

JEFF MERKLEY  
OREGON

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3705

**RECEIVED**

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March 13, 2009

Mr. Elmer Ward  
Chairman  
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority  
851 Southwest 6th Avenue, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97204-1310

Dear Mr. Ward,

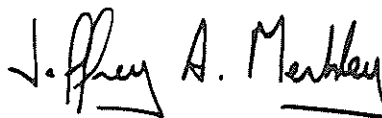
Thank you for contacting my office about environmental issues. I appreciate your willingness to share your concerns about how to make our nation a better place.

As our state's newest Senator, I am deeply humbled by the trust Oregonians have placed in me. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to address the many challenges facing our country. As I begin my work in Washington D.C., it is vitally important to me that I hear what is most important to the people of Oregon.

My new office is in the process of setting up our mail system, and I look forward to responding to the concerns you raised just as soon as I can. I review my mail daily and consider your issues to be of utmost importance.

Thank you again for contacting me. It is a tremendous honor to represent you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate

JAM/kf