



302 N. Mill St.  
Colfax, WA 99111

T / 509.397.3791  
F / 509.397.4758

[www.portwhitman.com](http://www.portwhitman.com)

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Cathy McMorris-Rodgers  
United States House of Representatives  
1314 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp)

Dear Representative McMorris-Rodgers:

The Port of Whitman County Commissioners commend your work to support the current Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp) through H.R. 3144. We concur with the intent of the bill preserving the existing river system to support the creation and use of hydroelectric power, provide flood control, support critical Inland Empire navigation, irrigation for our farmers, and recreational opportunities for all citizens of Washington State. You are a strong supporter of the preservation of the entire Columbia-Snake River System and the Port appreciates your hard work, leadership and perseverance.

We would like to express our support for H.R. 3144, which would keep the current river plan in place while the federal agencies move through the NEPA process and prepare a new plan for the court by 2021. The 2014 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion was the product of best available science, as well as significant cooperative effort by many federal agencies, four states, and sovereign Northwest tribes. The 2014 BiOp had historic support in our region, was deemed scientifically sound by the previous administration, and helped produce record fish runs.

As you are well aware, the Port of Whitman County Commission has fought long and hard for many years to preserve the Columbia-Snake River System. Many of our local constituents rely on the river to transport their wheat and other farm commodities to market. Thank you for throwing a spotlight on all the good work that has occurred regionally and in Washington, DC, and for your unfailing support for the ongoing efforts to preserve a multi-use river system for the benefit of Washington State and our nation.

PORT OF WHITMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kammerzell", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Kammerzell, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristine A.K. Meyer", written over a horizontal line.

Kristine A.K. Meyer, Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Love", written over a horizontal line.

John E. Love, Secretary