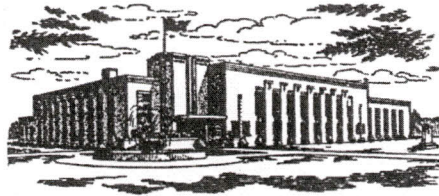


Wes McCart
District No. 1

Don Dashiell
District No. 2

Steve Parker
District No. 3



Stevens County Commissioners

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Polly Coleman
Clerk of the Board

Nettie LaDoux
Assistant Clerk

Lois Haag
Assistant Clerk

February 26, 2018

Members of Congress

Re: H.R. 3144 – To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes.

We would like to submit the following for the record on behalf of the Board of Stevens County Commissioners and the over 44,000 citizens we represent in Stevens County.

Reliability of our electric grid for the Northwest is extremely important. Area electricity is distributed as far south as southern California, as far east as Chicago and in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada as well. Our economy, health, safety and welfare depend on this power generation. From heating homes and businesses to powering our factories, the electrical generation is necessary.

Transportation is another factor for maintaining the status quo for the Columbia and Snake River systems. Barge transportation moves our goods to market. For our area agriculture, this system is a vital link to sell products that feed our nation and others. There is a wide array of products that if not for the waterway barges and transportation would need to rely on trains and trucking for which we lack capacity or infrastructure. This would also create a huge amount of pollution and greatly increase the carbon footprint.

Salmon are of great importance to our area, as are other endangered species. However, we have made great strides in improving fish survival and the current operation has enhanced this survival rate. To allow for a court ordered experiment with no guarantee of success and at great risk to the health safety and welfare of people of the Northwest would be a mistake.

Please support and adopt H.R. 3144 – To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to certain operations plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes.

Thank you for allowing us to comment. Please contact us should you have any questions.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Wes McCart, Chairman


Commissioner Don Dashiell


Commissioner Steve Parker