



“The Voice of Oregon's Wheat Producers Since 1926”

OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

115 SE 8th Street  Pendleton, OR 97801  541.276.7330  www.owgl.org

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

Dear Chairwoman Hageman and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of *the Oregon Wheat Growers League*, I 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 Oregon Wheat Growers League is a nonprofit trade association representing wheat producers across the state. In Oregon, we produce approximately 50 million bushels of wheat annually on average, of which more than 90% is exported. Our Oregon wheat growers have access to the global marketplace by moving grain through the Columbia-Snake River system to Portland and Vancouver, then on to international ports.

We depend on the navigation provided by the river system to move our product and the LSRDs are vital to Oregon and 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.

For decades our PNW region has developed and thrived through hard work and a balanced approach to the Columbia Snake River System. Despite these benefits, and those of clean hydropower production and irrigating for farmland, the future of the LSRDs remains under threat. We appreciate the Defending Our Dams Act to offer a path to lasting protection of the LSRDs. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,
Erin Hansell-Heideman, President

CC: Christopher Macarthur, Office of Rep. Dan Newhouse
Cc: Nick Stader, Office of Rep. Cliff Bentz

