



July 31, 2006

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Oberstar
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable John Duncan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
B-376 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources
And Environment
B-375 Rayburn HOB
Washington DC, 20515

RE: H.R. 2864 (Authority For USACE to Operate Two Dams In Skagit County)

Dear Representatives:

Recently you received a letter from Congressman Rick Larsen regarding inclusion of language in H.R. 2864 that would allow the Seattle District Corps of Engineers to operate two dams for flood control purposes (Upper and Lower Baker Dams). I write to you in support of his proposal.

Attached are two pictures that show Skagit County's request for flood control storage. During the October 2003 flood events this additional storage was available and was used to save Skagit County from an economic and life threatening disaster. We experienced over a 100 year flood event on the Sauk River, a main uncontrolled tributary to the Skagit River. Without the storage behind Upper Baker and Lower Baker dams the lower valley would have experienced a flood event, according to Corps of Engineer estimates, of 202,000 cfs, an amount far in excess of the capacity of the current lower levee system. The damages that would have been incurred by that much water would have been in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

I have been involved with the Skagit River flood issue for 30 years and storage behind existing dams is what I refer to as the "no-brainer" solution to flood control. As the attached pictures clearly indicate, the environmental impact would be minuscule, while the monetary impact of controlling flood events is enormous. Please, approve Representative Larson's request as the additional storage will not only protect lives and property in Skagit County but will in the long run, save the American taxpayer hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster relief.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Kunzler
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