family that come from  
8 Nebraska.

9 We came out here because there was water,  
10 so we could irrigate. There was electricity. I  
11 represent the Sierra dams coalition. It's a  
12 grassroots group of residents in the Pacific  
13 Northwest.

14 Today we physically delivered 85,000  
15 signatures to the Corps and the board here for public  
16 support of our position.

17 Specifically, my comments go for the 4-H  
18 paper and also the EIS.

19 And what the people of the Pacific  
20 Northwest are saying is, we oppose dam breaching, we  
21 oppose reservoir drawdowns, and that we also believe  
22 that this will negatively impact our economy and it  
23 won't save fish.

24 So, I'm here to try and look at the big  
25 picture. And I'd like to echo some of the things that

1 a lot of people have said today, and that is, that  
2 there are a lot of other conditions and factors that  
3 need to be studied.

4 And specifically, I kind of like to go into  
5 the triple whamo of salmon. And my thought is,  
6 essentially we have some very rough predator  
7 situations that we need to actively take care of. I  
8 mean, this has been going on since 1990. That's  
9 almost ten years. And we've spent like half a million  
10 dollars here this last year, and, you know, most any  
11 farmer will tell you you can put a herd of pigs out  
12 there and there will be no problem.

13 So there's some common sense things that we  
14 ought to be seriously considering.

15 One of the other things is ocean  
16 conditions, and probably one of the big factors is why  
17 we're all here today in some sense, is egos, agendas,  
18 and politics.

19 And it's a hard thing really to focus all  
20 these different entities into a positive solution.  
21 But I think we need to let you know that's what we  
22 expect of you. And through this process we have to  
23 realize what's this physically going to cost us?

24 I mean, we know right now through the  
25 latest surveys we're going to be facing a power

1 shortage in that we need to be looking at our clean  
2 hydropower for our future.

3 So I would like us to protect all the  
4 different interests for our families and our futures.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
7 Tom.

8 Alanna Farrow, followed by Victor Moore,  
9 followed by Cliff Wogsland.

10 MS. ALANNA FARROW: Alanna Farrow,  
11 Umatilla tribal member.

12 The federal government has never kept its  
13 promise to Indians or nonIndians.

14 It's time for all the humans of the Pacific  
15 Northwest to make the government work for all of us.  
16 Currently the federal government is using us against  
17 each other.

18 The people in this room are not stupid. I  
19 hope the feds.' ugly tactics of pitting us again each  
20 other will not continue to work.

21 There is not an alternative for the people  
22 currently. Except the alternative to fight amongst  
23 ourselves while the feds. do nothing.

24 The Umatilla Tribes appreciate all cultures  
25 and societies within our Pacific Northwest and demand

1 that the government stop forcing us to choose between  
2 salmon and agriculture.

3 Salmon people and ag people live here  
4 together. Let's make the government work for all of  
5 us.

6 I attended the hearing in Astoria earlier  
7 this week. I heard everyone demand that you folks up  
8 there on your pedestal honor my treaty right.

9 If you really want to talk to the people,  
10 Mr. Stelle and Mr. Mogren, you need to step down from  
11 your pedestal you created and talk to all of us  
12 eye-to-eye. The feds. can breach dams to save salmon,  
13 while keeping ag folks whole.

14 Breach the dams, restore the salmon, and  
15 protect the farms. It can be done.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
18 very much.

19 Victor Moore, followed by Cliff Wogsland,  
20 followed by Leo Hill.

21 MR. VICTOR MOORE: I'm Victor Moore.  
22 I'm 73 years old. My wife and I have lived along the  
23 Columbia and Snake Rivers all our lives. In fact we  
24 are third and fourth generation people living along  
25 the river.

1                   We have seen the rivers before they were  
2                   damaged. We have picked fruit along the Snake River.  
3                   We have fished along the river. Recreated along the  
4                   river.

5                   We now live in the Tri-Cities near the  
6                   Columbia River Hanford Reach. That 51 mile reach is  
7                   the only free-flowing section left in the entire  
8                   river. It is the largest salmon spawning gravels area  
9                   left in the entire system.

10                  I want to credit a friend, Rich Steal, for  
11                  calling to my attention that removal of the four Snake  
12                  River dams would be like providing four more Hanford  
13                  Reach spawning grounds. I believe that would go a  
14                  long way towards saving the salmon. I hope we still  
15                  have time.

16                               MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
17                               very much.

18                               Cliff Wogsland, followed by Leo Hill,  
19                               followed by Leonard Ross.

20                               MR. Cliff WOGSLAND:     Thank you. My  
21                               name is Cliff Wogsland. I am from Clarkston. And I  
22                               didn't get the opportunity to speak last time you were  
23                               there. And I felt it was important that I come here  
24                               and talk.

25                               I wanted to agree with your first speaker,

1 Bob Jensen, and Slade Gorton's folks, and I wanted to  
2 elaborate on that.

3 First of all, it's not really rocket  
4 scientists. We have to stop the slaughter, stop the  
5 harvest of fish. That doesn't mean just one person.  
6 That means everybody. If you're going to get them  
7 back, there's only one way to do it. That's stop  
8 killing them.

9 Real easy. We do have enough electronic  
10 science now that we can find out where these fish are  
11 being lost. To me it's in the ocean. 90 some percent  
12 are going out, 2 percent are coming back. It's not  
13 real tough.

14 Okay. You have the deflectors in the dams  
15 for one year. I do analytical science. And one year  
16 isn't long enough for any kind of study. How can we  
17 just throw those in?

18 I saw them being built right where I lived,  
19 just down the street. How can we even have a logical  
20 study in one year? On deflectors? You haven't seen  
21 anything on them yet.

22 Okay. The tribe, Nez Perce Tribe. I  
23 didn't hear them say anything about the PPRC, the Pulp  
24 and Paper Resource Council, and them being together.  
25 We put stream side incubators in place, we do have

1 runs coming back.

2 We are working with them. I don't see any  
3 conservation group, and I challenge the conservation  
4 groups to stand up, quit whining, get off your duffs,  
5 get with these Tribes, and work on it. You're not  
6 going to do anything by throwing lawsuits at  
7 everything and at each other.

8 The only way you are going to get this  
9 thing done is to get out there and do it. Actually,  
10 physically, do it.

11 And I haven't seen any conservation groups  
12 doing that. Where are you, Idaho Rivers United,  
13 Conservation League, Sierra Club?

14 Where are they? They just file lawsuits.  
15 Okay.

16 There's going to be too much truck traffic.  
17 We just need to use logical, reasonable things to get  
18 these runs back. Stop the slaughter. Can't kill them  
19 and have them come back, too.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
21 Cliff.

22 Leo Hill, followed by Leonard Ross,  
23 followed by Tom Clyde.

24 MR. LEO HILL: Good afternoon. My  
25 name is Leo Hill. I live in Walla Walla. And I'm a

1 20 year employee at the Boise Cascade paper mill at  
2 Wallula.

3 Media reports tell us that you have heard  
4 an overwhelming amount of pro-breaching comments at  
5 other public meetings.

6 Perhaps breaching the dams is a valuable  
7 last step to save the salmon. But it is certainly not  
8 a sensible first step.

9 First, steps need to be taken down river  
10 and in the ocean.

11 One. The caspian terns that nest at the  
12 mouth of the Columbia River need to be dealt with.  
13 Every location of the colony or other measures to  
14 discourage their nesting and breeding must be  
15 immediately acted upon to reduce their predation on  
16 the migrating smolts.

17 Two. Congress must immediately modify the  
18 National Marine Mammals Protection Act so that these  
19 predators could be managed in a manner that protects  
20 both the salmon and the long-term viability of these  
21 wonderful marine mammals.

22 Three. Commercial fishing in the ocean off  
23 our coasts must be drastically curtailed. Mile long  
24 drift nets that strip mine the sea of all life must be  
25 completely banned within our national economic zone.

1                   Did this go off?

2                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    You are still  
3                   going.

4                   MR. LEO HILL:     Congress must  
5                   authorize and allocate staff resources for the Coast  
6                   Guard to vigorously enforce this ban.

7                   Four.    An agreement must be reached in the  
8                   Native Americans of the various Tribes to markedly  
9                   reduce the number of nets allowed in the Columbia and  
10                  the Snake River system at any time during the year.

11                  Five.   Sport fisheries must also do their  
12                  share.   An indefinite moratorium on fishing for all,  
13                  and I tried this word, anadromous fish in the Columbia  
14                  and Snake Rivers must be immediately enacted.

15                  One point that seems to be overlooked in  
16                  this debate is the need for adult fish returning from  
17                  the ocean portion of their life cycle.   Without  
18                  massive numbers of adult fish surviving the  
19                  predations, both natural and manmade, there is little  
20                  point in removing four dams that lie over 300 miles  
21                  from the ocean.

22                  Assuming we have sufficient numbers of  
23                  adult fish returning upstream, and in conjunction with  
24                  the downriver and ocean steps I have just outlined,  
25                  habitat improvement must take place in the many small

1 tributaries of the Columbia-Snake River system.

2 The fish must have a place to spawn.

3 To use an analogy, if this situation were a  
4 patient in the hospital, no reasonable person would  
5 expect that doctors to amputate both legs to cure a  
6 broken ankle.

7 Breaching the Snake River dams is too  
8 drastic of a measure to take before addressing the  
9 other issues that any reasonable person could see  
10 would have a more immediate impact on salmon survival.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
13 very much, Leo.

14 Leonard Ross, followed by Tom Clyde,  
15 followed by Karen Alexander.

16 MR. LEONARD ROSS: My name is Leonard  
17 Ross.

18 I belong to an ad hoc organization in the  
19 Lewiston Clarkston valley called the advocates for  
20 salmon, steelhead and commerce.

21 We have come to the realization that the  
22 long term environmental quality of life and economic  
23 well-being of our region hinges on restoring the Snake  
24 River salmon and steelhead.

25 We owe it to our children and grandchildren

1 and to the Northwest children to make this happen.

2 We also accept the fact that the four Lower  
3 Snake River dams should be breached soon if we are to  
4 recover these valuable resources.

5 Breaching is necessary and it may be  
6 sufficient.

7 I am especially concerned that this won't  
8 happen because quasi science has been used by the  
9 National Marine Fisheries Service to delay admitting  
10 the failing hydro system is now driving the fish to  
11 extinction.

12 You can read several critiques of the DEIS,  
13 including the indices, and you will come up with this  
14 same inescapable conclusion.

15 There is one out there from the Idaho  
16 Department of Fish and Game, there is another critique  
17 from the Path team members from the States Fish and  
18 Wildlife and the Tribes and U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
19 but not NMFS and the others. There's the critique by  
20 the independent Science Advisory Board.

21 And finally there's a recent one out called  
22 Seven Questions About the Accumulative Risk Initiative  
23 recently published for Trout Unlimited. These reports  
24 show that, one, NMFS broke Director Stelle's  
25 commitment and Judge Marsh's mandate to collaborate

1 with state and tribal scientists and avoided any  
2 review before they released their anadromous fish  
3 appendix to the DEIS.

4 And NMFS has managed the smolt pit tag data  
5 in order to discredit the Path findings that breaching  
6 is the best way to recover the salmon.

7 NMFS scientists grouped and ignored data  
8 that is needed to get the results they wanted in order  
9 to give the opinion that transportation options could  
10 possibly recover salmon as well as the natural river.

11 NMFS has created this new process CRI, even  
12 though the time required to get scientific certainty  
13 results probably doomed some of the populations to  
14 extinction.

15 NMFS came up with optimistic determinations  
16 of salmon. And now they have juggled scientific  
17 analyses to focus attention away from the hydro  
18 systems as the best way to improve survival.

19 I have trouble accepting the legitimacy of  
20 the All-H process since the very scientific foundation  
21 is so flawed.

22 The Federal Caucus should plan on for rocky  
23 road consensus until NMFS corrects their  
24 unprofessional performance.

25 And by the way, Senator Gorton is still mad

1 about losing the boat decision.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
4 very much.

5 Tom Clyde, followed by Karen Alexander, and  
6 we'll take a break, and before the break I will read  
7 the next 30 people so you have a sense of where you  
8 are going to come up.

9 Tom Clyde.

10 MR. TOM CLYDE: Tom Clyde. As a  
11 farmer, I'm disturbed by the fact that it appears most  
12 of the emphasis on restoring fish runs is being  
13 focused on upstream habitat. And of course that  
14 shifts a disproportionate economic burden on those of  
15 us that make our living off the land and the natural  
16 resources in this region.

17 I think it also raises some serious  
18 questions about the sincerity of those who profess to  
19 be committed to restoring fish.

20 For example, many of the things, many of  
21 those have been cited today, the poor fishing  
22 conditions within the 200 mile restricted zone of U.S.  
23 waters.

24 The predator situation which is responsible  
25 between the terns and the seals for literally millions

1 of smolts every year in our river system.

2 I can't understand also why any nets are  
3 still permitted on the river.

4 These inconsistencies really raise some  
5 concerns about just how sincere everyone is about  
6 solving this problem.

7 If this region is to get the blame, or the  
8 primary blame, for causing the problem, there ought to  
9 be sufficient evidence to support those accusations.  
10 And to date we have seen no conclusive scientific  
11 evidence that will state that taking out the dams will  
12 bring back the fish.

13 And I think it would be tragic to destroy  
14 the efficient production and commerce of this region  
15 simply because somebody had a theory that was  
16 untested.

17 As I analyze all of this information, it  
18 leaves me to conclude that the agenda here, the issue,  
19 is not really fish. I don't believe that the agenda  
20 is to bring the fish back.

21 I think the agenda is to expand the  
22 intrusive power of government into the lives of our  
23 citizens.

24 As the war continues against those of us in  
25 the natural resource industries, some day this nation

1 will regret the damage that it has done to property  
2 rights and individual liberties in the name of  
3 environmental extremism.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Karen  
5 Alexander. Karen Alexander, are you out there?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She has  
7 submitted a written report.

8 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: All right. So  
9 we will move to a break. But let me quickly run  
10 through the next 30 folks that will be up after the  
11 break.

12 We will begin with Don Pratt, followed by  
13 Nanette Walkley, followed by Lester Snyder, followed  
14 by Ron Wise, followed by Kent Hansen, followed by  
15 Frank Williams, followed by Jerry Mattoon I believe it  
16 is, Pat Kenny after Jerry, Ralph Hodge, Clint Didier I  
17 think it is, followed by David Close, followed by  
18 Michele Rounds, followed by Brenda Alford, followed by  
19 Jim Kuntz, followed by Lauri Dayton, followed by Nat  
20 Webb I think it is, Nat Webb, followed by Mert  
21 Stamply, followed by Eric Cochran, followed by Larry  
22 Hagen, followed by Ladd Mitchell, John Grant, Roger  
23 Hays, George Boice, and that's about it.

24 So let's, those folks will be up after the  
25 break. So, ten minutes, we will be right back here

1 with Don Pratt.

2 (Short recess).

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
4 very much for helping us take a break here.

5 I would like to announce some changes we  
6 are going to make this afternoon.

7 Given how frustrated we all are with the  
8 fact that there have not been that many members of the  
9 public that have spoken as yet, I have talked with the  
10 panel members and they have agreed to work through  
11 their dinner hour, and we will spell them with some of  
12 their other staff who are here.

13 So now I am going to really need your help  
14 on this, and I know folks that came in late didn't  
15 hear the ground rules earlier, didn't hear that I am a  
16 moderator here, I am not a member of one of the  
17 agencies, I am trying to help you all get heard in a  
18 way that is as quick and efficient, and you all need  
19 to get to your mike and we just need to move right on  
20 with the next person.

21 So, holding your clapping is what's going  
22 to help us get to all of you.

23 So with that, would you like to say  
24 anything?

25 COL. ERIC MOGREN: You have come up

1 and told me about your frustration over being able to  
2 get to speak tonight.

3 A couple points. Number one, I have got 78  
4 people or so that are signed up yet still to speak,  
5 and I understand there is some frustration over my  
6 decision to let the public elected officials go  
7 first.

8 Understand, our view is that that's out of  
9 deference for respect for their office, and you heard  
10 a lot of them are speaking for several thousand folks.  
11 So please bear with me on that.

12 Having said that, by my count, we have  
13 about 16 or 17 public officials, so even if we hadn't  
14 done that, we'd still have 65 folks to go, which is  
15 going to be really tough to get through in the time  
16 we've got.

17 So I want to remind you of something Donna  
18 said early on, that there are other ways to submit  
19 your testimony. Either through written testimony or  
20 recorded testimony, and I would urge you to use those  
21 other options as well, because in the final analysis,  
22 all the comments that will receive equal weight,  
23 regardless of how they are submitted.

24 So now I will turn it over to Donna so we  
25 can get back to testimony here.

1 Thank you.

2 DONNA SILVERBERG: Those of you who  
3 want to scratch your name off the list, come on up  
4 while someone is talking, and I will get you scratched  
5 off.

6 In the meantime let's get started right  
7 here with Don Pratt, followed by Nanette Walkley,  
8 followed by Lester Snyder. And if Nanette and Lester  
9 can get up and close to a microphone now we will just  
10 keep rolling right along.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. DON PRATT: I don't come here  
13 representing any special interest group, and no one  
14 has asked me to speak. In fact I detest speaking in  
15 public, but today I do feel compelled to speak up.

16 My parents moved their little family to  
17 Kennewick in the summer of 1960 when they came here  
18 for opportunity. For my dad it was a chance to get  
19 away from 16 hour days and a dusty mill and using his  
20 college education in chemistry to work on the Hanford  
21 Reservation.

22 My parents envisioned the day when their  
23 three small children would be grown and step out into  
24 the world to raise their only little families, they  
25 were hopeful that this area would still provide

1 opportunity for those children so they could enjoy  
2 their grandkids in their retirement years. And today  
3 six of my parents' seven children live in Kennewick  
4 with a total of 22 grandchildren and one great  
5 grandchild.

6 We enjoy a simple, enviable lifestyle which  
7 is probably only realized in the imaginations of a lot  
8 of people across this country and through the world.

9 I enjoy the small town atmosphere, with no  
10 traffic gridlock every day. And I fear that that may  
11 eventually change since more and more people find out  
12 about our great community as this controversy  
13 continues to be stirred up nationally over fish and  
14 dams.

15 I enjoy cleaner air because of safe,  
16 reliable and less expensive electricity from dams. I  
17 enjoy all kinds of uncrowded water recreating because  
18 of dams.

19 I enjoy all types of fresh grown food  
20 literally in my own back yard because of dams. I  
21 enjoy not having my home flooded each year from spring  
22 runoff because of dams. I am pleased that these dams  
23 are the key ingredient for life sustaining grain to  
24 feed the world's hungry.

25 So, when I hear someone voice the notion

1       that one of these modern marvels of engineering genius  
2       have been rendered useless, I consider that to be an  
3       attack on my home.

4                 If it were an attack by another nation, it  
5       would be considered an act of war.  If it was an  
6       attack from within our own nation, it should be  
7       considered an act of treason.  If any group or  
8       individual in this great nation wants to reroute a  
9       river or route a dam or even blow up a dam, let them  
10      go join forces with any number of military or  
11      terrorist operations throughout the world that appear  
12      to enjoy tearing things down, blowing things up.

13                I believe it is a sad commentary on the  
14      state of affairs of this nation when the mainstream  
15      tax paying, working public has to take time out of  
16      their busy work week to attend something like this  
17      just to defend our dams.

18                COL. ERIC MOGREN:  I just had a  
19      thought that could speed this up.  I am going to put  
20      this to you all.

21                And the question is, would you be willing  
22      to go to two minutes and get everybody through faster?

23                Now, if you think that's a bad idea, if you  
24      think it's a bad idea to go to two minutes so we could  
25      get more people up here speaking, please show your

1 hands.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you think  
3 the lady that's taking the records could keep up,  
4 because we will talk faster, it's not --

5 COL. ERIC MOGREN: It is enough hands  
6 to --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you think it  
8 is fair for a guy to come eight hours to --

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: We are going  
10 to stick with the three minutes. Appreciate that.

