



Dedicated People Who Care.

August 28, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, D.C. 20515
Transmitted via email Kirby.struhar@mail.house.gov

Dear Chairwoman Hageman and Members of the Subcommittee:

RE: Support for H.R. 2073, Defending Our Dams Act

We at The McGregor Company 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 McGregor Company is a family-owned business, providing farm families with the crop inputs and services needed to grow many of the bountiful crops this region is known for. The LSRDs are part of the federally authorized navigation channel (Marine Highway M-84) and are a vital piece of infrastructure that supports our access to timely, efficient, and safe barge transportation of liquid fertilizers. A direct correlation can be drawn from M-84 long being the most reliable portion of our fertilizer supply chain and the river system becoming the nation's top wheat export gateway.

We now find ourselves in a position where 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.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Leslie Druffel, Director of Outreach

CC: Office of Rep. Dan Newhouse Christopher.macarthur@mail.house.gov
Office of Rep. Russ Fulcher katie.kingsley@mail.house.gov
Office of Rep. Cliff Bentz cristian.figueroa@mail.house.gov ; Mason.Justice@mail.house.gov
Office of Rep. Mike Baumgartner Jack.Bridgewater@mail.house.gov