

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2005

Mr. Steven J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Street
Portland, OR 97232

Ms. Melinda Eden, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1020
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mr. Wright and Ms. Eden:

As the Bonneville Power Administration and Northwest Power and Conservation Council move forward with efforts to implement FY06 Energy and Water appropriations report language pertaining to the Fish Passage Center (FPC), we would like to share with you our views on this important matter. In a letter sent to Energy and Water appropriations conferees on July 20, 2005, many of us expressed our concerns with the FPC report language and asked that conferees oppose its inclusion in the final conference report. Now that the report language has been adopted, we urge you to proceed with its implementation in a manner that protects state and tribal fishery managers' access to credible, independent science – and that allows our region to work toward meaningful salmon recovery.

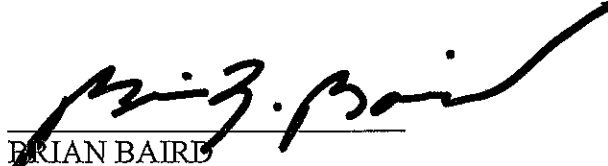
As you know, the FPC was established to provide technical assistance and information to fish and wildlife agencies and tribes in particular, and to the public in general, on matters related to juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead passage through the mainstem Columbia River hydrosystem. The FPC's technical assistance and data analysis has made it possible for the Northwest states and tribes to participate in salmon recovery planning alongside their federal fishery co-managers.

We feel strongly that any successor to the FPC must continue to meet the salmon data needs of the states and tribes so that they may remain fully engaged in the region's on-going salmon recovery efforts. It is clear that any loss of the FPC's functions could impair regional collaboration. Such a result would be enormously detrimental to the region's shared goal of salmon recovery.


We hope you will ensure that the FPC's functions are transferred according to four key principles: that the FPC's functions be transferred to a single, independent entity; that our region's states and tribes have a direct and clear role in the implementation and oversight of this new entity; that the new entity's work is responsive to the scientific needs of state and tribal fishery managers; and that the data and analyses generated by this new entity be readily available to the public at no cost.

We look forward to working with you as you move forward with transferring the functions of the FPC to a new entity, and request that you keep us informed as to your progress.


Sincerely,



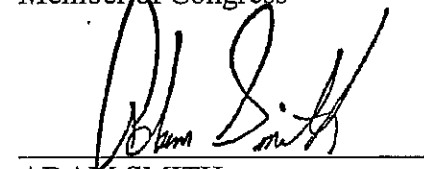
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