11 We are going to go right on to Nanette  
12 Walkley, followed by Lester Snyder and Ron Wise.

13 MS. NANETTE WALKLEY: Thank you. My  
14 name is Nanette Walkley. I represent the Walkley  
15 Farms located east of Burbank in Walla Walla County.

16 Our farm is a third generation family farm.  
17 We irrigate 2,200 acres with water drawn from the  
18 Snake River upstream from Ice Harbor Dam. We also  
19 have another 2800 acres of dryland ground. We employ  
20 three full-time and two part-time employees.

21 The land also provides employment for  
22 others who work on other family farms who lease some  
23 of our ground.

24 It's been said that breaching the Snake  
25 River dams will not impact small family farmers and

1 that only large corporate farms irrigate with water  
2 from the Snake River.

3 I'm here to tell you that our farm will be  
4 severely impacted by breaching these dams. Breaching  
5 these dams could signal the end of our family farm and  
6 our way of life.

7 Without irrigation our farm would have been  
8 bankrupt long ago. The irrigation water reuse is a  
9 necessity. We need that to raise our crops. It's not  
10 a luxury. The water already costs us between 70 and a  
11 hundred dollars an acre just for the electricity to  
12 move the water from the river to the sprinklers and  
13 onto the crop.

14 In 1999 this cost of effect of electricity  
15 for the irrigation system was 30 percent of our total  
16 operating expenses. This does not include the cost of  
17 the irrigation system itself or the water delivery  
18 system.

19 Therefore, the cost of converting our  
20 irrigation facilities due to dam breaching would be  
21 prohibitive.

22 It's also been said that alternatives to  
23 transporting the farmers' grain by truck instead of  
24 barge will only be a few cents more per bushel.

25 However, without irrigation water our farm

1 won't have many bushels to transport.

2           The negative impact will not just be to our  
3 farm. The loss of irrigation water from the Snake  
4 River will drastically affect our neighboring farms as  
5 well. These farmers do not just generate income for  
6 themselves. They pay real estate taxes to support the  
7 school systems. They employ workers to support  
8 families who also pay taxes. They purchase equipment,  
9 services and supplies from area merchants, they  
10 provide a safe product that goes to area processors  
11 who also employ workers.

12           Breaching these dams is being proposed as a  
13 solution to save the Snake River salmon and steelhead.

14           If there's no agreement, this drastic  
15 measure will not result in recovery of these fish.  
16 This proposal has placed a cloud over the future of  
17 agriculture as well as the future of the general  
18 economy in this area.

19           To summarize, the Walkley farm is opposed  
20 to breaching the Snake River dams. The environmental,  
21 economic and social impacts from this action will be  
22 overwhelmingly negative.

23           We support improvement to fish passage  
24 facilities and transportation. It's time to move on  
25 with real solutions that will recover the salmon runs

1 without destroying the regional economy and quality of  
2 our life.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you.

5 MR. LESTER SNYDER: I am Lester  
6 Snyder. I am representing the Washington State Grange  
7 which has 40,000 members.

8 We want to save the salmon, but we do not  
9 believe that breaching the dams is the way to save the  
10 salmon.

11 We do believe that we can live with  
12 possibly the first three things that you have listed  
13 in your H program. And we would like to see that  
14 implemented.

15 And I have spent a lot of time on the  
16 Tucannon River which is above some of the dams, and I  
17 know that salmon have come up through those dams and  
18 have spawned in that river, because I have seen it  
19 with my own eyes, after the dams went in.

20 I have been on the river before the dams  
21 went in and I was on the river after the dams went  
22 in.

23 But many things that I have here to say  
24 have been already said, and I have a little story that  
25 I would like to tell you, because I have a better way

1 of expressing myself in that manner.

2 We are of the land. The land everyone is  
3 trying to save. We are of the land, from the cradle  
4 to the grave. We are the plankton in the ocean, we  
5 are the grass upon the plankton. We are the lichen in  
6 the tundra. We are the levis in the chain.

7 Dust to dust we are committed to this earth  
8 on which we stand. We are farmers by our birth right,  
9 we are stewards of the land.

10 Now, there are those who sit in towers who  
11 pretend to know what's best. They pontificate, they  
12 protest. And they rail with the current of a person  
13 who's well fed.

14 Mother Earth can be forgiving when in  
15 ignorance we err, but she can die of good intention,  
16 she needs someone who will care. Not with platitudes  
17 of poets touting blood and sweat and toil, but the  
18 care of someone with his hand upon the soil.

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Ron Wise,  
20 followed by Kent Hansen, followed by Frank Williams.

21 MR. RON WISE: Good afternoon. My  
22 name is Ron Wise, and I live in Lewiston, Idaho, where  
23 I am a member of a group of local citizens called  
24 advocates for steelhead and salmon. I support  
25 Alternative 4 because fish biologists of Path conclude

1 that dam removal has the best chance for the recovery  
2 of steelhead and salmon.

3 Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 will certainly  
4 finish driving the wild steelhead and salmon to  
5 extinction.

6 This would be a tragedy for not only the  
7 fish but also for us humans and for many other  
8 associated species that are dependent upon the fish  
9 for existence.

10 The question I want to address today is,  
11 why is there so much misinformation about  
12 transportation of grain by barge? I think it's  
13 because there is an automatic assumption that barge  
14 transport is cheaper and more efficient than any other  
15 method.

16 On page 31 of the Corps' summary it says,  
17 quote, transportation cost would increase because  
18 barge transport is less costly, unquote.

19 The Corps says that is a fact, so I guess  
20 it is.

21 Here is another example. In yesterday's  
22 Lewiston Morning Owl Tribune Jeff Barnard of the  
23 Associated Press writes that, "Opponents argue that  
24 the Lewiston economy would be devastated by the  
25 elimination of cheap barge transportation."

1                   Let's look beyond these assumptions for the  
2 truth.

3                   First, taxpayers pay about \$11 of the \$13  
4 cost per ton of shipping grain from Lewiston to  
5 Portland.

6                   Second, the Drew Committee uncovered  
7 evidence that the barge companies are making a profit  
8 of between 70 to 200 percent on their operations.

9                   Third, and most interesting, is a report  
10 from the Transportation Energy Data Book, Edition 18,  
11 1996, from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The  
12 results are rail transport is more efficient than  
13 either barge or truck. On page 2-17 rail Btu per ton  
14 mile is 368 and water borne commerce is 412.

15                   So much for the assumed efficiency of barge  
16 transport. I am enclosing a copy of this report.

17                   Is it cheaper? Last summer a 73 car unit  
18 grain train left Lewiston for Portland and the  
19 shipping cost per ton was the same as for barging. So  
20 much for the assumed lower cost of barging.

21                   The Corps needs to redo their analysis of  
22 shipping efficiency and cost. For starters they  
23 should read the recent study by Dr. Ken Casavan from  
24 WSU done for the Washington Transportation Board.

25                   Finally, a few concluding observations by

1 the taxpayers for the port of Lewiston.

2 The port was approved by the voters of Nez  
3 Perce County in 1968, and became a barge shipping port  
4 in 1976.

5 24 years later the port has yet to get its  
6 budget into the black. The taxpayers of the county  
7 provide about \$500,000 to their annual budget.

8 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Ron?

9 MR. RON WISE: Yes?

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I need to ask  
11 you to wrap it right now.

12 MR. RON WISE: Thank you. We at  
13 Lewiston have been bombarded year after year. The  
14 port is improving the economy of Lewiston.

15 If so, why are we still underwriting it?

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Thank  
17 you very much.

18 Kent Hansen, followed by Frank Williams,  
19 followed by Jerry Mattoon.

20 MR. KENT HANSEN: I am Kent Hansen.  
21 I manage Connell Grain Growers and live in Connell,  
22 Washington. I am also the President of the Northwest  
23 Managers Association of the grange which represents 28  
24 grain handling cooperatives.

25 Our company operates two terminals on the

1 river. And we do that because barge transportation is  
2 the most efficient and best way to get the grain to  
3 the market.

4 Our group of managers recently, it was  
5 actually two years ago, took a tour of a couple of  
6 these dams, and we applauded the Corps of Engineers  
7 ingenuity and engineering in increasing the ability of  
8 fish passage through the dams and past the dams, and  
9 believe that the Corps has the ability as these  
10 studies go, learn more about fish, be able to make  
11 modifications necessary to the dams to allow the fish  
12 passage without taking away all of the benefits from  
13 the dams that we have heard.

14 So we would support Alternative 2 and 3 of  
15 maximal fish transportation, and modification of the  
16 dams, and we would oppose Alternative 4.

17 We also oppose Alternative 1, doing  
18 nothing, because we would like to save the fish.

19 We encourage the National Marine Fisheries  
20 Association to do all they can in each of the H areas  
21 to improve fish environment.

22 Since I have got just a second, I would  
23 also like to speak, people talk about how many people  
24 I represent. I want to speak in behalf of the two  
25 billion people that live in the Pacific Rim that

1 depend on the Pacific Northwest to deliver them a  
2 consistent and reliable high quality food source, and  
3 they appreciate that, and they depend on this river  
4 system to get that to them.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
7 Kent.

8 Frank Williams, Jerry Mattoon and Pat  
9 Kenny.

10 MR. FRANK WILLIAMS: I am Frank  
11 Williams. I am from Coos Bay, Oregon. Longshoreman.  
12 Auctioneer. Rancher. And hi, Will. We have talked  
13 before, haven't we.

14 Okay. I am with the Step Program in Coos  
15 Bay, or Salmon Trout Enhancement Program. And it's a  
16 natural enhancement program just about as close as you  
17 can get to Mother Nature. It's the most successful  
18 program on the west coast we are told by our  
19 biologists.

20 Yet we are the top secret in the Northwest.  
21 Because nobody wants to go on with these hatchery  
22 fish. Even though we are not really truly hatchery.  
23 Like I said, we are natural enhancement. We have  
24 always taken wild stock and brought them in, and put  
25 them in with our hatchery returns.

1                   A lot of our hatchery returns is not fin  
2 clipped, by the way, Will. So you don't know which  
3 ones they are.

4                   This is happening all over. There are a  
5 lot of things going on that you don't know. The  
6 influence on the West Coast was the salmon that you  
7 don't know about. And I ain't going to tell you where  
8 it happened. You are going to have to get off your  
9 chair and go out, quit having these meetings. Ten  
10 Mile Waits in our area was 80 percent Coho for the  
11 whole state of Oregon at one time, but the ODF&W came  
12 in and poisoned it, put in bass.

13                   You was talking earlier about 12 to 24  
14 percent on your survival on your Chinook coming back.  
15 Well, the Japanese outdo us in everything, and the  
16 most they have go is 3 or 4 percent.

17                   But I do know they had up to 12 percent  
18 return, and people from Canada come down there, wanted  
19 to look at that.

20                   Anyway, if you take home nothing with you  
21 today but this one fact, we can raise salmon for less  
22 than a half a cent apiece, ODF&W in Oregon costs  
23 \$3.00.

24                   Now, I know that's awful cheap, and it's  
25 not going to cost millions of dollars, and a lot of

1       you guys won't be able to do your studies, you might  
2       be able to retire early. But that's just too bad.

3               The studies, you say would, could and  
4       likely could, would and likely. What about that?  
5       They don't tell you it's going to happen.

6               The farmers used to go out and used to dig  
7       out all the beaches. Entrances to the streams. We  
8       can't do that no more. That's a no no, because they  
9       control that.

10              So the salmon can't get up, salmon can't  
11       get in. The fish, the seals and sea lions are having  
12       a picnic out there on them beaches, eating the salmon.  
13       This is all Oregon's fish.

14              Some of them stray, they come right up the  
15       Columbia. As a matter of fact, some of our fish are  
16       from the Columbia. That's where they come from. We  
17       do not have wild fish. You guys are lucky. If you  
18       think there's a wild fish.

19              MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    Okay. Thank  
20       you. Your time's up.

21              MR. FRANK WILLIAMS    that's an awful  
22       short time.

23              MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    Thank you  
24       very much, Frank.

25              Jerry Mattoon, followed by Pat Kenny,

1 followed by Ralph Hodge.

2 MR. JERRY MATTOON: My name is Jerry  
3 Mattoon, and I am from Clarkston, Washington. And  
4 during the break I was advised that 107,000 people  
5 around the Northwest have signed petitions supporting  
6 dam breaching. Not during the break, they didn't sign  
7 it. But I was advised.

8 Salmon are important to me, so these four  
9 lower Snake River dams don't make any sense. I think  
10 the Corps' analysis exaggerates the cause of partial  
11 removal of the four lower Snake Rive dams, by ignoring  
12 the huge cost of damage retention and salmon  
13 extinction.

14 Letting the salmon go extent abrogate 19  
15 century treaties with the sovereign American Tribes.  
16 This will result in costs running into tens of  
17 billions of dollars.

18 And also don't forget about lost jobs in  
19 Western Washington and Oregon and California if the  
20 salmon are allowed to go extinct.

21 It is much more affordable to partially  
22 remove the four dams on the Lower Snake River.  
23 Scientists participating in the NMFS All-H paper, the  
24 vast majority appears that partial removal of the  
25 Lower Snake River dams is the essential foundation for

1 saving endangered salmon and steelhead in the  
2 watershed.

3 This is alone not enough but it is a start.

4 The big fish also need protection and  
5 restoration of habitat on public and private lands  
6 throughout the Columbia Basin.

7 The All-H science paper correctly finds  
8 that partial dam removal is the only action that helps  
9 all salmon runs in the Snake basin which can restore  
10 the big fish to harvestable numbers.

11 Because the Snake Basin salmon are so  
12 dangerously close to extinction, action needs to be  
13 taken immediately.

14 In conclusion, I would like to read an  
15 excerpt from a recent publication by Allen Pinham,  
16 entitled salmon and his people, fish and fishing in  
17 the Nez Perce country.

18 Sometimes I try to get people to compare  
19 plant and animal species with their own body parts.  
20 For instance, the buffalo could be a finger. The  
21 paracon falcon, another finger. The wrist could be  
22 the Sockeye salmon.

23 If you eliminate -- if you relate these  
24 body parts to these species, how many would you  
25 eliminate before you would say, stop, you can get

1 along pretty well if you lose a finger, but if you  
2 keep doing that, we lose it enough. Allen Pingham,  
3 Nez Perce.

4 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
5 very much, Jerry.

6 Pat Kenny, followed by Ralph Hodge,  
7 followed by Clint Didier.

8 MR. PAT KENNY: My name is Pat Kenny,  
9 and I am addressing the Lower Snake River juvenile  
10 salmon migration feasibility study.

11 I'm an avid sports fisherman, a biologist  
12 by training. I have lived in the Mid-Columbia basin.  
13 I have been involved in agriculture for the past 26  
14 years.

15 In this time I have watched this area  
16 transform itself from sand dunes to one of the most  
17 diverse and productive agricultural areas in the  
18 United States.

19 Our company that I work for, Cargill, Inc.,  
20 is one of the leading grain marketing and exporting  
21 companies in the Pacific Northwest. Our role is to  
22 link local producers with the best markets around the  
23 world. We buy grain from farmers in Washington,  
24 Idaho, Oregon and Montana. And we transport it by  
25 barge to Portland for export to the Asian market.

1                   Asia has become the most important export  
2 market for the American farmers, representing about 40  
3 percent of the total United States grain exports. Our  
4 farmer customers in this region are ideally situated  
5 to serve that market.

6                   But make no mistake, this is an intensely  
7 competitive global market. Overseas buyers don't  
8 really care who produces the wheat and the other  
9 product they buy. They don't care whether the wheat  
10 is produced by farmers in Washington, Alberta,  
11 Australia or Argentina.

12                   What they do care about is cost and  
13 quality, and transportation cost can make the  
14 difference between getting the business or standing on  
15 the sidelines.

16                   Transportation costs also make the  
17 difference to Washington farm families.

18                   River transportation on the Snake and  
19 Columbia River system is a critical asset for this  
20 region. Removal of the Lower Snake River dams would  
21 cause severe economic stress for the Idaho, Montana,  
22 Eastern Washington and Eastern Oregon farm families  
23 who rely on efficient barge transportation to deliver  
24 their products to markets.

25                   If this important transportation channel is

1 closed, it could very well signal the end of globally  
2 competitive agricultural production in this region,  
3 forcing many of these farm families into the heart  
4 braking decision as to whether to leave the land their  
5 families have farmed for generations.

6           Unfortunately for Washington farmers, there  
7 are very few alternatives. The rail system has been  
8 effectively dismantled in this region, and road  
9 transportation is inadequate.

10           Today barge transportation saves farmers  
11 about 25 to 30 cents per bushel over other modes of  
12 transportation.

13           That may not mean much to you, but it can  
14 mean the difference between profit and loss for local  
15 farmers, and in a global marketplace it will not be  
16 possible to pass an additional 25 to 30 cents along to  
17 foreign buyers.

18           Buyers can go elsewhere, so does our  
19 Washington farmers who will bear the economic burden.  
20 But even if Washington farmers could bear that  
21 additional cost, they face an even more fundamental  
22 challenge, because without barge transportation we  
23 don't have adequate transportation capacity in any  
24 other mode. It simply doesn't exist.

25           Taxpayers will be asked to invest an

1 estimated quarter of a million to half billion dollars  
2 to equate the infrastructure needed to replace barge  
3 transportation.

4 Let me make our position very clear. We  
5 favor an adequate solution that addresses the need for  
6 salmon recovery, the environment, the farmers,  
7 commercial navigation, and local businesses, without  
8 the removal of the dams.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Thanks  
10 so much, Pat.

11 Ralph Hodge, followed by Clint Didier,  
12 followed by David Close.

13 MR. RALPH HODGE: I am Ralph Hodge.  
14 I am a member of the Paper Allied Industry Chemical  
15 Energy Workers in Richland, Washington.

16 I want to preface my remarks, I have worked  
17 for Tidewater also. And one barge equals 35 rail  
18 cars. Or 154 trucks. So, our tows are four barges,  
19 so you could do the math. That's as far as the  
20 cost, for what it costs to get the grain down to  
21 Portland.

22 Labor opposes any breaching of the Snake  
23 River dams. We consider any such solution to the  
24 salmon problem to be premature and based on improper  
25 evaluations.

1                   Loss of power, irrigation, transportation  
2                   would cost thousands of jobs, and may not rectify the  
3                   problem. We can think of no other circumstance where  
4                   a species is declared endangered that we have to run  
5                   the gauntlet of fishing nets all the way from the  
6                   coast of Alaska to the river's mouth.

7                   Having made that part of their journey  
8                   safely, the ever dwindling supply faces an obstacle  
9                   course of seals, birds, tribal nets, all the way up  
10                  the river to their spawning ground.

11                  This type of predation on an endangered  
12                  species is unheard of. Appropriate regulations over  
13                  harvest have to be made.

14                  We sympathize with the Tribes' cultural  
15                  rights. However, times change, and we have to change  
16                  with them. Hopefully with a proper care, the runs  
17                  will be restored, and with restoration, the Tribes'  
18                  ability for their appropriate harvest.

19                  We often hear the statement that a few  
20                  barge workers' jobs would be affected by breaching the  
21                  dams.

22                  Nothing could be further from the truth.  
23                  The loss of jobs in the agricultural sector would be  
24                  extreme. Cheap power fuels our aluminum production  
25                  facilities in the region as well, as countless other

1 industries all the way down the coast of California.

2 Anyone currently looking at rising fuel  
3 costs can see the replacement of gas, oil or coal  
4 would not be cheap. That type of replacement would  
5 pour tons of hydrocarbons into our already sick  
6 atmosphere.

7 The rule of thumb measurement for job loss  
8 is one family wage job creates three jobs in the  
9 service sector. This trickle down effect from dam  
10 breaching would have a disastrous economic effect  
11 throughout our region.

12 Labor feels that with the proper studies  
13 and harvest restraint, we can save jobs, the dams and  
14 the salmon.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
17 very much, Ralph.

18 Clint Didier, David Close, and Michele  
19 Rounds.

20 MR. CLINT DIDIER: I am Clint Didier,  
21 and I am a proud farmer. Our United States of America  
22 is rapidly changing into a social democracy.

