

Mount Vernon, Wash.  
October 23, 1963.

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

**Senator Jackson:**

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed Avon by-pass for the Skagit River. It was stated in the local newspaper of recent date that the Corps of Engineers feels the cost of this project will be offset by its benefits. I sincerely hope you are not in agreement.

For most of the year, the Skagit River hasn't sufficient flow to keep enough water in the by-pass to maintain the depth required for all the things these engineers claim for it. As for floods, if the wrong things had not been done years ago (for political reasons) at the mouth of the North Fork, we would not have the silting condition we now have. I am sure that a true, unbiased study of the mouth of the river would prove the feasibility and economy of dredging the mouth to relieve the flood danger.

I am also against making the River into a bargeway for the cement plant at Concrete. Why should we spend millions to benefit an out-of-state corporation that cares nothing for the people of this area? Not to mention the ruination of one of the state's most picturesque and famous river. What will happen to our fisheries?

This Avon by-pass smacks of a typical pork-barrel, patronage, buy-vote deal that is becoming the trade mark of our times. Believe me, people are in rebellion against big-government do-goodism. Our neighbors of both political persuasions are of the same mind.

I am writing this same letter to Senator Magnuson and Representative Westland. However, I belong to no organization that is either for or against the proposals. It is an individual effort.

Sincerely,

*Bob Lanning*

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