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Legislator backs upriver dredging

State Senator Fred J. Martin today disclosed he has written a letter supporting the dredging of the Skagit River as far east as Concrete to permit the stream's use by shallow draft vessels and barges.

The legislator sent the letter to United States Senator Henry M. Jackson at Washington, D.C. Martin noted to Jackson that the junior U.S. Senator from Washington had already received a proposal to dredge the Skagit.

IN HIS letter, Sen. Martin listed five reasons for his support of the dredging proposal. They are as follows:

1. Dredging will "substantially lower the cost of transporting cement from the plant at Concrete to market and enable it to better compete with other plants more centrally located and will perhaps insure that the Lone Star Cement Plant at Concrete can operate full time, which it is unable to do at the present time because of the handicap of high freight rates."

2. Dredging will "make feasible and profitable the transportation of lime rock from the large deposits in the Upper Skagit Valley to various other cement plants in the state."

3. "It will make profitable the mining and transportation of marble, silica, talc, olivine and other non-metallic ores of which there are large deposits in the Upper Skagit Valley."

4. "It will lower the cost of transporting alder, cottonwood, maple and other pulpwood varieties from the Upper Skagit Valley to markets."

5. "The dredging of the Skagit River channel would have immense value for flood control as it would greatly reduce stream-bank erosion above Sedro-Woolley and thereby substantially reduce siltation of the river bed from Sedro-Woolley to its mouth."