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August 28, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman

Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries

House Committee on Natural Resources

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Transmitted via email (Kirby.struhar@mail.house.gov)

Dear Chairwoman Hageman and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Port of Pasco, we write to express strong support for H.R. 2073, the Defending our Dams Act, introduced by Congressman Dan Newhouse. This legislation represents a powerful commitment from the federal government to protect our Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs) from threat of breach.

The Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs) are vital to the Pacific Northwest's economy. As part of the Columbia-Snake River System, they form a marine highway that enables the transport of billions of dollars in cargo to global markets and support thousands of jobs. This system is the nation's top wheat export gateway and the third-largest grain export corridor in the world—feeding populations abroad while sustaining local communities.

Despite these benefits, and those of clean hydropower production and irrigating over 70,000 acres of high production farmland, the future of the LSRDs is under threat. The Biden Administration took steps toward breaching the dams, citing the need to restore wild salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River Basin to "healthy and abundant" levels. However, data shows that adult salmon returns have more than doubled since the first dam was built in 1938 because LSRD fish passage survival rates consistently exceed Endangered Species Act standards. NOAA supported Biden's policy shift by publishing a flawed, unauthored report, and the federal government subsequently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Six Sovereigns, paving the way for dam removal.

We appreciate President Trump's June 12th action to withdraw from the memorandum and rescind the Notice of Intent for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Columbia River System of Operations. The Defending Our Dams Act builds on this momentum and offers a path to lasting protection of the LSRDs.



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Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Adam Lincoln
Executive Director
Port of Pasco

CC: Christopher.macarthur@mail.house.gov

Office of Rep. Dan Newhouse