



*from the office of*

**SENATOR BILL HANSELL**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Sen. Hansell named Chair of CSG West Committee on River Governance**

SALEM, Ore. – Veteran lawmaker Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena) was recently named the Chair of the Council of State Governments West’s (CSG West) Legislative Committee on River Governance.

Sen. Hansell has sat on the River Governance Committee since entering the Senate in 2013. Hansell’s district contains three major ports on the Columbia River and contains more river miles than almost all Senate districts in the state. The Port of Morrow, which is located within Senate District 29, is Oregon’s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest port.

“I look forward to serving Oregon in this new capacity,” said Senator Hansell. “Our rivers and ports are major sources of jobs and economic development in rural Oregon. I will be working hard to plan the 2021 committee meeting at the Port of Morrow where we will welcome members of other state legislatures to learn about the unique river issues facing Oregonians.”

Senator Hansell took over the committee chairmanship from Idaho’s Senate Democratic Leader Michelle Stennett at the annual committee meeting in Lewiston, Idaho on August 22-24. The committee chairmanship rotates annually between the four states that share the Columbia River Basin.

The committee discussed Congressman Simpson’s (ID-2) recent proposal to breach lower Snake River dams which would have a detrimental impact on the Pacific Northwest’s wheat export industry.

During the annual meeting, Sen. Hansell and other committee members took a jet boat tour of three ports that rely on the Snake River for transportation – the Ports of Lewiston, Clarkson, and Whitman County. If the Snake River dams were breached, barge traffic would turn into truck traffic, which is much more carbon-intensive.

“The Columbia River is the lifeblood for so much of what happens in my district,” Hansell continued. “It keeps our agriculture economy globally competitive. From fish, transportation, recreation, irrigation, power, and the economy, the River is critical to all of us. I am pleased to be involved in the leadership of this committee.”

**Background on CSG’s West Legislative Committee on River Governance:**

The Council of State Governments West’s Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) is a cooperative, bipartisan association of state legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

The mission of the LCRG is to unite the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington behind a proactive, nonpartisan agenda of legislative action and communication aimed at protecting natural resources, preserving state authority and enhancing river governance in the Columbia and Snake River Basins. The LCRG will prioritize issues in which citizens of member states have a compelling interest, over which member states can legally exert state authority, and on which multi-state action is likely to be more effective than action by any individual state.

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