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Cooperative 

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March 6, 2018

**Re: Protect the Northwest Economy, Environment, and ESA-Listed Salmon:
Support H.R. 3144**

Dear Members of the Northwest Congressional Delegation,

This letter is submitted by Clearwater Power Company in support of H.R. 3144. We are a rural electric cooperative serving 8,200 members in North-Central Idaho, Eastern Washington and North Eastern Oregon. 100% of the energy we deliver to our members comes from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Any increase in BPA's costs are passed on to our members. According to our research data, over 40% of our members have a household income of less than \$50,000 per year, making any increase in electric rates a serious burden.

H.R. 3144 would protect BPA's statutory mission and the longevity of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). Your support of HR 3144 helps maintain access to renewable, carbon-free, and reliable federal hydropower which, in turn, provides critical financial support to protecting ESA-listed salmon.

The current federal hydrosystem operations plan was extensively vetted by independent scientists, and supported by both the Bush and Obama Administrations. H.R. 3144 protects this plan until the NEPA review process concludes in 2021.

H.R. 3144 would allow the NEPA process to continue as the Court has ordered, with a comprehensive and transparent review of federal hydrosystem operations, while postponing costly and potentially harmful experimental spill and hydro operations in the interim.

BPA estimates that the Court-ordered spill experiment could cost its power customers an estimated \$40 million this year. Costs that will be directly passed on to our members on their electric bills. Yet NOAA Fisheries' Science Center modeling shows this additional spill would provide little or no added benefits to protected juvenile salmon or returning adults.

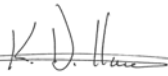
Additionally, such spill operations will reduce electric generation by 815 megawatts. That electrical generation will need to be made up via fossil fuel systems resulting in approximately 840,000 metric tons of carbon emissions. This large loss of hydroelectric generation cannot be replaced through other means such as intermittent wind or solar resources. Increasing our region's carbon emissions runs contrary to Oregon and Washington's carbon-reduction goals and would undermine progress the states are making toward achieving them.

"owned by those we serve"

Again, we implore you to support H.R. 3144 to help protect ESA-listed salmon by keeping in place measures we **know** are working, rather than experiments. This will further allow for a thoughtful, deliberative NEPA process to generate credible information about a full range of potential dam operations and salmon-management strategies for the future.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of one of the most crucial issues facing the Northwest in years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. David Hagen", is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

K. David Hagen
General Manager