23 We have progressed from being the freest  
24 nation in the world to becoming unfree. We as a  
25 people have forgotten that government can and does

1       pose a threat to our individual rights and liberties.  
2       Too many of us have given government the power to  
3       regulate, dictate and manage our lives. The salmon  
4       issue is a perfect example of political manipulation.

5                 The removal of the dams on the Snake River  
6       is being proposed as a cure-all for the diminishing  
7       runs on the Columbia and the Snake Rivers. Yet the  
8       government's own National Marine Fisheries Service has  
9       consistently implemented and managed programs proven  
10      to be destructive to the salmon recovery.

11                My question is why are all of the other  
12      proposals to strengthen the fish runs being pushed to  
13      the rear of the bus?

14                And salmon, breaching the dams is the  
15      miracle solution. Why are we not strongly enforcing a  
16      200 mile limit eliminating all foreign vessels fishing  
17      in our waters? Why are we not permitting --  
18      permanently removing the caspian tern problem at the  
19      mouth of the Columbia?

20                Why do we continue to protect seals and sea  
21      lions that double their population every eight years?  
22      Why do we continue to spend millions of dollars on  
23      fish studies when those millions could have already  
24      installed fish friendly turbines on all of our dams?  
25      How does \$2.00 a pound salmon sales by Indians have

1 any bearing on their right to fish for ceremonial  
2 purposes?

3 Do we have less homes to power or less  
4 people to feed? Do we ignore the fact that hydro  
5 power is the cleanest source of energy?

6 Victims of flood disasters recognize the  
7 value of the dam intervention. Would support of dam  
8 breaching have been so vocal in the recent Portland  
9 area hearings if Vanport flooding just occurred? Why  
10 did the Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife  
11 director admit that clubbing to death of 6,000 fall  
12 creek hatchery run actions were taken after  
13 consultation with the federal government?

14 How do we explain the diminishing runs on  
15 the rivers such as the Cowlitz and the Nastucka that  
16 have no dams.

17 Do we continue to be a world leader who  
18 provides a standard of living unparalleled in history  
19 or do we reduce ourselves to second class status, no  
20 longer a builder but a destroyer of our own assets,  
21 revisionaries that designed our hydropower system,  
22 benefits unduplicated in the nation.

23 Do we destroy that legacy on assumptions?  
24 Dams are not anchored on sand, my friend. They are  
25 anchored on rock.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay.

2 MR. CLINT DIDIER: Let us not  
3 stand -- let not sand be our foundation, but let us  
4 stand as a rock against the flow.

5 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
6 Clint.

7 David Close, followed by Michele Rounds,  
8 followed by Brenda Alfred.

9 MR. DAVID CLOSE: My name is Dave  
10 Close. I am a Umatilla Tribal member. I am also a  
11 biologist for my tribe.

12 I am here to testify about the issues here,  
13 two issues, the John Day drawdown and the breaching  
14 and other options of the dams on the Snake.

15 Currently I'm working on a recovery plan  
16 for Pacific lamprey, and what we have found in the  
17 analysis is that the dams pose a very big problem for  
18 adult migrant lamprey.

19 The ladders were not built for these fish.  
20 Last year NMFS's study shows that 60 percent of the  
21 fish that tried to negotiate Bonneville Dam could not  
22 make it through.

23 So if that's any indication of the  
24 situation, it's not just salmon, we have Pacific  
25 lamprey on the verge of listing, we have sturgeon

1 problems, we have a myriad of problems with native  
2 fish in these reservoirs.

3 My first point, the John Day, the Corps  
4 study, I think NMFS, Will Stelle, you should have  
5 credible, independent fisheries scientists do the  
6 study. You don't have the fox guarding the hen house.  
7 The Corps should not be the ones who are studying this  
8 with their consultant, hand picked consultant.

9 I think you are going to get tore up on  
10 these results that you have on the John Day drawdown  
11 once they get released, more information is released.  
12 I think that the John Day drawdown, the Corps is  
13 saying that it wouldn't help fall Chinook.

14 Well, that's a lie. If you get this back  
15 to more of a normal river system, you will see that  
16 these fish can recolonize this area, just like on the  
17 Hanford Reach, 30 miles of free flowing river would  
18 greatly help, and it would help the Snake River fish,  
19 too. It would also help other fish, sturgeon, Pacific  
20 lamprey, steelhead.

21 We need to breach the four dams on the  
22 Snake. Breaching the dams would help spring Chinook,  
23 in summer and fall.

24 Pacific lamprey's last year, there were  
25 only 550 lampreys make it over Ice Harbor. That is

1 disgusting. We need to breach those dams to help all  
2 those fish.

3 And I think we can do this together, and  
4 mitigate for some of the problems with the farming  
5 community. But we need to take serious action to do  
6 something for our fish, and also for the Federal  
7 Caucus to recognize and honor their trust  
8 responsibilities.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
11 David.

12 Michele Rounds, followed by Brenda Alford,  
13 followed by Jim Kuntz.

14 MS. MICHELE ROUNDS: I am the  
15 executive director of the homebuilders association in  
16 the Tri-Cities, but today I am here to speak on behalf  
17 of a very, very broad coalition of civic and business  
18 leaders and other groups throughout the Columbia  
19 Basin.

20 From the Tri-Cities to Hermiston to  
21 Boardman to Moses Lake to Walla Walla to Clarkston,  
22 the whole area, we had a large group of people  
23 involved in the effort that I'm about to tell you  
24 about.

25 And first I would like to say we are very

1       aware and respectable of the regulations that you have  
2       here regarding signs.  However, the signs we have here  
3       are a part of the testimony here.

4               Earlier today our group of people had a  
5       press conference where we presented the Tri-Cities and  
6       Hermiston leadership statement, and with that we  
7       presented 77 signatures from local and elected  
8       officials and business leaders from these communities.

9               And I would like to read part of that here  
10       today and hopefully I will have time to read the  
11       statement before I run out of time.

12              We believe it is possible to have both dams  
13       and salmon.  The science developed through the years  
14       of research by members of the Federal Caucus supports  
15       this concept.

16              The most recent studies suggest that  
17       breaching dams would cost hundreds of millions of  
18       dollars and disrupt the economy of the region while  
19       returning only minimal or speculative benefits for  
20       salmon over the nonbreaching alternatives.

21              The same studies suggest that breaching  
22       dams could have an overall negative effect on the  
23       environment.  As in the release of silt, the need to  
24       replace lost power generation through the use of  
25       fossil fuels, increased truck and rail transportation,

1 and the loss of habitat for other species.

2 The river drawdown and dam breaching issue  
3 is now the single greatest impediment to the review  
4 and implementation of meaningful salmon recovery.

5 Removing this issue from further discussion  
6 would remove one of the most contentious and divisive  
7 issues regarding salmon recovery and allow the  
8 Northwest to move forward with meaningful salmon  
9 recovery measures.

10 The Federal Caucus should move beyond this  
11 destructive debate over dams and direct their efforts  
12 toward improving existing project bypass and fish  
13 transportation facilities.

14 Restructuring the existing NMFS flow  
15 augmentation program and improving water management  
16 within the region by implementing a water management  
17 alternative which has been developed by the local  
18 water right holders.

19 And I would like to present to you the  
20 leadership statements here that have been signed by  
21 the 77 people representing our legislative delegation,  
22 City Councils, County Commissioners, TRIDEC, which is  
23 our economic development council, Southwest Washington  
24 Home Builders Association, the Farm Bureau, the local  
25 clean air authority, and many, many more civic and

1 business leaders from the area.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
4 very much, Michele.

5 Brenda Alford, followed by Jim Kuntz,  
6 followed by Lauri Dayton.

7 MS. BRENDA ALFORD: My name is Brenda  
8 Alford. I am Vice-President of Alford Farms, Inc., a  
9 family farm. I am a native of the Columbia Basin.  
10 God in the book of Genesis gave me a free will and  
11 dominion over all the animals in the earth.

12 My ancestors were around at that time, but  
13 I am still here, so are my children, and next month I,  
14 too, will be a grandma.

15 I am speaking to the ridiculous idea of  
16 actually removing our dams, and I represent all  
17 passionate like minded people.

18 For the employees up here who are employees  
19 of the federal government, nobody voted for you. Bill  
20 Clinton is your boss.

21 Federal agencies must begin to listen to  
22 local citizens or face the consequences of civil  
23 disobedience.

24 We the people, the locals, and the private  
25 property owners, will not allow the federal government

1 and its agency drones to take away or even  
2 situationally alter our way of life.

3 The Tenth Amendment of our Constitution  
4 says, and I quote, the powers not delegated to the  
5 United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by  
6 it to the States, are reserved to the states  
7 respectively over to the people. That's the end of  
8 the quote.

9 You and your boss are not this state. You  
10 are not the people. You and the President have not  
11 been delegated the power to breach or remove our dams.  
12 You don't have the right. You don't have the power.  
13 Regardless of how much of the taxpayers' money Clinton  
14 gives to you to breach or remove our dams.

15 This United States of America, this  
16 Republic, cannot afford to effectively wipe out our  
17 established way of life and our culture. You and your  
18 boss are threatening our very lives. You have pushed  
19 us as a law abiding and freedom loving citizens to the  
20 point of pushing back.

21 If you ever thought these ridiculous  
22 actions concerning our dams would ever happen, you  
23 were wrong. If you East Coast Yankees and others  
24 think for one minute that the South put up a fight,  
25 you ain't seen nothing yet. This is the West, we are

1 Westerners. You are not going to take away our way of  
2 life any more than you are going to fly to the moon on  
3 eagles' wings.

4 Consider this fight your own personal  
5 Vietnam. Your cause is unpopular, unfounded,  
6 unsupported, and futile. You will not win. Because  
7 you are threatening us, you can now consider  
8 yourselves officially threatened, too.

9 As the old west saying goes, whiskey is for  
10 drinking and water is for fighting, you can drink to  
11 that.

12 I and others are realizing more and more  
13 just how important our second amendment rights are.

14 And by the way, George W. Bush is the only  
15 Presidential candidate who has come out against  
16 removal of the dams.

17 In conclusion, dam breaching or removal is  
18 not an option, and I suggest to you and your boss just  
19 stop talking about it.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks,  
22 Brenda.

23 Jim Kuntz, followed by Lauri Dayton,  
24 followed by Nat Webb.

25 Remember, you are cutting into their time

1 when you clap. I know it is hard to control  
2 yourselves. It's good stuff you are talking about  
3 here.

4 Jim Kuntz, please.

5 MR. JIM KUNTZ: My name is Jim Kuntz.  
6 I am Executive Director of the Port of Walla Walla.  
7 We serve 54,000 citizens in our port district.

8 I am also a Senior Vice-President of the  
9 Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

10 I thank you for being here today and to  
11 listening to these comments. Not all of it  
12 particularly to your liking I'm sure.

13 My comments is as follows. Dam removal is  
14 not the silver bullet. It is extreme and it is risky.

15 The big issue, it may not help fish. But  
16 it certainly will hurt the economy. Our jobs and our  
17 Northwest way of life are at stake.

18 Dam breaching will create significant  
19 negative environmental impacts with the loss of  
20 habitat for resident fish and wildlife, and increase  
21 air pollution from trucks and from fossil fuel  
22 burning.

23 The port has a unique view to share with  
24 you today that you have not heard yet today from any  
25 of the testimony. And this is as follows: If the

1 dams are breached, it's our port district at the  
2 confluence of the Columbia and Snake Rivers that will  
3 be inundated by the sediment.

4 According to the Army Corps of Engineers  
5 report, the east bank the Columbia River between its  
6 confluence of the Snake River and Walla Walla Rivers  
7 will be impacted with sediment deposits if the dams  
8 are breached.

9 The fact sheet that the Corps put together  
10 speaks of a hundred to 150 million cubic yards of  
11 sediment currently deposited behind the four Snake  
12 River dams. The Corps predicts half of that total, 50  
13 to 75 million cubic yards, will be carried down river  
14 shortly after dam breaching. Much of it deposited in  
15 the Lake Wallula. A lot of it deposited at the Port  
16 of Walla Walla.

17 It's likely it will put the Port of Walla  
18 Walla out of business with this sediment deposit.

19 It may jeopardize the economic viability of  
20 the Boise Cascade pulp and paper mill. They must have  
21 clean water to run the plant. In addition to all the  
22 jobs that they create, for Walla Walla County, Boise  
23 Cascade pays 8 percent of all the property taxes in  
24 Walla Walla County.

25 We also have a paper recycling plant that's

1 environmentally friendly that would be jeopardized.

2 This sediment damage also I think violates  
3 the National Marine Fisheries prohibition of a taking.

4 It just doesn't make sense for us to  
5 basically take out the dams and destroy habitat for  
6 our fish. It just doesn't make sense.

7 The port district, for instance, is  
8 prohibited from taking any action that would  
9 negatively impact or threaten an endangered species.  
10 Why doesn't that same provision apply to breaching of  
11 the dams if it is going to destroy habitat for our  
12 fish?

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
15 much.

16 Lauri Dayton, followed by Nat Webb,  
17 followed by Mert Stamply.

18 MR. LAURI DAYTON: My name is Lauri  
19 Dayton, and I am a resident of Grant County. I am an  
20 orchardist. I am a farmer. I fish. I am also an  
21 engineer.

22 I oppose dam breaching, the FR EIS  
23 Alternative 4. I favor a combination of barging and  
24 system improvements. The Alternative 2 and 3 is the  
25 most efficient and supportable option for sustaining

1 and recovering the fish in the Lower Snake River. For  
2 the following reasons.

3 First, the salmon migration problem will  
4 continue to escape solution because we are addressing  
5 only the dams. This is but a small part of the  
6 calculus.

7 Harvest, habitat, oceanographic situations  
8 make up the balance.

9 Indeed the assumptions heretofore  
10 masqueraded as science have been recently impacted by  
11 the pit tag studies which produced data, and the pit  
12 tags are beginning to expose the assumption as wishful  
13 thinking.

14 Second point. The FR EIS subsections of  
15 the appendices are worse than others currently so  
16 fraught with deficiency that it disqualifies itself as  
17 a platform for public policy making. Statistical  
18 significance is inconsistently treated.

19 Information from the ancestral documents is  
20 ignored or obviously omitted from the draft, the one  
21 that you have now, appendix I and A, when it did not  
22 support the thesis.

23 And the thesis of the body of the EIS is  
24 that dams kill fish directly, and those that survive  
25 are killed by delayed mortality, and those that still

1 survive die of other mortality in the ocean, due from  
2 some unknown mechanisms. Most obviously, due to dams.

3 Yet the ocean is implicated as a major  
4 factor, again in quotations, because it is feared  
5 salmon stocks do not pass any dams, company from any  
6 rivers that you have heard before, and also in  
7 quotations, it is unlikely that any single factor is  
8 responsible for salmon declines.

9 Three minutes is not very long time to take  
10 up many issues in depth. But I want to just touch on  
11 a couple.

12 The delayed mortality value. Developed  
13 from the recent pit study -- pit tag studies are  
14 significantly higher than the models show, barging is  
15 much more effective.

16 Why doesn't the study wait for the  
17 developments here since the outcome and  
18 recommendations are highly dependent upon the values?

19 Lastly, buried in the appendices is the  
20 information on sedimentation, and it indicates that it  
21 may well exceed lethal exposure for adults in the  
22 McNary pool. This is ignored in appendix A.

23 No, my problem here is the sediment would  
24 risk damage to the healthy Columbia fish runs that  
25 out-migrate during the same years.

1                   Would you please explain why that is  
2 ignored, why this environmental issue is ignored in  
3 the report? Some estimates of the legality in your  
4 own report followed at 25 percent.

5                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Lauri?

6                   MR. LAURI DAYTON:     I'm done. Thank  
7 you.

8                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Okay. Thanks  
9 very much.

10                   Nat Webb, followed by Mert Stamply,  
11 followed by Eric Cochran.

12                   MR. NAT WEBB:     My name is Nat Webb.  
13 I am a farmer in Walla Walla County, and I am also a  
14 taxpayer.

15                   My great grandfather homesteaded near  
16 Prescott in the late 1880s. I applaud his sacrifice,  
17 but if we still farm the way he farmed we would be out  
18 of business, and there would be a lot of hungry people  
19 in the world.

20                   The advocates for removing the dams say  
21 that we can haul our wheat to market using rail and  
22 trucks. The marketing cooperative that serves my area  
23 has three port facilities.

24                   The one that I use is Shefler, which is on  
25 the Snake River.



1 scientists who equate the real problem to a change in  
2 the ocean temperatures which causes a shift in the  
3 ocean food source.

4 They say that accounts for the decline in  
5 runs on west side rivers that have no dams and it also  
6 accounts for the increased runs from Alaska.

7 It is odd that we have those that want to  
8 turn the clock back a hundred years when we have a  
9 world that is moving forward at break neck speed.

10 Simple solutions conceived outside of  
11 reality won't provide a viable solution. About the  
12 only thing certain in this world is change.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
15 very much.

16 Mert Stamply, followed by Eric Cochran,  
17 followed by Larry Hagen.

18 MR. MERT STAMPLY: Well, it's been a  
19 long day and I'll try to go through a few things I  
20 feel are important.

21 I hope all these comments, and there have  
22 been so many good comments here today, and I hope they  
23 get passed back to Washington, D.C., and are dealt  
24 with in an honest and satisfactory manner.

25 To start out with, by increasing stream

1 flows, there's been no proof that it's helped the  
2 salmon recovery.

3 And I have another comment on government  
4 taking. You know, I put the best years of my life  
5 into farming and ranching in Ellensburg, I am third  
6 generation, my sons are fourth, and if you are going  
7 to take from us, we need either better, you know, some  
8 compensation so it can be live and let live. And I  
9 think that's very important.

10 When you irrigate, you build up a soil bank  
11 of water that's important for the area, the soil bank  
12 of water is important for everybody that lives there,  
13 all the homes, the communities, and when the water  
14 returns to the streams, it improves the quality in the  
15 streams and rivers.

16 And many, many people here have mentioned  
17 the value of agriculture, and all the many related  
18 support businesses that are tied to agriculture.  
19 Let's see.

20 I think the solution is, you know,  
21 modification, or moderation, compromise. We need, in  
22 some cases, maybe all the foreign ships can be out  
23 there, if there's a big run of fish. That I don't  
24 know. I think they need to be toned down some.

25 Maybe some of the gillnets need to be

1 leased and set aside and maybe not, depending on the  
2 situation.

3 We need to look at the ocean temperature.  
4 That's been mentioned. And the predators.

5 And kind of to sum it all up, I meet a lot  
6 of people all over, people that aren't farmers, are  
7 not fishermen, are not this or that, and, you know,  
8 they want to live and let live, and they are tired of  
9 fish being more important than people.

10 I think in summary we need to all  
11 constructively work together, and there is a solution,  
12 we can have a better life, but we need to all work  
13 together for a constructive balance.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
16 Mert.

17 Eric Cochran, followed by Larry Hagen or  
18 Haugen, followed by Ladd Mitchell.

19 MR. ERIC COCHRAN: I am a farmer from  
20 Walla Walla, and fourth generation farmer there.

21 The thing that's bothered me about this  
22 debate from the very beginning is a lot of these fish  
23 have been listed as endangered, yet we still sanction  
24 the killing of them. They are the only endangered  
25 species that I am aware of that is legal to kill. In

1 fact if I kill a -- another endangered species, even  
2 by accident, I can go to jail, or be heavily fined.

3 So I don't understand how you can be  
4 endangered, yet enough of them to harvest. That  
5 confuses me. I would like to have that defined some  
6 day for me.

7 And so I would say, these Hs, I'm against  
8 breaching the dams, and in the area of harvest, I  
9 think it should be stopped immediately, unequivocally,  
10 100 percent, nobody can kill these salmon until they  
11 come back.

12 And if you will do that and they don't come  
13 back in ten years, I will go out and help you tear the  
14 dams down.

15 But until then, until then, until we give  
16 the fish a chance, anybody that knows anything about  
17 animal husbandry understands that if you kill the  
18 brood stock, you are not going to have any production.

