

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
GOVERNOR



July 5, 2005

Senator Gordon Smith
Oregon Congressional Delegation
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

I am writing on a matter of extreme importance and to ask your assistance in removing a provision that was recently placed on the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for FY 2006. The provision in question would prohibit the Bonneville Power Administration from funding the Fish Passage Center in FY 2006. The bill, having passed in the Senate, is now headed to conference committee. I respectfully request your assistance in persuading the conference committee to remove the prohibition.

The plain truth about the prohibition is that it targets the Center because the Center has, to some, become a symbol of the ongoing conflict in our region over management of the Federal Columbia River Power System relative to recovery of fish listed under the Endangered Species Act. Some view the data collection and analysis functions of the Center as a pivot point in that conflict and the ongoing litigation it has generated. Without directly stating so, the amendment reflects the passion and anger that the conflict generates on all sides and how that anger can lead to misguided policies and positions and worse, retribution.

Governor Kulongoski directly intervened in the FCRPS litigation precisely because he wants the litigation to end, the conflicts resolved, the anger extinguished and for all the parties to work together. As an intervenor, he seeks a position of influence to achieve a long-term settlement. Since intervening, we have worked with the states of Montana, Idaho and Washington as well as the four federal agencies who manage the Columbia River system. We have developed a common vision and a framework that has potential to bring resolution to much of the conflict. While much still needs to be done in this area, I want to emphasize to you that the four governors are solidly committed to continuing this collaboration.

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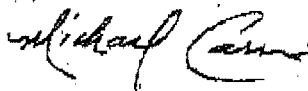
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Fulfillment of the vision the Governor, our neighboring governors and the federal agencies have achieved is dependent on the work that the Fish Passage Center provides. Balancing the many uses of the Columbia with a firm commitment to recovery of listed species requires that we establish and meet performance standards related to fish survival. The ability to determine the success of our efforts under the expected agreement cannot be implemented without the Fish Passage Center and the key role it plays.

Please support Governor Kulongoski in his efforts to bring certainty, cooperation and prosperity to our region's economy and natural resources by ensuring that the necessary tools needed to accomplish this goal are at our disposal. In that regard, the Fish Passage Center is an important tool that we cannot do without.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael Carrier
Governor's Natural Resource Policy Director

MC:kbb

Cc: Melinda Eden, NW Power and Conservation Council
Joan Dukas, NW Power and Conservation Council
Lindsay Ball, Director, Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Peter Cogswell, Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff