

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1318 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Newhouse;

On behalf of the Washington PUD Association we greatly appreciate the support you have shown for hydropower and, more specifically, the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) with the recent introduction of – H.R. 3144. This bill supports the hydro system and the many benefits it brings to the region through renewable, reliable and affordable power.

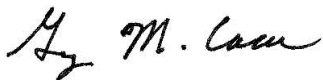
Despite the success of the current FCRPS Biological Opinion (BiOp), Judge Simon, U.S. Western District, Court of Oregon, rejected the plan and ruled all options need to be reviewed including breaching or removing one or more of the four Snake River dams.

Your bill provides relief to the endless litigation of federal hydro system operations by directing the federal agencies to implement the current BiOp as adopted in 2014. The current BiOp is based on the best available science, has been vetted by stakeholders and was formally approved by the Obama administration. Implementation of the BiOp has successfully increased salmon runs due to operational requirements within, and the installation of new fish passage technologies.

The Bonneville Power Administration has spent over \$15 billion on infrastructure and fish mitigation projects since 1978. These improvements and mitigation measures are paid for by our customers through their electric bills. Their bills are already higher by at least 15 percent for fish mitigation programs. The “spill test” ordered by the judge will be an additional cost that will result in higher electric bills for Northwest families and businesses and likely to be more detrimental to the fish runs than helpful. Your legislation will bring an end to the wasteful activities.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue with the introduction of H.R. 3144 and urge other legislators to follow your lead.

Sincerely,



George Caan, Executive Director