19 We kill the fish before they spawn and then  
20 we go, gee, we don't have any fish.

21 I also happen to be a sport fisherman, and  
22 when the Bold decision came in and the nets went into  
23 the river, our steelhead runs went to heck. I watched  
24 it. I experienced it. So, -- and somebody will say,  
25 okay, we get the fish, we have fish farms that right

1 now are already in existence producing more fish than  
2 all the runs in the Northwest right here off our  
3 coast. And they are so successful that they have  
4 driven the market price of salmon down to the point  
5 where commercial fishermen are complaining they can't  
6 make any money.

7 So we're spending hundreds of millions up  
8 here to produce more fish for the commercial fishery,  
9 and yet they complain that the farms are putting them  
10 out of business.

11 The only thing I would like to point out,  
12 about a hundred years ago we banned market hunting in  
13 this country because the resource couldn't protect it.  
14 I think it is time we protect all our sea life, not  
15 just salmon, but all our sea life that is being  
16 over-harvested.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
19 much, Eric.

20 Larry Hagen, Haugen. Larry, are you there?

21 Okay. Ladd Mitchell. Followed by John  
22 Grant, followed by Cecilia Bearchum, followed by Roger  
23 Hays.

24 MR. LADD MITCHELL: Good afternoon.  
25 It is great to be here and have an opportunity to

1 visit with everybody.

2 I am a retired ag educator, a proud  
3 grandpa, a taxpayer, and a salmon taxpayer. 20  
4 percent of my power bill, or about \$300 a year, go to  
5 salmon recovery. Also a part of the salmon -- or the  
6 save our dams team.

7 Okay. Enough said. Okay. I put together  
8 a paper that some of you have, and we will talk about  
9 that just a bit later.

10 First as we tackle this problem, we have  
11 got to kind of set the Endangered Species Act aside  
12 and focus on the real property. Radical actions do  
13 not solve the problem.

14 We must approach it from a holistic or big  
15 picture.

16 My paper, which is in peach color, I like  
17 peaches and cream, and of course I like salmon, too.  
18 It is nice on the dinner table. Anyway, and that  
19 point, if you didn't get a copy of this, it's entitled  
20 The Salmon and Steelhead Challenge From the Save Our  
21 Dams Table. There is a signup list there for you.

22 I am only going to hit a few bits and  
23 pieces out of this, and I am going to try to talk  
24 about things that aren't generally talked about  
25 extensively in this discussion. That I think are

1 extremely important, and I hopefully will be able to  
2 tell you that.

3 It's much bigger than the -- the problem is  
4 much bigger than salmon or all our Hs. The holistic  
5 goal, of course, we need to look at the whole  
6 elephant, as the gentleman said earlier.

7 I'm going to jump on down here. Let's  
8 avoid radical actions, dam breaching. If we look at  
9 the power part of dam breaching, the hydropower, the  
10 wasting of sustainable, environmental friendly,  
11 annually renewable natural resources.

12 Hydropower. And I underlined those words  
13 because I think they are extremely important. The  
14 four Lower Snake River dams produce enough electricity  
15 to -- electrical energy to provide the average power  
16 needs for 250,000 homes, families of four homes. And  
17 that's with eight point -- or I mean, 848 megawatts of  
18 power.

19 Jumping on here. If the Bonneville Power  
20 goes out, people in 43 states will be affected with a  
21 brownout, not just the Northwest.

22 The figures I have put together here  
23 include a primary figure and then I'm using a  
24 multiplier of five to try to get to the ripple effect,  
25 the effect on our economy, which is part of the areas

1 that are really not talked about, trying to put those  
2 into dollars.

3 We talked about the hydropower loss and the  
4 sale of power from those four Snake River dams.

5 The primary cost at the national average  
6 price is about 445 million. If you look at the  
7 secondary, or ripple effects, that jumps up to about  
8 2 -- excuse me, I'm sorry, 2.6 billion. Okay?

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Ladd?

10 MR. LADD MITCHELL: Yes.

11 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I am afraid  
12 the time ran out.

13 MR. LADD MITCHELL: Oh, geez.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: If you want to  
15 turn that in, we will put that in.

16 MR. LADD MITCHELL: I have turned it  
17 in.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks very  
19 much.

20 John Grant, followed by Cecilia Bearchum,  
21 followed by Roger Hays.

22 MR. JOHN GRANT: I am John Grant. I  
23 farm from Walla Walla County.

24 I would like to thank everyone for the  
25 opportunity for me to be here and to speak. I also

1 would like to thank our political leaders,  
2 particularly Senator Gorton and Representative  
3 Hastings for their input at this meeting.

4 My ancestors, my great grandfather, settled  
5 in the Walla Walla County out in the Prescott area in  
6 1858. My brothers still farm that farm, and I'm  
7 farming with my son, a farm that was established by my  
8 wife's great grandfather in 1885. So our history runs  
9 pretty strong in Walla Walla County.

10 There isn't too much I think I can add that  
11 has been said to the farming industry, but I would ask  
12 that as an absolute last resort, that we consider  
13 breaching those dams. It really means our livelihood,  
14 and we have been in business for an awful long time  
15 out there, and I certainly don't want to see that  
16 disappear.

17 The one thing, an earlier speaker referred  
18 to a divide and conquer attitude, and I would tend to  
19 agree with her on that, that the radical  
20 environmentalists, it seems to me, have tried that,  
21 but I would suggest to the Native Americans that after  
22 they get us out of business, they will be after them  
23 next.

24 I would forewarn them that that's a  
25 distinct possibility.

1                   The other thing I would like to talk about  
2                   a little bit is that in the dam study they state that  
3                   one of the economic benefits of breaching the dams  
4                   would be 82 million dollars per year, and as a kid  
5                   growing out in the area of the Snake River, I can say  
6                   that, that there's an awful lot more recreational  
7                   activity right now than there was 30 years ago, before  
8                   the dams, or 40 years ago. There was absolutely no  
9                   one out there.

10                   And I have a friend that wrote a letter to  
11                   the editor of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin not too  
12                   long ago, and he was from Dayton, I was from Prescott,  
13                   we used to play each other in basketball, but what he  
14                   said in his letter was, he thought there might be  
15                   about \$5,000 per year additional income and it would  
16                   come from Snake bite kits, bologna sandwiches. But  
17                   basically how many Big Gulps are they going to sell to  
18                   raise that two million? That's a million and a half  
19                   away.

20                   Thank you.

21                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you,  
22                   John.

23                   Cecilia Bearchum, Roger Hays and George  
24                   Boice.

25                   MS. CECILIA BEARCHUM:     (Speaking in

1 native language). My name is Cecilia Bearchum. My  
2 real name is Cut Nye. I am from Nick Ayow Way. You  
3 folks know it as Confederated Tribes.

4 I am the ninth generation of people that  
5 lived on the river. I have watched the change in the  
6 river. I am 76 years old.

7 I am not going to talk about the dams. I  
8 am not going to talk about the fish.

9 I am going to talk about nature. When we  
10 were put on this earth everything was made for a  
11 purpose. And we are all chained together. When we  
12 remove one of them, we break the cycle. We, I say we,  
13 I am not saying they, we are very greedy, we are very  
14 vain, and very thoughtless. Because our God given  
15 gifts to us to live with, we have really did wrong by  
16 it.

17 Sure, you have a good living, you move  
18 here, you blame us for this, you blame us for that.  
19 But, you know, nature, you cannot, to quote you folks,  
20 you cannot fool nature.

21 If we don't change our way of living, the  
22 old saying is, we are going to be thrown off of this  
23 earth.

24 There is a lot of things that have been  
25 said by elders that has come true. And I thank you

1 for letting me speak a few words.

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
3 very much, Cecilia.

4 Roger Hays, followed by George Boice,  
5 followed by Pearson Berk maybe, Union elevator.

6 Roger?

7 MR. ROGER HAYS: I belong to the  
8 United Power Trades Organization, which is the union  
9 that represents the workers of the dams. And I had a  
10 point letter I was going to read, but I would kind of  
11 like to address some of the things I have heard today.

12 One of the things that I didn't hear  
13 talked, though, was history, and the Columbia River  
14 fishery was in trouble long before the Snake River  
15 dams were built.

16 As a matter of fact, the harvest got to the  
17 point in the early 1900s, it was almost fished out.  
18 The fish wheels that they used took tons and tons of,  
19 thousands of tons actually out of the river.

20 In 1938 the harvest was half of what it was  
21 in 1884.

22 So that had nothing to do with any dams.  
23 And actually when the first fish counts were taken in  
24 1938, at Bonneville, there was only 500,000 fish, and  
25 only seven times in all the years since then has it

1 ever dropped below that.

2 A couple other things. I have received  
3 this earlier today. But this morning as of 0700, the  
4 four Snake River dams were producing 700,000 megawatts  
5 per hour. That's enough for Seattle and all Idaho.  
6 So that's a pretty good hunk of change there.

7 Another thing that was discussed earlier  
8 was flow augmentation. And I really hadn't thought  
9 much about it until today, but we lose 280 megawatts  
10 every day, every minute, every hour from March 15th to  
11 December 15th at McNary Dam alone.

12 I don't know what the other dams are  
13 losing. So I don't know what it is in power cost, but  
14 it's pretty healthy. Let's see.

15 Another one I thought was real good, was in  
16 1938 the fishermen were up in arms against the  
17 Japanese fleet for coming in and taking the fish off  
18 the West Coast.

19 So, again, it's been overfishing for years  
20 and years and years. It didn't happen just in the  
21 last 60 or 20 years or 40 years.

22 Let's see. I am rambling a little bit  
23 here.

24 Oh. There was a comment earlier about the  
25 Pacific lamprey, the numbers not coming back up. And

1 the sturgeon being in trouble. Sturgeon weren't in  
2 trouble until they started being netted. And that's  
3 when the numbers started dwindling, that's when the  
4 regulations started getting tighter, tighter, tighter.  
5 So, again, it goes back to overfishing.

6 Another thing that was brought up earlier  
7 was the cost of barging. And this was from a letter  
8 that was put out by Lieutenant General Ballard. The  
9 numbers of miles, one ton of commerce can be carried  
10 per gallon of fuel is 514 miles of inland barges, 202  
11 miles of railroad and only 59 miles for trucks.

12 Another comment that this gentleman just  
13 now addressed was the 82 million dollars in  
14 recreation. That's going to be coming. I'm a white  
15 water rafter. Maupin and Halfway are not growing.  
16 Intel is not moving in.

17 As far as that gentleman up there in the  
18 green shirt, you made a comment, we lose a lot of fish  
19 coming up through the hydro system.

20 We lose a lot of fish coming up through the  
21 nets, and it looks like the Banfield freeway in front  
22 of the Deschutes.

23 So we are losing a lot of fish there, too.

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay, Roger.

25 MR. ROGER HAYS: My main thing, is

1 it's the fishing is too good.

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
3 Roger.

4 George Boice, followed by I think it's  
5 Pearson Berk, followed by I believe it's Nancy  
6 DeLorenzo.

7 Roger, if you have anything that you want  
8 to turn in to us, we would be happy to put it into the  
9 record. Thanks.

10 George.

11 MR. GEORGE BOICE: Thank you. I  
12 represent SSNG, stands for stop stupidity in  
13 government.

14 In 1843 the first predecessors of the white  
15 folks that come to what would be the Oregon country  
16 established a predator control system by bounty, and  
17 the bounty system of predator control worked very  
18 well. It started out with bounties on bears, wolves,  
19 and predators on farm animals. It was extended to  
20 seals, sea lions and salmon predators.

21 This continued until 1972 with the Mammal  
22 Protection Act. After which time the salmon runs have  
23 been coming down. They came down in the Snake River,  
24 the Columbia River.

25 It has nothing to do with the dams. The

1 decline of the salmon, they are declining in the  
2 Frazier River in Canada. So you can't blame it on the  
3 dams.

4 And I want to see a moratorium on dam  
5 breaching until you can stop the decline of the salmon  
6 runs in rivers that have no dams.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you.

9 Pearson Amber, Nancy DeLorenzo, I hope  
10 that's who you are, and Dean Boyer.

11 MR. PEARSON BERK: You are getting  
12 closer. It's Pearson Berk from Union Elevator in  
13 Lind, Washington.

14 I have lived in Ritzville for 20 years now,  
15 and I just want to comment a little bit about the Path  
16 report as an indication of this process in general.

17 You know, we have all heard the conclusions  
18 in the Path report saying that the only way that the  
19 salmon are going to recover is to breach the dams.  
20 That's the conclusion of the majority of the  
21 scientists in the report.

22 However, if you look at the actual data,  
23 it's not very complicated. There's only four sets of  
24 data in that Path report. The first is the percentage  
25 of salmon that survive traveling in transit down the

1 river. It's been mentioned before. It's between 50  
2 and 60 percent.

3 The second set of data is the ratio of  
4 survival of salmon, juvenile salmon that are barged,  
5 versus there is the ones that travel in-river, they  
6 come back as adults, it is two to one. Meaning twice  
7 as many of the barge salmon survive and come back as  
8 adults as the ones that travel in-river.

9 The third set is the percentage of salmon  
10 that come back as adults that is less than 1 percent.  
11 It is actually less than one-half of 1 percent.

12 And the fourth set of data is the fish  
13 counts of the adult salmon as they go up.

14 As it has been mentioned before, it doesn't  
15 take a rocket scientist to figure out, we know how  
16 many fish are making it out into the ocean, we know  
17 how many fish are coming back.

18 There's where the problem is. We don't  
19 have any research going on to find out what's going on  
20 out in the ocean.

21 And until we come to that conclusion, until  
22 we find out what's going on in the ocean, how can we  
23 responsibly make the decision to breach the dams? In  
24 the report how do they get, use these four sets of  
25 data to come to the conclusion that dam breaching is

1 the only way to bring them back?

2 It's with the theory of delayed mortality.  
3 I emphasize the theory. There is no proof, there is  
4 no scientific evidence, they haven't done the research  
5 to back it up. It's a theory.

6 How did the majority of scientists come to  
7 this theory? Through the use of the FLUSH commuter  
8 model. This FLUSH computer model is used to estimate  
9 what the impact is 50 years from now and 100 years  
10 from now.

11 It's very interesting to note, this  
12 computer model that they're using to figure out what's  
13 going to happen in 100 years, it can't tell you  
14 accurately what happened last year.

15 I'm not making this up. And they have the  
16 audacity to print this in the conclusions and say,  
17 this is the justification for breaching the dams.

18 This isn't responsible leadership. This  
19 isn't why we have a government that's supposed to  
20 protect our rights and work in the best interest of  
21 all the people.

22 This is a travesty. That's all I've got to  
23 say. Save the dams and save the salmon.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you

1 very much, Pearson.

2 Nancy DeLorenzo. Good. Followed by Dean  
3 Boyer, followed by David Glessner.

4 MS. NANCY DeLORENZO: It's actually  
5 Nancy DeLorenzo, and I am from Richland, and I am also  
6 speaking about not breaching the dams.

7 I recently travelled to Egypt, and over  
8 there I became aware of how much the Nile is the  
9 lifeblood of the country. If you look at it, it has  
10 stopped all the cycle of drought and floods that they  
11 had all the years, the Nashwall dam I am referring to,  
12 and, you know, all along when you look down from the  
13 plane you see green on either side, and then just as  
14 far as the eye can see, desert beyond that.

15 And I think that if you breach our dams we  
16 are going to see that again.

17 And I would hate also to see the fact that  
18 our great natural resource, the water, which we use  
19 for power and irrigation, would just be dumping itself  
20 into the Pacific Ocean and not being utilized at all.

21 That's a real great waste to me.

22 I also have a problem with one of the  
23 Environmental Impact Statements, when they talked  
24 about impact studies and mitigation costs, and they  
25 said, they made the false assumption, or I think the

1 incorrect assumption, that there were only seven farms  
2 that are affected. And I don't think this is all that  
3 would be affected.

4 If you looked at everyone who depends upon  
5 power for irrigation, agriculture, and then you look  
6 at the ripple effect of two and a half times that, you  
7 see it is a lot more.

8 Also if you just think in terms of when  
9 they are talking about transportation as opposed to  
10 barge, if you put fragil produce or any kind of  
11 produce in trucks, carry it over roads, it is going to  
12 badly damage it before the time it reaches its market,  
13 plus the extra cost, it will make it more expensive,  
14 plus it will arrive in worse condition, that doesn't  
15 make very good sense.

16 Never mind the lifestyle I think that would  
17 be affected for everyone.

18 As far as also power sources, you know, if  
19 you are looking at gas or coal fired, they pollute. I  
20 won't even mention nuclear power.

21 Whereas we have the hydroelectric power and  
22 look at all of the benefits we have. It's already  
23 there in place. It's cheap. It's safe. It's clean.  
24 And provides irrigation, transportation, and  
25 recreation. I think it's a win-win situation.

1                   The dams have been there for over 30 years.  
2           And I gather the salmon crisis has not occurred until  
3           recently.

4                   I'm wondering why, after 30 years the dams  
5           is all of a sudden a problem. Is it the terns? I  
6           keep hearing people talk about the terns, or problems  
7           in the oceans, or some gentleman talks about the  
8           poison that Idaho put into some of their lakes and  
9           streams. I don't know what.

10                   But I know that that one fellow was taking  
11           about hatching wild salmon and putting them into  
12           streams and they are surviving. I also heard several  
13           years ago about the two big male sea lions that sat at  
14           the mouth of the Columbia River and they ate hundreds  
15           and hundreds of pounds, just of two of them  
16           themselves, never mind the rest of them. Yet no one  
17           can kill them.

18                   We kill elk to thin the herds out. Yet we  
19           wouldn't kill them. And we think of all of the salmon  
20           they eat. If you took those salmon, added those  
21           upstream through a government program that cost  
22           millions, everyone lauded you.

23                   But they wouldn't kill those two. Are they  
24           more valuable or more endangered than salmon? I don't  
25           think so.

1 I have two questions for you to ponder. I  
2 don't expect an answer.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: If you could  
4 wrap up.

5 MS. NANCY DeLORENZO: Yes. When  
6 whales were endangered, they suspended Indian hunting  
7 rights of the whales.

8 Well, if salmon are such a crisis that you  
9 are talking about tearing down the dams, why don't you  
10 maybe suspend their fishing rights on them.

11 Another thing. If Idaho had poisoned the  
12 salmon, why is Washington being asked to bear the  
13 brunt, economically, and lifestyle-wise, of the  
14 problem?

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay.

16 MS. NANCY DeLORENZO: I really think  
17 it is ridiculous.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks very  
19 much, Nancy.

20 Dean Boyer, followed by David Glessner,  
21 followed by Dan Coulson.

22 MR. DEAN BOYER: I am Dean Boyer. I  
23 am here today representing the Washington Farm Bureau  
24 and its 20,000 members.

25 Let me start by emphasizing that our

1 members support efforts to strengthen salmon runs.  
2 Many of our members are already engaged in  
3 on-the-ground conservation efforts. Efforts I might  
4 add that they often go unrecognized and unrewarded.

5 But we also believe that dams are essential  
6 to the economy of Eastern Washington. Dams provide  
7 clean, affordable power generation, clean, affordable  
8 transportation that goes to and from market,  
9 irreplaceable water for the recreation and irrigation,  
10 and flood control. And we believe that it is possible  
11 to have both dams and salmon.

12 The Washington Farm Bureau urges the  
13 Federal Caucus to reject alternatives in the All-H  
14 paper that call for breaching dams or drawing down  
15 reservoirs and to pursue options that will strengthen  
16 salmon runs without destroying dams.

17 As Michele Reynolds mentioned earlier, the  
18 science developed by the members of the Federal Caucus  
19 and others support the concept that we can have both  
20 fish and dams.

21 The Federal Caucus has to its credit  
22 acknowledged that there is no silver bullet when it  
23 comes to salmon recovery. The caucus also  
24 acknowledges that there are more issues, including  
25 overfishing, predation by marine mammals and fish

1 eating birds and ocean conditions.

2 And while there has been some criticism of  
3 the Federal Caucus for not moving fast enough to make  
4 a decision, the Washington Farm Bureau believes that  
5 you have acted wisely in waiting for the completion of  
6 critical scientific and economic studies. Studies  
7 that now suggest there are more prudent ways to  
8 proceed than breaching dams.

