



September 2, 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 Tidewater Transportation and Terminals, we write to express strong support for H.R. 2073, the *Defending Our Dams Act*, introduced by Congressman Dan Newhouse. This legislation represents a vital commitment from Congress to protect the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs) from breaching proposals that would devastate our region's economy, energy system, and transportation network.

Tidewater, headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, has operated on the Columbia-Snake River System (CSRS) since 1932. We are the largest inland marine transportation company west of the Mississippi, safely moving millions of tons of freight every year along 465 commercially navigable river miles. Our fleet of tugboats, barges, and terminals connects farmers, fuel providers, agribusinesses, and manufacturers to global markets. By using the river system, our customers reduce congestion on highways and railways while keeping emissions and transportation costs significantly lower than alternative modes.

The LSRDs are indispensable to the Northwest:

- **Navigation & Trade:** The CSRS is the nation's top wheat export gateway and the third-largest grain export corridor in the world. Breaching the LSRDs would strand sixteen grain elevators on the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, cut off efficient barge access to market, and jeopardize food security worldwide.
- **Fuel & Energy:** Tidewater's Pasco terminal alone provides critical refined fuel and ethanol supplies to eastern Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, including support for the Department of Defense at Fairchild Air Force Base. Hydropower from the LSRDs generates enough clean energy to power nearly 2 million homes and provides essential grid reliability.
- **Climate & Safety:** Barging is the safest, most fuel-efficient mode of freight transportation. Eliminating barge service on the Snake River would add tens of thousands of railcars or trucks to land transportation networks annually, increasing accidents, highway damage, congestion, and emissions by hundreds of thousands of tons of CO₂ each year.

The *Defending Our Dams Act* is necessary to ensure federal resources are not wasted on studies or planning exercises aimed at undermining this critical infrastructure. Instead, Congress should reinforce its commitment to keeping the Columbia-Snake River System whole, resilient, and reliable for generations to come.

"Connecting customers to local, regional, and global markets"

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Thank you for considering our comments. Tidewater stands ready to provide additional information or perspective on the critical importance of the LSRDs to navigation, energy, food and fuel security, and regional economic stability.

Sincerely,

Aaron Degodny
Executive Vice-President & Chief Commercial Officer
Tidewater Transportation and Terminals

CC: Christopher.macarthur@mail.house.gov
Office of Rep. Dan Newhouse