



March 12, 2018

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

Dear Members of the Northwest Delegation:

This letter is submitted by Cowlitz PUD, serving roughly 50,000 electric customers including key industry located in the state of Washington.

We are asking you to **support legislation introduced in the House (H.R. 3144)** that would protect the region's access to renewable, carbon free, and reliable federal hydropower while mitigating hydropower impacts and protecting Endangered Species Act ("ESA") listed salmon.

BPA is facing a crisis: Its power rates are far above market rates, driven in part by uncertainty related to escalating fish and wildlife costs and related litigation, and projected to remain so indefinitely (See attached "BPA Wholesale Market Position", presented by Steve Kern, Cowlitz PUD General Manager, to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, 2/14/2018).

Highlighted within the presentation is an excerpt from the Northwest Power Act;

839b(h)(5). The Council shall develop a program on the basis of such recommendations, supporting documents, and views and information obtained through public comment and participation, and consultation with the agencies, tribes, and customers referred to in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (4). The program shall consist of measures to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development, operation, and management of such facilities while assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply. Enhancement measures shall be included in the program to the extent such measures are designed to achieve improved protection and mitigation.

[Northwest Power Act, §4(h)(5), 94 Stat. 2709.]

H.R. 3144 temporarily keeps in place a federal hydrosystem operations plan supported by both the Bush and Obama Administrations, extensively vetted by independent scientists, and in line with the Northwest Power Act.

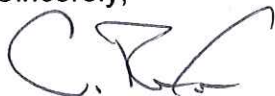
H.R. 3144 would allow the NEPA process to continue as the Court has ordered, with a comprehensive and transparent review of federal hydrosystem operations, while postponing costly and potentially harmful experimental spill and hydro operations in the interim.

H.R. 3144 eliminates up to \$40 million in annual unneeded costs as estimated by BPA.

H.R. 3144 eliminates 840,000 metric tons of added carbon emissions by maintaining 815 megawatts of carbon-free federal hydrosystem generation.

We implore you to support H.R. 3144.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Roden", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Roden
Director of Regulatory and Regional Affairs
Cowlitz PUD