9 We have, however, been disappointed with  
10 some members of the Federal Caucus.

11 The National Marine Fisheries Service, for  
12 example, has blatantly denied water to irrigators in  
13 the Metow Valley before issuing a biological opinion  
14 that is required by the Endangered Species Act.

15 The same agency has said publicly that it  
16 only cares about fish, not about people. And that  
17 same agency has indicated that public hearings are a  
18 waste of time. They called it at a hearing in Lacey  
19 recently and then called out the police to turn people  
20 around so they could not get to the hearing site.

21 Finally I would like to introduce some new  
22 terminology into the discussion. That term is the  
23 agriculturally significant unit. We hear a lot about  
24 the evolutionally significant unit, a term that I  
25 might add appears nowhere in the Endangered Species

1 Act.

2 But what about the agriculturally  
3 significant unit, the farmer.

4 On average, every farmer in the United  
5 States produces enough food to feed 129 people. Less  
6 than 2 percent of the population in this country feeds  
7 the other 98 percent. And each of those farmers and  
8 farm families is significant.

9 Within 100 miles of this hearing room is  
10 some of the most productive farmland in the world, but  
11 many of those farmers depend on water from the  
12 reservoirs and other benefits made possible by the  
13 system of dams, and other people, most of them from  
14 outside the region, want to destroy that.

15 The Washington Farm Bureau urges the  
16 Federal Caucus to balance the needs of the  
17 agriculturally significant unit with the needs of the  
18 evolutionally significant unit, to look at the  
19 scientific evidence that says we can have both fish  
20 and dams, and to take breaching off the table.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you  
22 very much, Dean.

23 David Glessner, followed by Don Coulson,  
24 followed by Steve Price, and then I will read the list  
25 from there on.

1                   MR. DAVID GLESSNER: Thank you for  
2 coming. Thank you for caring. Thank you for  
3 commitment. Thank you for continuing.

4                   My name is David Glessner. I work at an  
5 industrial manufacturing facility. I am elected Water  
6 Commissioner in the city of Wallula.

7                   Breaching the Snake River dams is as  
8 beneficial as trying to bring back the horse and  
9 carriage for public transportation.

10                  Dams are part of our culture. We all enjoy  
11 the benefits of electricity provided by the pollution  
12 free turbines. Irrigation water has turned a desert  
13 into an oasis for boaters, fishermen, swimmers,  
14 campers, hikers, water skiers. All enjoy the  
15 recreation provided by the design of the dams.

16                  In 1996 the flow control provided by the  
17 dams reduced the destructive consequences of the  
18 tremendous runoff water. The dams are critical to  
19 the life we all enjoy. Homes, work, recreation,  
20 tourism all depend on the dams.

21                  The fish don't care about the dams. In  
22 1899 an article was written stressing concern that the  
23 salmon were disappearing. There were no dams at that  
24 date.

25                  The fish count is higher now than it's been

1 for decades. Breaching the dams is as beneficial as  
2 eliminating the flush toilet. Is a trip back in time  
3 to the horse and buggy beneficial? Would trips to the  
4 outhouse improve our culture?

5 Special interest groups with large bank  
6 accounts are trying to roll back the clock. Don't  
7 destroy the dams. Don't wash away fertile, productive  
8 farm ground and leave behind a barren dust bowl.  
9 Don't jam our crowded highways with hundreds of more  
10 big trucks. Don't short circuit our electrical  
11 supply. Don't muddy our fish and water with years of  
12 silt. Don't breach the dams.

13 Now I have three questions that I would  
14 like you to think about. It comes from the  
15 technigraphs aspect.

16 I would like you to explain the firm energy  
17 effect, trickle down effect that eliminating 5 percent  
18 of the grid generation will initiate.

19 Voltage stability. Would you please  
20 comment on that. How taking out 5 percent of the  
21 generating power will affect the voltage stability on  
22 the entire grid.

23 And please comment on the federal energy  
24 regulating Commission, and their trying to deregulate  
25 power.

1                   Are we going to end up with the same things  
2 as we did when they deregulated AT&T?

3                   Thank you.

4                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:   Thank you,  
5 David.

6                   Dan Coulson and Steve Price, and then I  
7 will read the list.

8                   MR. DAN COULSON:   My name is Dan  
9 Coulson. I am from Mattawa, Washington. I am a  
10 co-owner of a manufacturing company there. I am a  
11 taxpayer. I am a true environmentalist. And one heck  
12 of a nice guy.

13                   First I have a couple of questions of my  
14 own. This is not the first meeting I have been to,  
15 but it's the first one I have been able to speak at,  
16 because so many people come to these meetings who are  
17 bussed in from places that are nowhere near here.  
18 Most of them are on public assistance and have nothing  
19 better to do. They come here and they clog up the  
20 lines so the people who live around here can't talk,  
21 you can't hear our testimony. It's happening right  
22 now.

23                   I think people should testify one time,  
24 state who they are, where they are from, say their  
25 piece and there's it. To hear the same ones over and

1 over again, to exclude the people who live here, is no  
2 way to get a true feeling of the pulse of this region.

3 Like I say, I am an environmentalist, and  
4 the thought of replacing totally clean, efficient  
5 power with gas turbines or coal fired turbines to me  
6 is insane.

7 Fish mortality through dams as we know  
8 through the studies are extremely low. They are a lot  
9 lower than most people think.

10 Hydroelectric turbines do not kill hardly  
11 any fish. Blade strike and the blender effect is  
12 almost non-existent. In fact there is no effect. The  
13 hydroelectric turbines does not stretch water, it does  
14 not stretch, it does not compress. The turbines run  
15 the exact same speed as the water.

16 Urge your Senators, these meetings are one  
17 thing, but call your Senators, call your Congressman,  
18 make sure they understand that you are concerned, not  
19 just sheep being led to slaughter, that you will take  
20 an active role in saving the dams.

21 That's all I have to say.

22 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks.

23 Steve Price, are you there? Okay.

24 Steve, while you are walking up, let me  
25 just read the next five that are going to come up

1 after you. Robert Mann, Jim Gronross, Jim Toomey,  
2 Bruce Stemp, Kim Mason, and Don Newby. Actually those  
3 are the next six.

4 Steve.

5 MR. STEVE PRICE: Thank you. It's  
6 been a long day.

7 You know, life is certainly changed. What  
8 was wrong years ago now seems to be right. What used  
9 to be right now is wrong. It's a little discouraging.

10 As I read the Capitol Press each Saturday,  
11 and I see how agriculture is being attacked by  
12 government agencies, it's discouraging, and you wonder  
13 if you really want to go on.

14 As I listened to the Indian people here  
15 today, and I have a tremendous love for the Indian  
16 people, and I know they have injected their religion  
17 into this thing, the salmon are not my brother, but  
18 you are my brother.

19 And as we talk about the land and the earth,  
20 I would like to say to the Indian people, there is  
21 probably not a greater group of people than the  
22 farmers in here who have a respect for the land and a  
23 respect for nature and a respect for God.

24 More so than the Department of Ecology,  
25 more so than the Marine Fisheries people.

1                   I am afraid maybe that you have aligned  
2                   yourself with a group of people that if they were to  
3                   be effective, would be out of a job.

4                   I commend you on what you have done on the  
5                   Umatilla River. I happen to know that there's a  
6                   little creek upflowing alongside the highway there  
7                   going from I think it's 26 up towards Vantage, it's  
8                   drain water from those evil, vial farmers out there.

9                   But the salmon have discovered that they  
10                  can spawn in that river.

11                  You know, I think the salmon are trying to  
12                  tell us something. If we have to pull the dams out  
13                  and try to go back the way that it was, we can't do  
14                  that. If you think we can do that, look behind the  
15                  Teton Dam, and see what that looks like.

16                  But, ladies and gentlemen, I think with the  
17                  expertise we have, that we could build below each of  
18                  these dams, we could build channels, and even if it  
19                  took a whole damn river clear to the ocean, we could  
20                  do that.

21                  But I don't think we operate under that  
22                  premise.

23                  The farmers are on the side of the Indian.  
24                  And we are the ones you need to be working with. We  
25                  want the salmon back. We don't want to just spend

1 money in an effort that will fail.

2 Thank you. Leave the dams in.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
4 Steve.

5 Robert Mann, Jim Gronross, and Jim Toomey.

6 And then we will follow those with Bruce Stemp, Kim  
7 Mason, Don Newby, Arnold Hudloom, Kim Mason, Vic  
8 Irish, Ann Moore, Robert Petersen, Harry Yamamoto,  
9 James Moore, Kevin Bouchey, Marcus LuRett, Greg  
10 Morgan, Ed Long, and Ron, I think it is Reimann.

11 I think that will take us to about six  
12 o'clock, and we will check in there.

13 So with that, Robert.

14 MR. ROBERT MANN: Yes. My name is  
15 Robert Mann. I am a concerned citizen.

16 And all the concerns that I have had have  
17 already been brought up and dealt with.

18 I would just like to state that I am  
19 against breaching the dams.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
22 much.

23 Jim Gronross. Are you still here?

24 Jim Toomey, are you still here? Okay.

25 Bruce Stemp. We are making good progress.

1 Bruce?

2 MR. BRUCE STEMP: My name is Bruce  
3 Stemp, and I am here to address a rapidly dwindling  
4 crowd it looks like.

5 I represent the Lampson companies here  
6 headquartered in the Tri-Cities, and we are here to  
7 strongly oppose the removal of the lower Snake River  
8 dams.

9 These dams are the economic life blood of  
10 our region, providing us with clean hydroelectric  
11 power, low impact barge transportation, abundant  
12 irrigation for agricultural production, and many types  
13 of recreational opportunities. They are in fact such  
14 an integral part of our lives here that the removal of  
15 them seems too absurd, so comical, so liberal, that it  
16 is hard to believe that this very issue is actually at  
17 stake here today.

18 What will we gain with dam removal? Do we  
19 get more salmon? Doubtful.

20 The science offered on this subject is so  
21 skewed that no one truly knows.

22 Do a small percentage of regional Native  
23 Americans returned to a way of life which has been  
24 lost to them? They may, but I for one doubt it .

25 As much as they try to hold onto a fast

1 disappearing past remanence that seems out of dances  
2 with wolves, they now are modern Americans. They  
3 depend upon cheap electricity to power their Casino,  
4 for their canned and store bought goods grown by area  
5 farmers for their subsistence.

6 I don't see any measurable gain there.

7 What do we lose? I think it's better said  
8 what don't we lose. No single person, either for or  
9 against dam removal, will go unscathed. Farms will  
10 turn to dust, businesses will fail or leave, and  
11 families will be destroyed. The cost will be not only  
12 in human suffering but also in real dollars.

13 At a time when federal and local budgets  
14 are becoming increasingly tight, it seems incredulous  
15 that so much money be spent not on programs to improve  
16 our lives and our children's lives, but on an  
17 unscientific pie in the sky effort to possibly save a  
18 fish, a fish that could likely and legally end up on  
19 your dinner table many times this year.

20 Years after, as we look back on the  
21 devastation that would be caused by our removal of  
22 these dams, I trust not one of those responsible will  
23 have the courage to stand up and say that they have  
24 made the right decision.

25 I stand here today not to ask but to demand

1 that you make the right decision. A decision  
2 predicated simply on the premise that any decision  
3 affecting the people must be made in a manner that  
4 benefits the majority. While we sometimes may not be  
5 as vocal as our opposition, we are many. What we seek  
6 is to preserve our way of life, these pseudo salmon  
7 savers seek to preserve a symbol.

8 When we seek a suggestion, salmon, they  
9 seek no common ground. And when all is said and done,  
10 we will be left to seek solutions to the economic and  
11 social upheaval caused by dam breaching.

12 These dams must not be breached. Our way  
13 of life must not be thrown upon a dry riverbank to rot  
14 in the sun. Today you have the power to make the  
15 right decision. Tomorrow that power will be lost  
16 forever.

17 To those vested with this authority, the  
18 stakes are high and you must not fail the people of  
19 this region. One-sided decisions will not be  
20 acceptable.

21 The right decision, in fact the only  
22 decision, is a common sense approach that both saves  
23 dams and preserves salmon.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Great. Thanks

(

1 a lot. Kim Mason, followed by Don Newby, followed by,  
2 I can't tell if that is Arnold or not, and also I have  
3 been asked by our court reporter if you could please  
4 remember to say your name so if I slaughter it, you  
5 can say it right. Thank you.

6 Kim Mason, are you here? Don Newby?

7 MR. DON NEWBY: I am Don Newby,  
8 representing myself. I live in Kennewick, and I have  
9 for many, many years.

10 I have seen unbelievable changes in my  
11 lifetime. And a good share of them have been great,  
12 but this is one that's pathetic, as far as I'm  
13 concerned. Even thinking of breaching the dams. It's  
14 almost unbelievable that a government entity is  
15 seriously considering river dam removal.

16 It's no longer a science issue, it's a  
17 political issue. Plus Al Gore leading the pack.

18 If you saw the news on New England here a  
19 few weeks back, with Gore there and big smiles and  
20 that little dam that he was canoeing down, or going  
21 across I should say, it gives us some idea of what  
22 would happen if that bird ever got elected President  
23 of the United States. I think he'd do it by Slick  
24 Willy's method of Presidential order.

25 At any rate, a few years ago we used to

1 read that the Soviet Union couldn't feed themselves.

2 If the dams were removed, our nation will  
3 have started on that same path.

4 I believe everyone wants to save the  
5 salmon. But we should not destroy tens of thousands  
6 of our acres of our farm land and a large portion of  
7 the Northwest power to do so.

8 The same Corps of Engineers that's talking  
9 about dam destroying is already planning to dredge the  
10 Columbia River from Astoria to its mouth.

11 I wonder what that will do to the fish.

12 At the same time we are talking about  
13 destroying dams, we are going to tare up the river  
14 down below. The people that are affected by this  
15 decision should actually have a vote and a say in what  
16 really happens. And I think what we really need is an  
17 I 695 like the citizens, voters of Washington  
18 approved, that would be binding on the federal  
19 government, and also on all its bureaucracies to  
20 follow such an edict.

21 And I suspect if it was put to a vote of  
22 our people in the state of Washington, it may be a  
23 different story than we are hearing in the media that  
24 the dam removal is favored by most.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Thank  
2 you, Don. I think it's Arid, Arid, is that right,  
3 Arid Hudloom.

4 MR. ARNOLD HUDLOOM: My name is  
5 Arnold Hudloom. Sorry about that. My writing is not  
6 that great.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I tried to  
8 read it and I just couldn't read it.

9 MR. ARNOLD HUDLOOM: It is getting  
10 late in the day and I won't take much of your time,  
11 since most of what I have to say has already been  
12 said.

13 My name is Arnold Hudloom. I am a food  
14 producer in the north end of Franklin County.

15 I haul my product to a barge on the Snake  
16 River above Lower Monumental Dam, from where it goes  
17 to your supermarket shelves.

18 I obviously oppose taking out the dams.

19 One observation, I agree with almost  
20 everything that has been said on my side of the issue,  
21 but I think the Rice Island thing would be very easy  
22 to solve.

23 All you will need to do is release two or  
24 three pairs of weasels on the island. It would solve  
25 the problem very cheaply.

1                   It's also been mentioned that ocean  
2                   temperature may have something to do with the problem,  
3                   and I would like to, if I may, read a couple of  
4                   sentences. This is from a journal written by a man  
5                   named John Werks in 1828. John was an employee of the  
6                   Hudson Bay Company. He and a group of men were taking  
7                   supplies from Fort Vancouver up the Columbia River. I  
8                   quote from his journal. We encamped in the evening at  
9                   White Blanks. There are few Indians on the river, and  
10                  these are starving. They are taking no salmon.

11                  The next day. Continued our journey at an  
12                  early hour, and encamped in the evening at the end of  
13                  the Priest Rapids. We found a lodge of Indians, from  
14                  whom a few dried salmon were obtained. They seemed  
15                  very scarce in the river. 1828.

16                               MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
17                               very much, Arnold.

18                               Ken Puzey, or Puzen, followed by Vic Irish,  
19                               followed by Ann Moore. Kim? Vic Irish?

20                               MR. VIC IRISH:        Yes.

21                               MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Vic. Great.  
22                               Followed by Ann Moore, followed by Robert Petersen.

23                               MR. VIC IRISH:        Well, I have been  
24                               here since a quarter to nine, and I don't really have  
25                               anything to say that hasn't been said better already.

1                   But I would like to ask, in the future, if  
2                   you could kind of change the format a little bit,  
3                   because like while I was waiting in line to come in  
4                   and give my say, there was a meeting going on where  
5                   you guys were all answering the questions that I'd  
6                   like to hear the answers to. I mean, just in the  
7                   future. Thanks.

8                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
9                   very much.

10                  MR. VIC IRISH:     Oh. I'm not quite  
11                  done.

12                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Oh, I am  
13                  sorry. Go ahead, please.

14                  MR. VIC IRISH:     I would just like to  
15                  say, I kind of like Alternative 2 and 3.

16                         And there was one other thing. Oh. Yeah.  
17                  Big dittos on Slade Gorton, on what he said.

18                         Thank you.

19                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     All right.  
20                  Thank you, Vic.

21                  COL. ERIC MOGREN:     Just a comment on  
22                  your point about the questions and answers. I  
23                  understand that those also appear don't have  
24                  necessarily all of the detailed information that you  
25                  might be interested in, but in the open house next

1 door we have a number of staff who are technical  
2 experts on these areas.

3 If you have questions and you don't feel  
4 they have been answered, go over there and get them  
5 answered before you leave. And they will be happy to  
6 help you.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Ann Moore,  
8 followed by Robert Petersen, followed by Henry  
9 Yamamoto.

10 Ann, are you here? Ann's not here.

11 Robert Petersen, followed by Harry  
12 Yamamoto, followed by James Moore.

13 MR. ROBERT PETERSEN: Thank you. I  
14 don't give up easy. I have been here a while. I  
15 thank you people for staying here, and I thank more  
16 the people who years ago put together our system,  
17 river system that takes care of our floods, provides  
18 water for irrigation, and provides the water for slack  
19 water for our barges.

20 I came here in '65. I got a piece of  
21 ground out of Burbank. That's about ten miles down  
22 the river here. And the water that we use on that  
23 farm comes from the McNary pool backed up by Ice  
24 Harbor Dam and of course the electricity that we  
25 pumped it with the irrigation district pumps which

1 comes from our dams.

2 I raised my four children there. And my  
3 two sons farm that place now. And their families are  
4 almost raised. It's been a great place to be.

5 I've had the pleasure of serving as a  
6 County Commissioner in Walla Walla County a couple of  
7 terms and as a Court Commissioner. I'm aware of the  
8 problems that we have in the river. I hate to see,  
9 even think about taking the dams out on the Snake  
10 River. I really don't think that's going to solve  
11 anything.

12 It's going to set a precedent, and as sure  
13 as I'm standing here, McNary Dam, John Day Dam, the  
14 rest of them will go, because it just didn't quite do  
15 the job and we've got to take out some more dams.

16 But anyhow, I did prepare something. To  
17 remove the dams, it would create more problems than it  
18 solves.

19 As has been stated before, the trucks, the  
20 railroads can't handle the traffic, are not made to  
21 handle that kind of traffic. Our railroads, we don't  
22 have enough railroads to carry all the produce that  
23 goes through this area, to Seattle right now.

24 And the silt would come down from the  
25 river, that Jim Kuntz mentioned, would come in around

1 on the east side of the river, the pumping stations  
2 from the South Columbia Irrigation District, Warden  
3 Farms, for the McGrow Farms, for the Boise Cascade,  
4 which incidentally they employ about 350 people, would  
5 be a major problem for all of this, even if they could  
6 overcome it.

7 To lower the Snake River up above, our  
8 neighbor up there with the big orchard, Broetje, how  
9 is he going to get water out of that river if you  
10 lower it that much, and he needs a lot of water. It's  
11 going to ruin one of the finest orchards in the world.

12 I am sure there is some way we can have  
13 fish without destroying the river. This is the year  
14 2000, not 1800. We live in the age of technology. If  
15 our farms and factories were to revert back to produce  
16 only what they could without hybrid and improved seeds  
17 or without improved breeds of cattle, we would not  
18 enjoy the standard of living we have today.

