



Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

Washington State Senate

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January 26, 2024

United States House of Representatives
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Chairperson Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.
U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee

Chairperson Jeff Duncan
Ranking Member Diana DeGette
Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee

Re: Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee Hearing “Exposing President Biden’s Plan to Dismantle the Snake River Dams and the Negative Impacts to the United States”

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers,

We are writing as Washington State senators to express our support for the lower Snake River dams. As you know, the dams are essential for many important reasons, including agriculture, shipping, waterway management, and recreation. But dam opponents often overlook the importance of the dams for helping Washington achieve its clean energy goals.

Since 2019, Washington policymakers in the state legislature and executive branch have adopted aggressive new mandates for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector. These policies include enactment of the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act and the Washington Climate Commitment Act.

Both laws require electricity producers and utilities to make deep cuts in their emissions profiles, and we contend that this will not be accomplished if the Snake River dams are breached or removed. The dams provide a large source of non-emitting—*clean*—baseload power. This

reliable source of carbon-free electricity can be delivered to customers even if the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing, making the dams a crucial link in our regional grid while contributing to our carbon reduction efforts.

Importantly, we also believe that recovering salmon and strengthening hydropower are not incompatible goals. While there is more work to be done on fish passage, we are encouraged by dam operators' commitment to improving conditions for fish throughout the entire Columbia River System. Washington, as well, has made public investments in fish habitat restoration at the state level, and we will continue to do our part in the future.

Nevertheless, we worry that decision-makers in the federal government are on the verge of taking irreversible actions against the dams and undermining Washington's clean energy goals. Thank you for working on these important issues and shining a light on the effects that will be felt and experienced here in Washington state if the federal government abandons its commitment to providing reliable clean energy in the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



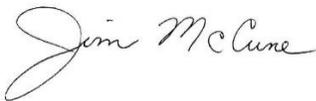
Senator Drew MacEwen
35th Legislative District



Senator Mike Padden
4th Legislative District



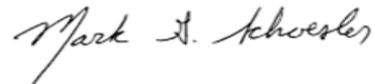
Senator Keith Wagoner
39th Legislative District



Senator Jim McCune
2nd Legislative District



Senator Jeff Wilson
19th Legislative District



Senator Mark Schoesler
9th Legislative District



Senator John Braun
20th Legislative District



Senator Shelly Short
7th Legislative District



Senator Phil Fortunato
31st Legislative District



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18th Legislative District

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