

September 4, 2018

The Honorable Derek Kilmer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
950 Pacific Ave  
Suite 1230  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Congressman Kilmer,

Thank you for meeting with our group after the Rotary meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate you taking the time. We also appreciate that you are in a difficult position regarding “who to believe” regarding dam breaching. It is our belief that you have compassion surrounding this issue and that you will do your due diligence on the matter.

Several Rotarians wrote to me after our meeting and here are their unedited comments as cut and pasted from their emails:

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*“After thinking about the meeting this morning, it seems to me:*

***There HAS to be an absolute determination that the Corps of Army Engineers has both the authority -- & the responsibility – to cause dam breaches, or it simply won't happen in the near future, if ever.***

***Derek should be asked to take the lead to make this determination -- & if it is determined that have the Corps has the hammer to do this -- then Derek should then call in all of the political capital he has in Wash. State & elsewhere to assure the Corps that they have significant backing for such a decision.***

*p.s. it is one thing to have the “authority”, which is huge in itself – but to convey to the Corps that they have the responsibility based on such things as BAS (best available science, cost benefit to their budgets, relationship to Bonneville, etc.) –may take real leadership/.clout and this may test Derek's resolve to “do the right thing” regardless of political debates, or tendency to defer this matter to endless rounds of further delays and involvement by various agencies, committees, etc. who don't have the “hammer” that we think the Corps may have. Of course, by that time, the ORCAs will be extinct, and the breaches may still be very important for other cost/benefit reasons, but the emotional/political advantage we may have now with the plight of the Orcas will be gone.”*

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*“Industrial negligence causes deaths of mothers and their unborn children; bodies washing up on shores in Washington State.*

*With a headline like this, I'd expect immediate, emergency action from my elected officials...and I'd be wrong. While my elected officials debate, accurate and conclusive studies have already suggested dam breaching is the most cost effective and immediate answer to saving indigenous salmon populations that feed our Southern Resident Orcas.*

*My tax dollars were used 20 years ago to examine the science and facts surrounding the protection of these native species and the conclusion was clear—inactive and deteriorating dams are the problem. Why aren't you listening? As my elected representative on this issue, I expect you to act immediately! Use the information my tax dollars have paid for!*

*I want you to take the following immediate action to save the five remaining Orcas capable of restoring our native population:*

*Request the Army Corps of Engineers Commander to enforce the Environmental Protection and Endangered Species Act with a Record of Decision to breach the LSRDs according to the following timeline:*

**September**

*Place the 4 LSRDs into non-operational status, prepare supplemental EIS materials, and Record of Decision*

**October**

*Prepare/solicit/award Cost-Type Contract for Excavation*

**December**

*Lower Granite draw-down begins*

**January**

*Controlled hydraulic breach of Lower Granite; Little Goose draw down begins*

**March**

*Lower Granite & Little Goose breached*

*Processes, procedures and policies look good on paper, but fall short in a state of emergency. State and Federal intervention and support measures are available in the case of an industrial accident that takes the lives of citizens living in the vicinity of where an agency conducts business. Let's use those measures NOW to save the lives of these Washington State residents who don't have a vote...and remember, I do."*

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We know that your plate is full with many critical and important issues, but this particular issue that means life or death for a species that has populated our waters for millions of years. If we lose our Chinook and our Orcas, what does this mean for our future and that of our children? It begs the question, what can each of us do to solve the problem?

We respectfully request that you explore this matter further. Someone must take the lead on a solution. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,



Juanita Carbaugh

cc: Dick Vanberg  
Marti Anderson  
Peter Stanley  
Randy Spitzer  
Annmarie E. Huppert  
David Morris  
Howard Mackert  
Cory Coryell  
Hal Hodgins  
Susan Jensen  
Al Abbot