19 Fish can be raised in a controlled  
20 environment resulting in better, cheaper products than  
21 we have today.

22 It's absurd to think that we can live as  
23 our ancestors did hundreds of years ago. And I thank  
24 you very much.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,

1 Robert.

2 Harry Yamamoto, followed by James Moore,  
3 followed by Marcus LuRett.

4 MR. HARRY YAMAMOTO: Harry Yamamoto.  
5 I want to first reiterate, that I have a full  
6 statement here, and I am going to abbreviate it,  
7 because I think it's necessary.

8 I want to also thank you as panelists to  
9 allow me to speak here today and to extend the period.  
10 I feel kind of responsible for that, and I do  
11 appreciate it very much.

12 I guess I owe you guys dinner or something.

13 COL. ERIC MOGREN: I'll take it.

14 MR. HARRY YAMAMOTO: Got to come to  
15 my house, though.

16 Thank you for allowing me to testify at  
17 this hearing. I'm a veteran entomologist and a  
18 farmer.

19 Our farm borders on Linn Coulee. You  
20 know, I really believe that we must separate our wants  
21 from our needs. Especially we need to try to  
22 understand other viewpoints. We may not be  
23 scientific. We may not be sophisticated. You know,  
24 just listen to us, please.

25 We have to work together to solve complex

1 issues. We need to find common grounds over such  
2 divisive issues that we are talking about today. I  
3 cannot scientifically or even anecdotally profess any  
4 solution for the salmon recovery. Not all the cards  
5 are on the table.

6           Where is the proof that the Snake River dam  
7 removal would reestablish primitive habitat for  
8 greater salmon recovery? Is it proof positive that  
9 all the alleged endangered Pacific salmon would  
10 benefit from this flushing the Snake? How would the  
11 flushing of the Snake affect the rest of the Columbia  
12 River?

13           I am alarmed that item 15 in the ISAB  
14 report where the committee states, quote, the high  
15 probabilities of extension that the CRI show for many  
16 of the stocks raise the sense of urgency about the  
17 management decision bearing the hydro system  
18 operation's possible dam breaching and other  
19 interventions as well.

20           If extension is of such high probability,  
21 then why -- then we need to immediately preserve gene  
22 pool stock.

23           A friend and neighbor asked me yesterday,  
24 why are we still eating salmon if they are becoming  
25 extent?

1                   I don't know. But if it will help, I will  
2 stop catching them and I will stop eating them. Who's  
3 risk analysis, ISAB, the Umatillas, who's correct?

4                   Can salmon, Pacific salmon, reproduce what  
5 other salmon of the world? Are they really extinct?  
6 Are we really going to have them all extinct or are  
7 they separate species?

8                   Is there a different way to manage the  
9 fisheries to allow sufficient return of propagating  
10 adults?

11                   We have talked about the predators. We are  
12 going to skip over that part.

13                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I will --

14                   MR. HARRY YAMAMOTO: Help the ESA  
15 targeted stocks. I think not. Are we PST and  
16 GATT'ing ourselves in the foot, allowing other nations  
17 to take our fisheries without taking the  
18 responsibility of leaving enough return stock for  
19 future runs? Can we produce and release more  
20 juveniles? With GBA marked fish for harvest?

21                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Harry?

22                   MR. HARRY YAMAMOTO: Let me do one  
23 more and then be done. If you turn me off I will just  
24 holler.

25                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I know.

1                   MR. HARRY YAMAMOTO:    Okay.  Can the  
2 spotted owl live in other trees?  Oh, yeah, they can.  
3 I guess I will skip over that.

4                   We must reduce the footprint of the man's  
5 endeavors whenever it causes irreparable damages and  
6 suffering to sociological as well as environmental  
7 settings.

8                   New dams and hydraulic systems are being  
9 constructed in China as we speak today to utilize  
10 their resources to meet future feeds, or is it to  
11 supplant the proposed dismantling of our river basin  
12 systems?  Let's not let this happen.

13                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    Thanks, Harry.

14                  James Moore.  Is James Moore still here?

15                  Harry, if you have a longer statement,  
16 let's turn it in, we will get it on the record.

17                  Is James Moore here?  James Moore.  No.

18                  Marcus, and I think it is actually LuRett  
19 or LuPett.  Marcus?

20                  Okay.  Greg Morgan?  Greg Morgan, Ed Long,  
21 and Ron Reimann.

22                  Greg, is that you?

23                  MR. GREG MORGAN:        I am Greg Morgan.  
24 I am representing myself.  Though I am an ambassador  
25 of Christ, who is both the Creator and the principal

1 of peace, and I think I have a proposal that is a  
2 peaceful, though partial solution. It's been  
3 described a little bit before by some other people.

4 I propose that we allow the sport fishermen  
5 in a voluntary effort to collect the eggs and the milk  
6 from their fish, put them in buckets of water right  
7 there where they are fishing, and deliver them to a  
8 collection station at the end of the day.

9 Government employees, whether it be  
10 federal, state or tribal, would then pick those up and  
11 deliver them to the headquarters.

12 The survival rate for those eggs will  
13 probably be lower than the naturally spawning salmon.

14 It's certainly not a total solution. But  
15 it would significantly increase the number of fish  
16 that do return four years later. And for those who do  
17 think that -- well, whichever view you have, whether  
18 you want to breach the dams or not, you need to look  
19 at the facts.

20 One of the facts is that in order to breach  
21 the dam, first you have to get it through the  
22 bureaucracy, which I respect, I am a member of a  
23 bureaucracy, I won't say which one. Once you get it  
24 through the bureaucracy, you have to get it through  
25 the legislature. And if you are successful there,

1       then several of the people in this room are going to  
2       file a lawsuit.

3                So you have to get it through both the  
4       state and federal courts before any dams actually get  
5       breached. By that time the salmon are likely to be  
6       extinct.

7                So something needs to be done soon, for  
8       those who don't like dam breaching, if something isn't  
9       done soon, and salmon populations remain about where  
10      they are.

11               Somewhere around eight years from now, this  
12      will have all been through the legislature and through  
13      the courts, and the dams may be breached, whether we  
14      like it or not.

15               Something needs to be done in the near  
16      term, and I would recommend that all of us write to  
17      our legislatures and get the laws changed so that we  
18      can have a voluntary program of bringing the eggs and  
19      the milk up to the headwaters and bringing them not  
20      into the hatcheries but into the streams where they  
21      belong.

22               We can also use possibly through coercion,  
23      but hopefully voluntarily, gillnetters and other  
24      commercial fishermen should also participate in that,  
25      and for them there should be some scientific standards

1 for how they collect them and how they keep the eggs  
2 viable until they put them in the headwaters.

3 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
4 Greg.

5 Ed Long, and then Ron Reimann, and then  
6 Carol Craig.

7 MR. ED LONG: My name is Ed Long. If  
8 you can't be first, you might as well be one of the  
9 last.

10 Thank God that we live in a democracy where  
11 we can sit through these kinds of ordeals and let  
12 everybody express their opinion, because I guaranty  
13 you, in China, they are just building the dam.

14 I'm retired. It seems to me that most of  
15 the information we have been hearing and reading  
16 about, the benefits of breaching the Snake River dams,  
17 lacks a certain amount of valid scientific facts.

18 We have all heard about the ocean  
19 conditions, terns, overfishing by commercial  
20 fisheries, Native American gillnets in the river, dams  
21 and many other factors concerning the decline of the  
22 salmon runs.

23 People throw numbers around like confetti.  
24 The more numbers people come up with, the more  
25 confusing the issue becomes.

1                   Most people have a difficult time relating  
2 numbers to actual in your face facts. However, I,  
3 too, have some numbers to put into the pot. However,  
4 these numbers are pretty factual.

5                   The numbers are for the year 1998. And  
6 they originated from Ice Harbor Dam. In 1998 1,306  
7 barges went through Ice Harbor Dam. They carried  
8 4,571,000 tons of cargo. This equals 45,710 hopper  
9 cars, or 457,100 car trains. Or 175,808 large semi  
10 trucks. That's for this area alone.

11                   Here again, these are numbers, and if these  
12 dams are breached, we will be seeing these trucks and  
13 trains on our highway and overloading the rail system.

14                   I believe that the conditions of the  
15 highways and rail system as they are at this time  
16 simply cannot handle the increased traffic. Highway  
17 and rail safety would certainly most be a concern for  
18 all people living and traveling in through this area.

19                   And we are not even talking about the loss  
20 of irrigation systems and what it will do to our  
21 agricultural economy.

22                   I also believe that the people who want the  
23 Snake River dams breached, if they get their way, they  
24 will then go off after Columbia River dams. It's a  
25 natural progression for these people.

1                   I do not believe that breaching the Snake  
2 River dams is the answer we are looking for. We must  
3 use common sense and hard facts to solve the salmon  
4 problem.

5                   Presently at \$30 per megawatt hour in the  
6 last 24 hours, Ice Harbor Dam produced enough power to  
7 generate \$265,770. That's for one 24 hour period for  
8 just one dam for one day of this year. That's a lot  
9 of power and money being generated.

10                  The money goes God knows where, but we do  
11 know that the water is a renewable source going from  
12 dam to dam, producing power, and irrigating our crops  
13 as it travels through the oceans.

14                  And that's basically all I've got to say.  
15 Thank you.

16                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Well, I'm so  
17 glad, and thanks so much for sharing with us.

18                  Ron Reimann, are you still here? Okay.  
19 Ron, followed by Carol Craig, followed by Henry  
20 Johnson.

21                  MR. RON REIMANN: Still here. My  
22 name is Ron Reimann. I'm a diversified irrigated  
23 farmer pumping out of the Ice Harbor pool. We're a  
24 family farm. And we're probably the ultimate river  
25 user.

1                   I spend the winters fishing for steelhead  
2                   on the river, we ship our produce down the river, we  
3                   use it to irrigate our crops, we boat on it, and we  
4                   spend a lot of time just sitting along the river.

5                   And rather than you hearing any more  
6                   testimony, I would like to thank the panel. I realize  
7                   it's your job. But I would like to thank you all for  
8                   sitting up here and listening to this venting process  
9                   for this long.

10                  The other thing I would like to thank you  
11                  for, and I will thank the Colonel, I would like to  
12                  thank the Corps of Engineers for the hydroelectric  
13                  system they have built on the Snake River that is  
14                  unequaled by anything else in the world. It allows me  
15                  and other farmers like me to be the highest producers  
16                  of any crops anywhere in the world.

17                  You will find out that the Pacific  
18                  Northwest probably has the highest yields in potatoes,  
19                  sweet corn, anything. And I would like to thank the  
20                  Corps of Engineers for providing that for us.

21                  The hydroelectric system, the dams that we  
22                  are talking about, is something that we should be very  
23                  proud of. And it's ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous  
24                  we could spend this much time actually thinking about  
25                  tearing down something that great.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
3 Ron.

4 Carol Craig. Is Carol Craig here? Okay.  
5 Henry Johnston, followed by Neil Norman, followed by  
6 Naomi Stacy. Is that the right name? Henry Johnson.

7 MR. HENRY JOHNSON: Hello. My name  
8 is Henry Johnson.

9 I just want to say, common sense, sound  
10 logic and good science, not like the mentality of  
11 taking control of the region's most priceless natural  
12 resource, water.

13 What has sprung up in the place of common  
14 sense and good science? The noisy clamor of political  
15 positions and endless debate.

16 Why has this happened? Because for the  
17 recovery industries, science does not work. It keeps  
18 coming up with the wrong answers all the time.

19 Science is boring. Instead you have to be  
20 colorful, dress up in a salmon costume, sit in a tree  
21 for several days, block traffic, hang from bridges.

22 Maybe some us here in the Mid-Columbia are  
23 a little boring, too. Right now most of us have some  
24 kind of a job to attend to. We have never been very  
25 good at making mischief. Spiking trees, or staging

1       boycotts. And it's darn hard to find time to sit in  
2       trees long enough for the television cameras to get  
3       excited about us.

4                 Just for a minute, breathe the life back  
5       into the silent remains of good science and reflect on  
6       the neons of questions and past accomplishments.

7                 For every endangered species successfully  
8       reclaimed, what has been the most fundamental recovery  
9       strategy?

10                They stopped stampeding buffalo over cliffs  
11       and stopped the shooting.

12                When the great whales were nearly depleted,  
13       what happened first? Did their protectors lower  
14       emissions on boat motors or a five-year study? No.  
15       They stopped harpooning whales.

16                Now, the lingcod and the rock fish off the  
17       Pacific Coast are being depleted. What dams will be  
18       destroyed to save them? None. I hear they are  
19       planning to curtail harvest instead.

20                What a concept. Their detractors have  
21       called the Snake River dams immoral. An immoral dam?  
22       Now, there's a sound scientific concept.

23                Let me tell you what's immoral, obscene  
24       even. It's obscene to perpetuate a policy that would  
25       deprive the citizens of the -- require the citizens to

1 dip their cup into the Columbia River for a drink of  
2 water.

3 Do you think that's farfetched? Think  
4 again. We're not that far away from it.

5 When the Snake River dams are reduced to  
6 rubble and the dams are replaced with fossil fuel, the  
7 dam breachers will feel really good about themselves.

8 There won't be any more salmon than before.  
9 But the main thing is feeling really good about  
10 yourselves.

11 If I'm wrong, and the salmon do return in  
12 countless millions, what will happen to all those  
13 fish?

14 I hear most of them will be killed. What  
15 else do you do with salmon?

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks very  
17 much.

18 Neil Norman. Are you here?

19 Naomi Stacy. Followed by Jim Vance,  
20 followed by Alan Rogers.

21 MS. NAOMI STACY: Good evening.  
22 Thank you for everyone being here. I know that this  
23 is an important cause for all of us. We all have a  
24 lot at stake here.

25 My name is Naomi Stacy. I am a Tribal

1 member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla  
2 Indian Reservation, also consider myself a resident of  
3 Umatilla County, and I pay a lot of taxes.

4 As some of the people mentioned before that  
5 spoke here from my tribe, you are sitting in the ceded  
6 lands. Our home lands here. We signed a treaty in  
7 1855 that said we will give this to you, and we will  
8 stay on our Reservation, and we will live there. And  
9 you will have your life here. And our life will go  
10 on.

11 And at the time that the treaty was signed,  
12 this was a nation of people who had a very nice and  
13 wonderful life, was able to protect what we thought  
14 was important in a way that we could live with for  
15 generations and generations, and had been lived for  
16 generations before, and we thought we were able to  
17 give you something that was good.

18 And I'm here today because I am obviously a  
19 mixed person, too, and I have family who has a view on  
20 one side or the other, and I think how can we make  
21 this right for all of us?

22 And I don't think any of us are going to be  
23 happy with whatever answer we come up with.

24 Getting back to when we talk about our  
25 governments coming together. Our understanding when

1 we gave this land away is we would retain our treaty  
2 rights, and that you would have yours.

3 We kept our word. We have never taken that  
4 back from you. We have not taken away your resources  
5 from you. In the meantime, you flourished, and that's  
6 a good thing.

7 We should all have a good life. And I want  
8 that for all of us.

9 In the meantime also, we began to bear a  
10 lot of burdens, and burdens that didn't exactly keep  
11 us as a citizenry that we had. We started to suffer,  
12 and it's not because we are victims that we are here  
13 today. That's because that's what we agreed to, that  
14 we would keep our lives and you could have yours.

15 Well, the time has come where we have  
16 started to argue. I see that this government, this  
17 government that we have, none of us are happy with at  
18 this time, the federal government, has put us in a  
19 place where one of my brothers, Alanna Farrow who  
20 spoke here before said, we are fighting against each  
21 other.

22 We have these restrictions that we had to  
23 abide by, and it's not working out with our federal  
24 government and we are fighting each other.

25 So what does that mean today? What burdens

1 do you bear? I am not asking us to point the finger.  
2 I am asking how can we make this right? Do we want to  
3 put you in a position where you have to fight? No.

4 Do I think that you should have to become a  
5 second class citizen? No.

6 We have had that, and I don't want that for  
7 you.

8 But what I do want to see is for us to find  
9 a way to work together. Our tribe has worked in the  
10 Umatilla Basin. We had no salmon there a few years  
11 ago. And now we have thousands. We have solutions.  
12 And I would like you to look at that.

13 Thank you for your time, and thanks for  
14 coming.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Jim Nance,  
16 followed by Alan Rogers, followed by Rosenda  
17 Shippentower.

18 MR. JIM VANCE: My name is Jim Vance.  
19 I am 54 years old. I am an irrigator for a family  
20 farm that pumps water out of the Snake River, and we  
21 will lose our water of course if the dams go out.

22 Nine years ago when the Governor of Idaho  
23 started so-called fish recovery, I believe he sold  
24 everybody a bill of goods by getting focused on the  
25 removal of the four dams. I thought back then that

1 common sense would prevail and something fair would be  
2 worked out for all.

3 But common sense has nothing to do with it.

4 I believe the fish are just an excuse for  
5 control of the water. So if the breaching of the dams  
6 take place, coupled with the economic impact on this  
7 area, and my age, it will be hard for me to find other  
8 employment. We probably lose everything, including  
9 the roof over our head, and would have to relocate  
10 again.

11 My wife's a mental health counselor in the  
12 area, who will also lose her job.

13 We left an economically depressed area in  
14 the northern part of the state 14 years ago and moved  
15 to Walla Walla so we could go to college. I went to  
16 Walla Walla Community College and she went to Whitman.

17 I have been on my present job I have now  
18 for the past 12 years, and I don't want to start over  
19 again. I have a son in college that I help support, a  
20 daughter will be in college. If my wife and I both  
21 become unemployed, we will not be able to help our  
22 kids through college, and that is their future, and  
23 they don't even live in this area.

24 I believe that this is really about fish  
25 recovery.

1                   Some of the things that would be done first  
2                   are the removal of the dams in the upper Snake River.  
3                   Not the lower Snake. This would reopen spawning  
4                   grounds, close Salmon, Payette, others, Owyhee, do not  
5                   have ladders. Removal of all the nets in the Columbia  
6                   River, whether they are Indian or nonIndian.

7                   Removal of Rice Island. It is a manmade  
8                   island. I see no reason why we can't remove that.  
9                   There is 8,000 pairs of terns that nest on that island  
10                  a year and consume 20 percent of the smolt that come  
11                  down the river. And that is according to Oregon State  
12                  University.

13                  And more of the fishing for salmon and  
14                  steelhead -- I lost my place -- more control of the  
15                  fishing for salmon and steelhead in the open ocean.  
16                  They can't do anything about these nets, and I don't  
17                  believe that's true.

18                  I believe they take some of my rights every  
19                  day, and this is an example of NMFS, basically telling  
20                  people in the Nepow Valley that you will do our way or  
21                  we will do it our way without you, it makes no  
22                  difference.

23                  Someone had a vision not long ago and said  
24                  that they want the fish runs returned to what they  
25                  were in 1855.

1                   Come on. Wake up. Be realistic. The  
2                   thousands of miles of nets in the ocean, hundreds of  
3                   nets in the river, removal of dams and returning the  
4                   fish runs as they were in 1855 are impossible.

5                   I don't know of anything that has been put  
6                   on the endangered fish list and still continue to be  
7                   harvested at 50 percent a year.

8                   What about the pheasants and others that  
9                   are there now?

10                  The farm I work on supports hundreds of  
11                  pheasants. I believe those will disappear. And  
12                  thousands of geese, we have had estimated up to 10,000  
13                  geese on our farm in one year.

14                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Time is up.

15                  MR. JIM VANCE: In the fall and  
16                  winter we have thousands of geese feeding on the  
17                  fields. They won't use a fast moving river. And  
18                  without irrigation, the crops they feed on won't be  
19                  there.

20                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
21                  much, Jim.

22                  Alan Rogers. Followed by Carol Craig,  
23                  followed by Reid Rukman.

24                  MR. ALAN ROGERS: Thank you. My name  
25                  is Alan Rogers. I am a corporate farmer on the Ice

1 Harbor pool.

2 One thing most people don't realize is we  
3 can be a corporate farmer and, hey, I'm it, other than  
4 three months during the summer, I'm the crew.

