



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 56

February 14, 2021

TO: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

RE: Opposition to Transfer of Klamath River Hydropower Dams and Their Destruction

Before the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission are two dockets. The first (P-14803-001) allows the transfer of four hydropower dams along the Klamath River from PacifiCorp to a newly formed company, Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC). The second (P-2082-063) grants authority to KRRC to remove the four hydropower dams. This transfer is being done so PacifiCorp can avoid any major liability for the removal of these perfectly good-functioning hydropower dams along the Klamath River.

Klamath River dam removal must not be seen as an isolated issue. If successful, Klamath River dam removal will be used as the template to begin removing other hydropower dams across the West. This process has already begun with talks to remove dams along the Snake River. My question to you is simple. Is this what the Biden administration wants to be known for: tearing down effective, affordable, carbon-zero, power-generating infrastructure?

It is critical we understand that such action will further threaten the capacity of the electric grid in the West. Just this past year California ran into this reality by experiencing brown and black outs because there was not enough base-load power to meet demand. As western coal factories come offline, it is imperative to keep our inventory of base-load hydropower dams.

My reasons for opposing dam removal are straightforward:

- ✦ Hydropower is the most **affordable, carbon-friendly and reliable source of electricity** in the West. Modern agriculture, manufacturing and urban life can only thrive in areas where consistent, certain and affordable electric power is available.
- ✦ Removing the dams along the Klamath River will mean **more water will be required to flow downstream** to maintain river temperatures and levels in order to comply with the myriad of state and federal agency regulations. This means **less water for threatened species in Upper Klamath Lake as well as irrigation water for agricultural needs.**

- ✦ Removing the Klamath River dams will cause an untold **ecological damage to the river's fish and other aquatic species** for the foreseeable future due to decades of toxic silt built-up behind each dam. Even PacifiCorp understands this risk. That is why they are pursuing this transfer of hydropower dam ownership to KRRC, so they can avoid the landslide of impending lawsuits **caused by the ecological disaster of dam removal** from the flushing of these toxins down river.
- ✦ Without dams, **controlling flooding is nearly impossible**, and access to nearby reservoirs of water **to fight wild fires** will be lost.
- ✦ **Local elections** in Siskiyou County, California (2014) and in Klamath County, Oregon (2016) — show that **75% of the people directly effected by dam removal oppose this action**. Dam removal is being forced upon the local communities who rely on these dams **by outsiders that have no vested interest in the community** (economic or social) — only that of political achievement and virtue signaling.

I stand with the people of southern Oregon and northern California in firm opposition to dam removal. Dam removal is terrible policy as it eliminates affordable, consistent, carbon-zero base-load power and sets the wrong precedent for the rest of the nation. We can do better. I implore you to reject dockets P-14803-001 and P-2082-063.

Best regards,



E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative
Southern Klamath & Lake Counties