5 Several people have mentioned before, two,  
6 that we count the fish going out to sea and we count  
7 the fish coming back from sea, and there is a big loss  
8 somewhere.

9 I think one of our main areas of research  
10 that needs to happen is in the ocean and in the  
11 estuaries. Where are all of these fish going? I have  
12 a suspicion that they are winding up on a boat  
13 somewhere.

14 I went into the open house rooms and they  
15 show a number of fish caught, and I am assuming this  
16 is in the river, but that doesn't number that fish  
17 that is caught from the ocean, because those two  
18 graphs go different directions.

19 There is less fish caught in the river now  
20 but there is a lot more fish caught in the ocean.

21 Taking out the dams. I have read some  
22 numbers, that that would increase habitat on the Snake  
23 River by 70 percent. Sounds like a nice number. But  
24 both the length of the Snake River, that is a 3  
25 percent increase. Basically, locked out, a lot of

1 habitat at the Hells Canyon dams, and the rest of the  
2 private ones that have no fish ladders, the fish  
3 cannot get by. Also, another gill.

4 The fish need a 12 percent rise in  
5 basically returns, as I get it, to not become extinct.  
6 As I get it from some of the literature that I have  
7 read, taking out the dams will increase returns about  
8 4 percent. So taking out the dams is not the panacea.  
9 It will move you part way there, but it will not solve  
10 the problem.

11 I think science will solve the problem. It  
12 will just take a while. Also there is a fellow that  
13 wrote an article that's in Wheat Life, its February  
14 issue, it's called Under the Influence. I think I  
15 have got that right. What it does is document  
16 something that I have always thought all along. Bruce  
17 Babbitt is a good example of a bureaucrat, he is open  
18 about it. I think we have bureaucrats embedded in the  
19 system, that their goal is an environmental agenda.

20 This article also chronologes -- or  
21 substantiates how money goes from private foundations  
22 to environmentalists and then winds up being public  
23 policy.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you

1 very much, Alan.

2 Carol Craig, followed by Reid Reimann,  
3 followed by Bill Ingalls.

4 MS. CAROL CRAIG: Good evening, and  
5 welcome to the ceded portion of the Yakama Nation.

6 Through the tribal generations and since  
7 the beginning of time traditional environmental  
8 knowledge has taught us that economic activities and  
9 natural systems should further conservation and/or  
10 restoration at the same time resources are being  
11 extracted.

12 There is no doubt in our minds about the  
13 need for harmonious existence between humans and  
14 nature. Since the arrival of nontribal people, our  
15 main resource and way of life, salmon, have been  
16 decimated from millions to mere thousands today.

17 As a Yakama Tribal member I urge you to  
18 help us restore the salmon runs. Most here today are  
19 very nervous about breaching the dams and say many  
20 lives will be disrupted.

21 As a Yakima tribal member I can understand  
22 how they feel. Nothing stays the same for ever, and  
23 there have been many times people's lives have been  
24 disrupted continually.

25 Today now more than ever there needs to be

1 a change if the salmon are to survive from this harsh  
2 world. If the fish are continually degraded and  
3 become extinct, then what we were taught as children  
4 will prevail, and that's what the Umatilla Tribal  
5 elder was referring to.

6 When we were placed here on this part of  
7 the earth, the Creator told us to take care of the  
8 resources, and as long as we did that, they would take  
9 care of us. But if the salmon or any of the other  
10 resources disappear, then we too as a people will  
11 disappear.

12 And it's difficult for nontribal people to  
13 understand that sometimes. And I am not surprised,  
14 because nothing about tribal history is required in  
15 the public school system. But salmon is central to  
16 the way of our lives. Required ceremonies to express  
17 our response to benevolent Creator.

18 I urge you today to help the salmon and the  
19 important consideration of breaching the four Lower  
20 Snake River dams.

21 Treaty rights are absolute in describing  
22 the values Tribes attach to natural resources. We  
23 have practiced a natural sustaining yield conservation  
24 system since the beginning of time.

25 There has to be understanding and, after

1 all, we are still here as a people. Tribal people are  
2 here today to represent a cultural history. Some are  
3 here to represent a contemporary story. Our economic  
4 goals and practice knowledge places on the threshold  
5 of prosperity or poverty.

6 Who shall prosper? Who has prospered?  
7 Tribes have reacted responsibly, taken the technology  
8 developed by nontribal people and with natural  
9 philosophy, pragmatic approach to habitat restoration  
10 and natural production of species.

11 We are actively working for the last two  
12 years, fall Chinook and coho have returned to the  
13 Yakima River for everyone to fish, not just tribal  
14 people.

15 But these are tough times today. And that  
16 requires gifted minds and great hearts.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
19 Carol.

20 ReidRukman.

21 MR. REID RUKMAN: Yes. My name is  
22 Reid Rukman. I don't have much else new to say, but I  
23 have waited this long, I would like to put two  
24 comments in.

25 I also irrigate out of the Ice Harbor pool

1 with my father and uncle, my mother, and my wife is  
2 also involved.

3 A few people have talked about just the  
4 corporate farms that are on Ice Harbor pool. I don't  
5 know anything about that. We are incorporated. I  
6 guess on paper you could say we are a corporate farm.  
7 But all it is is just a small family farm trying to  
8 survive.

9 I was 19 when this all started. I just  
10 turned 30 this summer. It seems like I have grown up  
11 with this problem.

12 I can't believe that in 11 years this is  
13 the best solution that has come up with, the thing  
14 that we will breach the dams, that's the only thing we  
15 could come up with.

16 In looking around today, there is not many  
17 people left, but if you notice, most of the farmers  
18 you are going to find are 40, 50.

19 We make up maybe 2 percent of the  
20 population of the United States. We are also one of  
21 the few areas, businesses that people are getting  
22 older in. We are not getting any younger. Situations  
23 like this make it kind of hard for people wanting to  
24 start their own business in the agricultural field.

25 I just hope that whatever decision is

1       decided, that there is a future in it for me and my  
2       family.

3                     Thank you your time.

4                     MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    Thank you very  
5       much.

6                     Bill Ingalls, followed by I think it's  
7       Audie Huber.   Followed by Skip, I'm afraid I can't  
8       read the last name, I think it is Mead.

9                     MR. BILL INGALLS:    Thank you very  
10      much.   I would like to put a little pitch on this  
11      whole thing.

12                    Who is going to make all the electricity  
13      when these dams are all breached?

14                    Question.   Do the high cost of heating oil  
15      and gas -- Excuse me.   Do you like the high cost of  
16      heating oil and gas?   You haven't seen anything yet,  
17      when these people get their way.

18                    I have got a list right in here, these same  
19      people in the news media, in the banks, the oil  
20      companies, in the Pentagon, you can go on and on.

21                    I have got another magazine here, tells  
22      about the big corporation foundation, back in New  
23      York, gave millions of grants in just about a  
24      three-year period, environmental groups from 1993 to  
25      1995.

1                   What about those years before and after  
2 this debate? How much are they manipulating these  
3 people.

4                   Question. Are the corporations  
5 manipulating the environmentalists for the agenda of  
6 breaching the dams so they can control more electric  
7 producing capacity and et cetera?

8                   I also notice some of the Washington State  
9 politicians have ties to the big corporate crowd and  
10 they help shut down our unfinished nuclear plants in  
11 Washington. There is quite a story on that.

12                   Was that so the big corporations could  
13 control more electricity production?

14                   In the Tri-City Herald a few weeks ago it  
15 told about a gas exploration which has been going on  
16 in Eastern Washington.

17                   A number of years back in the Tri-City  
18 Herald there was an article saying an oil company was  
19 drilling something in the Ice Harbor Dam.

20                   Question. Is the underground water  
21 pressure from the reservoir a problem in drilling for  
22 gas and oil?

23                   Question. I noticed in the Tri-City Herald  
24 the farmers could be paid for their losses when the  
25 dams are removed. Would this be for their land also?

1                   A number of years back an article in the  
2 Tri-City Herald said a shipment could go no further  
3 than the Tri-Cities because of its draft. It was not  
4 known who this ship belonged to.

5                   There was a promotion to dredge the  
6 Columbia River deeper and the channel was deepened to  
7 the Ice Harbor Dam.

8                   Question. Was this done to see if large  
9 oil tankers could haul oil and gas from this area?

10                  Question.

11                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Bill, your  
12 time ended a couple seconds ago.

13                  MR. BILL INGALLS: The question. Are  
14 the Indian Tribes being manipulated like the rest of  
15 us? There are many books and magazines out there  
16 telling us how the jet stream is now being manipulated  
17 to control the weather.

18                  A few years back other areas were flooded.

19                  Question. What is going to happen to our  
20 land and other small cities when the dams are  
21 breached? And the question goes on.

22                  But I want to thank you very much.

23                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Thank  
24 you very much, Bill.

25                  COL. ERIC MOGREN: Thank you. Just to

1 get a quick check here, we are about 20 minutes before  
2 the next hearing starts.

3 Could we have a show of hands of how many  
4 people are waiting to talk here?

5 Oh, boy. Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Okay. Audie  
7 Huber. Skip Mind. Pardon me?

8 MR. SKIP MEAD: I think it is Skip  
9 Mead, but I will pass.

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Skip Mead.  
11 Tim Stearns. Followed by Jack DeWitt.

12 MR. TIM STEARNS: I am ready when you  
13 are.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: We are ready.  
15 Go ahead.

16 MR. TIM STEARNS: My name is Tim  
17 Stearns, and I am the regional director for the  
18 National Wildlife Federation.

19 I have spent the last ten years trying to  
20 crystallize this choice that we need to make. I am  
21 one of the people who have pushed dam removal. And I  
22 pushed dam removal because we have looked at the  
23 science and economics for ten years, and in my heart  
24 of hearts, that is the best option.

25 Well, let me talk about why today has been

1 frustrating. I think we are discussing a very false  
2 choice, which is do we have dams or do we not have  
3 dams.

4 It's much harder than that. We attack each  
5 other, our values, and our motives. We attack  
6 government. And our regional neighbors. And that  
7 really makes me sad.

8 I grew up in rural Montana in a rural  
9 community. My family's in agriculture. I've gotten a  
10 number of cousins that are still in agriculture.

11 The last thing I want to do is destroy  
12 agriculture. I want healthy rural communities,  
13 whether they are agricultural communities or coastal  
14 communities, or tribal communities. And this system  
15 does not work now. We have a tough set of transitions  
16 to go through.

17 Right now we are spending about 300 million  
18 dollars a year and we are not getting much for it.  
19 And frankly we are the stewards of the system that  
20 gives us electric rates that are half the national  
21 average.

22 And we are not complying with multiple  
23 federal laws in multiple treaties. And I frankly  
24 don't think that the country's going to let us get  
25 away with it all that much longer.

1                   We clearly need to do some things  
2                   differently. We need to work together to solve  
3                   problems. We need to focus on what we need to  
4                   accomplish. Not what it accomplishes them.

5                   Dams are just tools. Not all dams are bad.  
6                   These ones happen to be a problem. We need to water  
7                   crops. We need to move commodities to market. We  
8                   need to provide energy. We need to live up to those  
9                   laws and treaties.

10                  We are a nation of people in a nation of  
11                  laws. Things I want to teach my son and my family,  
12                  and it's real hard to watch them attack government and  
13                  the motives of government.

14                  But we are stewards of this system and of  
15                  this nation, and we built this system with the nation.  
16                  It's not our system. We didn't pay for it. These  
17                  aren't our rivers. These are America's rivers.

18                  Now, we have picked on harvest pretty hard  
19                  today and seals and terns. I spent the last year  
20                  working with hatchery people in how to improve  
21                  hatcheries. We know we can improve hatcheries. I  
22                  participate in harvest coast wide, and I can tell you  
23                  harvest management is not easy.

24                  There are people making choices now and we  
25                  have cut harvest coast wide and we are working on

1 better methods of harvest year after year. So it's  
2 really hard when people come up and say, let's have  
3 the easy moratorium, let's shut the harvest.

4 It's not that simple, folks. Because if  
5 we're going to start using moratoriums, I can just as  
6 easily put a moratorium on your water use, on you  
7 getting your crops out of the buffers. It doesn't  
8 make sense.

9 Let me close. I work on salmon listings  
10 throughout this region. There is not one easy place.  
11 These dams, taking out these dams isn't going to solve  
12 it for every population in this region. But I can  
13 tell you in the Puget Sound or every river I work on,  
14 nobody likes new buffers, nobody likes to change water  
15 management. Everybody thinks their dam's okay.

16 We have got to get beyond this impasse.  
17 And the people at the front of the room have got to  
18 make tough choices, and finally get us implementing a  
19 plan that actually has a chance of working.

20 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: I am going to  
21 have to ask you wrap it up, Tim.

22 MR. TIM STEARNS: Let's work together  
23 and move forward.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you.

1                    Jack DeWitt, Byrdeen Worley, Christ Kleist,  
2                    and J.D. Williams.

3                    Jack DeWitt? Okay. Byrdeen Worley.  
4                    Christ Kleist. J.D. Williams.

5                    Are the folks that raised their hands, are  
6                    you on my list for this afternoon? How many of you  
7                    that raised your hands were signed up on the list  
8                    earlier?

9                    Okay. All right. I'm just going to have  
10                    to roll on through these here. Rick George. Marlo  
11                    Booker. Gary James. Stacey Martin. Stacey Martin  
12                    here?

13                    Good. Gary James is here, too.

14                    MR. GARY JAMES: I am Gary James.  
15                    Historically the Columbia River had a run of 15  
16                    million salmon. That was formerly one of the most  
17                    productive salmon producers in the world. The lion's  
18                    share of those fish were destined for the Snake River.

19                    Now the Snake's got extinct runs or many  
20                    that are nearly so. Things are obviously badly  
21                    broken. Any solution that maintains the status quo  
22                    won't work. We've got to get tough with solutions,  
23                    and we've got to get tough with defining our goals.

24                    First there's a major oversight of the  
25                    goal. Because the CRI model that was spoken of

1 earlier used to predict outcomes is based on  
2 preventing extension.

3 That is really a flaw. What is preventing  
4 extension? NMFS defines that as having. What did you  
5 do with one or more fish? It depends on how many more  
6 than ones you have. With ten fish you can't have  
7 much, and ten fish wouldn't meet a prevention goal.

8 It won't seek the habitat, you wouldn't go  
9 fishing.

10 The federal government must be more honest  
11 in what they say, in what they are leading the people  
12 to believe when the option has, let's say, a 95  
13 percent chance of meeting an extinction prevention  
14 goal.

15 I'm sure an athletic coach wouldn't tell  
16 his teachers, okay, guys, our goal this year is to win  
17 more than one game.

18 I'm sure our investment accounts for  
19 retirement wouldn't be focused at having more than one  
20 dollar when we retire. Preventing extension is a  
21 start. We must shoot for meaningful larger goals and  
22 select options accordingly.

23 How do we select those options?

24 First I think we have to apply fixes  
25 comprehensively across all the broken areas, all the

1       ages, address all the problems, and we have to apply  
2       the fixes in proportion to the level of brokenness.  
3       That's common sense.

4                 We've done this in the Umatilla. I've  
5       worked with the Umatillas for nearly 20 years. To  
6       start with we have no salmon and nearly no water.

7                 What did we do? We focused the most fix  
8       effort on the fish passage and flow enhancement.  
9       That's because that's what was most broken. We did it  
10      in a way without losses to the ag community, and we  
11      came up with win-win solutions with mitigative  
12      measures.

13                Certainly mitigative measures weren't a  
14      problem when dams went in, when you moved towns such  
15      as Arlington and Boardman.

16                So what's broken in the big picture? Is it  
17      harvest? Well, take spring and summer Chinook in the  
18      Snake River, and it clearly is not. There's  
19      insignificant ocean and Columbia harvest for those  
20      species. I work with those. They're not there. The  
21      Tribes stopped commercial fishing for those species in  
22      the '60s and '70s.

23                Is it hatcheries? No. They are a key  
24      solution. The tribes are leading the way in hatchery  
25      reform and supplementation. We are doing it in the

1 Umatilla.

2 But by itself are hatchery sufficient to  
3 cover all the other broken ages? No. It's going to  
4 take more.

5 Is it the tributary habitat? Is that  
6 broken? No. It needs some help, lion's share of  
7 Idaho's habitat is in pristine wilderness and those  
8 wilderness areas have some extinct or very little  
9 fish.

10 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Gary?

11 MR. GARY JAMES: Yeah?

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Time's up,  
13 Gary.

14 MR. GARY JAMES: Time's up. Thank  
15 you.

16 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you.  
17 We'd love to take your comments up here if you have  
18 those in writing, Gary.

19 Stacey Martin.

20 MR. STACEY MARTIN: Hello. I am  
21 Stacey Martin. I am employed at PNR Farms located on  
22 the Snake River, irrigating out of the Ice Harbor  
23 pool.

24 I worry about my job if the dams are  
25 breached, leaving no irrigation. I have two kids that

1 are in high school and will be starting college in a  
2 few years. My wife is employed locally.

3 If we have to relocate because of the loss  
4 of my employment, the people and change, the upheaval  
5 and change of our life sometime is unwarranted.

6 Ten years ago, I thought that common sense  
7 would prevail, but politics prevents this from  
8 happening.

9 If the dams are detrimental to the fish,  
10 why didn't the ecologist begin these talks after  
11 initial construction?

12 What about the rivers with no dams on them?  
13 Their numbers are decreasing also. Does this tell you  
14 something? You don't need to be a scientist to figure  
15 that one out.

16 What are the benefits of pulling the lower  
17 dams? How long will the river be too muddy for the  
18 fish to survive in? If it's more than four years, you  
19 have already wiped out all returning fish, plus the  
20 smolt.

21 How much habitat would you gain for  
22 spawning? How many tributaries are there on the four  
23 lower dams that fish can't get to? None.

24 How many dams in Idaho have fish ladders on  
25 them? These dams killed a hundred percent and blocked

1 off habitat for spawning. The worldwide fishing  
2 industry exploded after 1970 to 1990. One fishery  
3 biologist estimated that this finally achieved twice  
4 the capacity than what the ocean could produce.

5 What about the nets in the river? The  
6 Indians say they are entitled to half of the returning  
7 fish. Let's say next season two fish return. One  
8 female, one male. Will you still take your half? How  
9 much fish does it take for your ceremonies?

10 It is impossible to restore the runs to  
11 where they were in the 1800 yesterday. Irrigating --  
12 irrigation along the Snake River has greatly improved  
13 the wildlife.

14 Remember Lewis & Clark, they ate dog.

15 Maybe it is time to see that there is a  
16 problem with overfishing. Let's set up our commercial  
17 fishermen, save our salmon from other countries, let  
18 the Indians have a few for their ceremonies, open up,  
19 improve our fish hatcheries, fish bypasses and  
20 hatcheries.

21 Maybe one day we will again be able to net  
22 fish in the ocean and begin on the Snake River.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
25 much.

1                   Now what I would like to do, I think we  
2                   have about three or four more people who had signed up  
3                   this afternoon. Can I see your hands again?

4                   Okay. Can I just ask you to line up at the  
5                   microphones. I have got names here, if you could just  
6                   line up and state your name, just tell us who you are,  
7                   and I will scratch you off.

8                   MR. LARRY COCHRAN: Larry Cochran.

9                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you.

10                  MR. LARRY COCHRAN: I am now the  
11                  president of the Washington Association of  
12                  Conservation Districts, and while we have been sitting  
13                  here at this meeting today I have producers at  
14                  districts that have been developing riparian plans to  
15                  increase salmon habitat in the Snake River system.

16                  Those people are up and running. They  
17                  don't need meetings. They don't need hearings. We  
18                  are doing habitat restoration as we speak. We have  
19                  three model watersheds in the Snake River system;  
20                  Silvey Creek, Tucannon, and the Touchet watershed  
21                  model watersheds.

22                  We are increasing salmon habitat. We are  
23                  making salmon producers, cattlemen, agricultural  
24                  producers, working together, doing both. We are  
25                  seeing numbers of Reds increasing in those salmon

1 habitat, spawning beds. So I would like to tell you  
2 that district people, producers, conservation  
3 producers, farmers, are out there, we are working to  
4 increase numbers of salmon that spawn naturally.

5 I commend you for doing the 4-Hs because we  
6 have to look at the whole, total life cycle, just like  
7 anything else.

8 And all I can talk about is habitat,  
9 because that is what our association works with. But  
10 I would like to say that we are doing things, and we  
11 don't need hearings, we don't need -- we are just out  
12 there getting the job done, and I would say that I  
13 will submit some more written comment on how we should  
14 be able to commend those producers that have their  
15 conservation plans in place, increasing the spawning  
16 habitat and still producing food and fiber for all  
17 those that need to be.

18 And when you are out there, I realize you  
19 have to do what the law says, and as you do those  
20 things, I hope we can commend those and make those  
21 that do the right things now, I hate meetings and  
22 whatnot, to be able to have a leg up.

23 And our association also believes that we  
24 can have dams and fish. And we believe in empowering  
25 people to go out and do the things that they need to

1 do. We don't need -- we need a little monetary  
2 assistance, we need a little guidance, we need the  
3 scientific data, but turn the people loose, let us do  
4 what we need to do, and we can increase the salmon,  
5 keep our agriculture, and keep those dams, too.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
8 Larry.

9 For those of you that are left to speak  
10 this afternoon, if I can ask you to, I know you have  
11 waited a long time for your three minutes, if you can  
12 be brief, we'd really appreciate it. Because now the  
13 folks outside are waiting to come in for the 6:30  
14 show.

15 Thanks.

16 MR. STEWART LLOYD: I am Stewart  
17 Lloyd. I'm a retired teacher, military, farmer, and a  
18 trained geneticist with special training in population  
19 genetics.

20 And I am appalled at some of the things  
21 that you remember assuming, and claiming as fact, and  
22 hoping that it is going to improve your problem.

23 You are maintaining an attitude that  
24 there's a difference between hatchery and wild salmon.

25 There is no difference. I have watched the

1 collection of wild -- of salmon for use in the  
2 hatchery, and they go to great pain to make absolutely  
3 certain that they are presenting no pressure, no  
4 genetic pressure on the animal -- or on the salmon  
5 that they collect. They can collect a tremendous  
6 amount of eggs, there are thousands of salmon that are  
7 slaughtered every year at the hatcheries, because they  
8 filled their traps, they have to get rid of them, they  
9 kill them, haul them off, if the Indians won't go and  
10 come and pick them up, they go for fertilizers. Eggs,  
11 there's no problem. They can collect millions more  
12 eggs than they need.

13 I do want to caution you about the idea of  
14 barging the young salmon being a solution. When you  
15 barge salmon, you take them out of the water close to  
16 where they were hatched out, and hauled them down to  
17 the mouth of the river and turn them loose and expect  
18 them to get back to where they started.

19 It won't happen. When they migrate down  
20 the river, they taste the water as they go and they  
21 develop an imprint in their brain that lets them  
22 follow the same trail back when they reach maturity.

23 You break the trail when they hit the end,  
24 they don't know where to go. They may end up in  
25 coastal rivers, they may end up in rivers below the

1 dams, they don't know that they need to go above  
2 because it doesn't taste right.

3 I have watched salmon pile up in streams,  
4 waiting to go up a tributary, to the point where they  
5 look like they are coloring the water. They wait  
6 until the water tastes right and then they go.

7 It is just like if someone fired a gun and  
8 the marathon race is on. Up they go. We have reached  
9 the point where a lot of the controls and so forth are  
10 necessary.

11 You need to implement an escapement plan a  
12 whole lot like they had in Alaska, where they don't  
13 fish until a certain number of fish have gone up, and  
14 they review that every week to determine whether they  
15 are going to fish more that week or not.

16 One touch on the silt. Lots of silt behind  
17 those four dams. You turn loose those four dams, silt  
18 into the McNary pool, and you will have no salmon runs  
19 above the McNary Dam.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
22 Stewart.

23 I'm going to go to the back microphone and  
24 then the side microphone and then back to you guys.

25 MR. DEAN STRAWN: Thank you very

1 much. My name is Dean Strawn. My wife Sandi and I  
2 own the Scanifor Service in the Tri-Cities.

3 Our business is a family owned business and  
4 we have been actually involved in local, state and  
5 regional policy issues most of our lives.

6 I am also a member of the Board of  
7 Directors of the Association of Washington Business,  
8 and I have been asked by the association to represent  
9 it here today.

10 More than 85 percent of the Association of  
11 Washington Business members are small business owners  
12 like me. We have joined forces under the banner of  
13 AWB, our state's oldest and largest business  
14 organization, to oppose the breaching of the four  
15 lower Snake River dams.

16 We adopted that position more than three  
17 years ago and have not wavered a bit in our resolve to  
18 keep these dams in place, generating power, providing  
19 water for irrigation, and recreation, flood control,  
20 and transportation.

21 It was just one year ago that I joined with  
22 others to organize the save our dams rally here in the  
23 Tri-Cities. Thousands of supporters for our Snake  
24 River dams came from all over the Northwest, including  
25 farmers, union workers, elected officials, and

1       employers. These demonstrators clearly showed the  
2       kind of resolve that we have to keep these dams in  
3       place.

4                       Since last year we have learned a great  
5       deal about the Snake and Columbia River systems. But  
6       one of the most alarming things we have learned just  
7       came to light in a recent Northwest Power Planning  
8       Council report. The report states, quote, over each  
9       of the next five years if no additional resources are  
10      added to the system, the probability of being unable  
11      to fully serve our electrical demand during the winter  
12      months is relatively high, end quote.

13                      The report says that by 2003 there is a one  
14      in four chance that electrical outages of some kind  
15      could occur. Our federal agencies cannot place at  
16      risk the dams' ability to serve the citizens of this  
17      region.

18                      Hydroelectric powers is a renewable  
19      resource. It is clean and safe. We are not going to  
20      be able to replace it with solar panels, wind mills or  
21      conservation as some dam removal proponents have  
22      stated.

23                      The only short-term practical replacement  
24      would be burning fossil fuels, which are not renewable  
25      resources and pollute the environment. We know there

1 are alternatives to dam breaching that can help  
2 restore salmon runs. Barging young salmon around dams  
3 shows a great deal of promise at a fraction of the  
4 cost of breaching.

5 Why don't we barge those fish, control  
6 predators, and wait for the science on the ocean  
7 conditions to be analyzed. Why are we so hasty to  
8 rush to a simple solution that in all likelihood won't  
9 restore Lewis & Clark level runs.

10 Therefore on behalf of myself and the 3700  
11 members of the Association of Washington Businesses,  
12 who employ over 600,000 workers in this state, we ask  
13 you to stop wasting our taxpayers money with study  
14 after study about dam breaching.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
16 Dean.

17 This microphone. I would like to ask you  
18 to hold your applause. We really want to get through  
19 the last couple of speakers so we can start with the  
20 6:30 meeting. Thank you very much for your  
21 cooperation.

22 MR. BILL MARTIN: Thank you. I am  
23 number 40 on one of your lists. My name is Bill  
24 Martin.

25 I represent the Tri-Cities Industrial

1 Development Council. TRIDEC is made up of 300 public  
2 agencies and private companies dedicated to the  
3 creation of new jobs and the retention of existing  
4 jobs in Benton and Franklin Counties.

5 We are very concerned about the negative  
6 impacts that dam breaching would have on job creation  
7 in this area. And I know you have heard most of this  
8 before so I will just summarize. Three key issues.

9 First of all, the loss of hydropower. The  
10 clean reliable power provided by hydroelectric dams  
11 has been a key to job creation in the Pacific  
12 Northwest for the past number of years.

13 We are also very concerned about the loss  
14 of barge transportation. We don't think our highways  
15 and railroad systems can handle the increased traffic  
16 caused by the loss of that barge transportation.

17 We are also extremely concerned about the  
18 effects of dam breaching on irrigated agriculture and  
19 related businesses. 60 percent of the people employed  
20 in manufacturing in our two counties are in the food  
21 process industries. It is the fastest growing  
22 industry in our area. We had a 12 percent increase in  
23 food processing jobs during the past year alone.

24 There are over a hundred companies in  
25 Benton and Franklin Counties that are directly related

1 to the agriculture industry. And we are spending  
2 thousands of dollars each year to try to attract new  
3 food processing companies to this area.

4 Some people say that fish are more  
5 important than the economy. We think both are  
6 important, and we certainly feel that we can't have  
7 good jobs if we take drastic measures that are also  
8 irreversible.

9 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
10 much. Thank you for summarizing.

11 MR. DWIGHT ROPP: Thank you for being  
12 able to share. I just wanted it to be known that I am  
13 against -- Dwight Ropp.

14 I want it to be known that I am against the  
15 breaching of the dams on the Snake River. I am from  
16 the farm community north of Pasco.

17 Pastoring a church in this community gives  
18 me the opportunity to visit with many people.

19 It is hard to understand the drive behind  
20 the breaching of the dams. The information reported  
21 in the daily newspaper is enough to make one  
22 suspicious about the real purpose of the breaching.

23 The facts are stated about the trucks and  
24 the trains which will be needed to replace the barge  
25 traffic, the amount of alternate power supply system

1 to replace the dams' hydropower, and the agricultural  
2 changes which will be needed.

3 Then there is the other wildlife and fish  
4 species which have been adopted to the existing  
5 conditions. The impact of breaching the dams would  
6 definitely make an economic hardship in this region.

7 On the other side, if the dams are breached  
8 we hear it would take approximately 16 to 20 years to  
9 see any increase in salmon, if any. It is rather  
10 uncertain whether it would even help the situation.

11 If the money spent on this issue could be  
12 directed to enhancing hatchery fish and improving  
13 facilities already in place at the dams, it seems we  
14 could use our dollars more efficiently.

15 I wonder why some groups are so eager to  
16 spend so much money and risk so much on the hope or  
17 chance of building back the salmon that used to be.

18 Any time facts and figures are set aside  
19 and there's a push for a goal at any cost, the issue  
20 takes on a religious flavor.

21 I believe this issue is one of religious  
22 nature. Animism, or the worship of gia, Mother Earth,  
23 seeks to return the earth to its natural state.

24 My question, why should our government  
25 spend time, energy and dollars to support this belief

1 system?

2 I don't think the salmon is the issue here.  
3 We are simply trying to return the river back to its  
4 wild state, and I think you're going to have a  
5 difficult time, you can state all the facts in the  
6 world, and nobody wants to hear them, because it is  
7 something deep, it is a belief system.

8 I believe in Jesus Christ. He's a little  
9 bit higher than just to return the earth to its  
10 natural state.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
13 much.

14 Other microphone over there.

15 MR. DAVE DICKINSON: My name is Dave  
16 Dickinson. I have been a resident of Richland for 42  
17 years.

18 Many previous speakers have stated several  
19 good reasons not to breach the lower Snake River dams.

20 I would like to add a consideration which I  
21 don't believe has been previously discussed.

22 Why is our consideration being limited to  
23 the four dams of the Lower Snake River? I'm not aware  
24 of anything unique about the four Snake River dams.  
25 The salmon problem extends to the entire Columbia

1 Basin. If we should decide to remove four Lower Snake  
2 River dams, will this not be taken as a precedent for  
3 the removal of all of the dams in the entire Columbia  
4 basin?

5 If so, the final result would be disastrous  
6 for the entire Pacific Northwest since our dams are  
7 essential to our supply of cheap electricity, of  
8 irrigation water, and of flood control. The cost of  
9 just the removal of the dams in the Lower Snake River  
10 would be quite large as so many previous speakers have  
11 pointed out.

12 However, the cost of removal of all of the  
13 dams, or even most of them, on the entire Columbia  
14 Basin, would be economic catastrophe.

15 Are we really willing to pay such an  
16 enormous price for removing dams when this would have  
17 such an uncertain effect on salmon recovery?

18 I thank you.

19 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you,  
20 Dave.

21 And I think this is our last afternoon  
22 speaker. Two left. Okay. Great. State your name,  
23 please.

24 MR. ROSS HUGHES: My name is Ross  
25 Hughes. I live in Richland, Washington.

1                   I am standing here before the agency that  
2                   built the four Snake River dams to speak against the  
3                   proposal to now destroy these same dams.

4                   This has to be one of the most idiotic  
5                   environmental proposals raised during my lifetime.

6                   If this were only an exercise in silly  
7                   rhetoric, conducted for their own amusement by the  
8                   self-appointed environmental zealots, that would be  
9                   one thing.

10                  This proposal has already gone far beyond  
11                  the bounds of rationality. A whole economy based on  
12                  farm, transportation, power, and recreation, has been  
13                  built upon the premise that the benefits derived from  
14                  these Snake River dams would be available for many  
15                  years to come.

16                  Now we have a bunch of self-appointed  
17                  environmental zealots proposed to destroy this  
18                  economy. Why? Allegedly to save some fish. We must  
19                  save the fish, they say. We must remove the dams to  
20                  save the fish, they say.

21                  At the same time these self-appointed  
22                  environmental zealots cannot provide any guaranty that  
23                  removing the damages will save any one damn fish.  
24                  These self-appointed environmental zealots selectively  
25                  tout arguments, if unsupported, allegations that

1 breaching the dams will save the fish.

2 At the same time they totally ignore any  
3 evidence to the contrary.

4 We supposedly have an endangered species.  
5 Unlike protecting all other endangered species for  
6 commercial and tribal purposes. If that is not  
7 stupid, than what is it?

8 We actually have an endangered species.  
9 It doesn't take a nuclear scientist to figure this  
10 out. We have commercial fishing fleets looking,  
11 working off the coast using the most modern  
12 devastatingly efficient equipment who are raking in  
13 tons of supposedly endangered fish. And we do  
14 absolutely nothing about it. That is unbelievable.

15 We have already heard the testimony from  
16 the enlightened rebel rousers on the left side  
17 supporting the breaching of the dams. They also know  
18 that their electricity comes from the wall outlet and  
19 their bread comes from the grocery store shelves.

20 It's obvious that there are many other  
21 important factors besides the dams that should be  
22 entered into this discussion. Unfortunately the  
23 self-appointed environmental zealots are conveniently  
24 choosing to ignore all these other factors,  
25 particularly the ocean conditions and overfishing by

1 the Native Americans and others using many gillnets on  
2 the Columbia River.

3 And I have been here all day and I am  
4 getting a little sarcastic in my thinking, so I must  
5 have been a little bit in advance when I wrote this  
6 the other night, if the dams are actually breached,  
7 and the fish species die off anyway.

8 I want to extract a painful retribution  
9 from all of those who supported dam breaching. I will  
10 at least figuratively want to see the defected brains  
11 pickled in formaldehyde. At least some might come out  
12 of this ridiculous fiasco.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thanks a lot,  
15 Russ.

16 Our last speaker, and we will break.

17 MR. JAY WALLMAN, JR.: My name is Jay  
18 Wallman, Jr. I am a farmer in the Columbia Basin. I  
19 wish to make an observation that seems to have escaped  
20 some of us. And that is that the Emperor has no  
21 clothes.

22 The endangered species as it now stands  
23 does not work. In attempting to save the species, it  
24 risks endangering others.

25 Breaching of the dams is not an option.

1 Oh, I know that powers that be will decide, and the  
2 dams will probably be breached, but it is still not an  
3 option.

4 It is claimed that changes to the river  
5 system are undesirable, and that construction of the  
6 dams have caused the change in the Snake River system.  
7 And damage to certain salmon species.

8 Breaching of the dams will again cause the  
9 change in the river system and therefore again cause  
10 damage. This time also to other species.

11 How does it follow that twice as much  
12 damage to the river system is the better option? The  
13 Chinook salmon, the subject of folk song.

14 Which will you choose? Which deserves to  
15 live and which deserves to die?

16 What about the other species that you don't  
17 yet know about? While you are driving home tonight on  
18 those miles of asphalt and concrete, think about the  
19 impact those urban waste drains have on the species,  
20 washing its toxins into the river every time it rains.

21 Think about what life will be like after  
22 the Endangered Species Act has forced you to tear out  
23 the freeways and bridges to save the species. And if  
24 you are real quiet while you contemplate these things,  
25 you may be able to hear the sighs of relief of all

1       those other species that surely would be pushed  
2       towards extension if you insist on playing around some  
3       more with the river system.

4                   Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

5                   MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:     Thank you  
6       very much, Jake.

7                   Were you on this afternoon's sign-up sheet?

8                   MR. LOU KNESEK:     I have been here  
9       since noon.

10                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    Come on up.

11       Sorry. I thought he was the last one.

12                  MR. LOU KNESEK:    I name is Lou Knesek,  
13       and I have been a resident in Washington since 1963.

14                  I have had a pretty extensive thing to  
15       present but I would like to reduce it and in hopes  
16       that what I give you, you all will read it in addition  
17       to what I say.

18                  MS. DONNA SILVERBERG:    That's a deal,  
19       Lou.

20                  MR. LOU KNESEK:     When you drive to  
21       Portland, during the salmon harvest time, you can  
22       almost walk from one back float to the next and not  
23       get your feet wet.

24                  If fish are so scarce, why are we still  
25       taking so many of them?

1                   There has been an island made in the lower  
2                   end of the Columbia River which is apparently a  
3                   nesting place for birds that like to eat our salmon.  
4                   Why is that still there?

5                   The dams undoubtedly cause a few salmon  
6                   to -- or small salmon to be killed going through  
7                   turbines. I would like to address something that I  
8                   believe is a solution to this. I am just one poor guy  
9                   in the midst of lots. And I say, how can this fish  
10                  mess we find ourselves in be resolved?

11                  I have a few suggestions. Revisit the  
12                  treaties with our Indian neighbors concerning fish  
13                  harvest. Let them take all the salmon they can eat  
14                  but not sell to others. Reduce commercial and sport  
15                  fishing in the Columbia River and Snake Rivers to a  
16                  sufficient time until the salmon runs increase to  
17                  rebuildable level.

18                  Eliminate all foreign fishing within a  
19                  thousand miles of our shores. Remove manmade nesting  
20                  sites along our Columbia-Snake Rivers which harvest  
21                  predators to our juvenile salmon. Improve the  
22                  collection and transportation of salmon smolt down the  
23                  river. Improve screening initial diversion of the  
24                  fish, discourage them from going through them.

25                  I as a small business owner would be

1 hesitant to spend huge amounts of money on my farm for  
2 improvement which the people I would get it from could  
3 not guaranty it would work. And so far I have not  
4 heard anybody guaranty that taking the dams out is  
5 going to make this work.

6 I would like to propose that the people who  
7 are advocating this, special interest groups, the  
8 Friends of the Earth, the Audubon Society and all the  
9 others, and our Indian neighbors, take their homes and  
10 tribal lands and put them in an escrow account, that  
11 if this operation goes through and they don't work,  
12 that we get reimbursed for our land which we will not  
13 be able to have any use for.

14 Thank you all.

15 MS. DONNA SILVERBERG: Thank you very  
16 much.

17 I want to thank everybody that came today  
18 at noon and joined us for the entire afternoon. You  
19 really hung in there with us. I want to thank you for  
20 your cooperation in helping me help everybody to get  
21 through the process today.

22 We realize that we are 20 minutes beyond  
23 6:30 at this point for the folks that have come for  
24 the evening session.

25 I think we might need to take a ten minute

1 break here for the folks on the panel who have not  
2 been able to have a break for many hours now. So we  
3 are going to run off into the adjoining room for a  
4 moment, and we will start back promptly at seven  
5 o'clock, so I am sorry to delay it a little, and thank  
6 you for your understanding.

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(6:50 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF OREGON )  
 ) ss.  
2 County of Umatilla )

3 I, William J. Bridges, do hereby certify  
4 that at the time and place heretofore mentioned in the  
5 caption of the foregoing matter, I was a Certified  
6 Shorthand Reporter for the State of Oregon; that at  
7 said time and place I reported in stenotype all  
8 testimony adduced and proceedings had in the foregoing  
9 matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to  
10 typewriting and that the foregoing transcript  
11 consisting, of 217 typewritten pages is a true and  
12 correct transcript of all such testimony adduced and  
13 proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

14 Witness my hand at Pendleton, Oregon, on  
15 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2000.

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William J. Bridges  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
Certificate No. 91-0244  
My certificate expires: 10-31-01

