

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
Chairwoman
Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee

The Honorable David Rouzer
Ranking Member
Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Chairwoman Napolitano, Ranking Member Graves, Ranking Member Rouzer,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. As you may know, federal forest management continues to be a challenge for local communities, States, and Tribes, but there are bright spots like the Good Neighbor Authority. Already in law, the Good Neighbor Authority allows States to partner with stakeholders to ensure sound forest management. I am excited that we have the opportunity now to extend this authority, in a pilot program, to the Army Corps of Engineers for the Walla Walla District to partner with the State of Idaho to help manage timber around the Dworshak Project in Orofino, Idaho. This commonsense arrangement will ensure that the Army Corps can stay focused on the Dworshak Project and highlight a partnership with the State of Idaho that benefits the community and our federal partners.

In addition to this new opportunity for the Army Corps, I am committed to ensuring that the Lower Four Snake River Dams (LSRD) continue their vital mission to provide reliable, clean, and renewable energy to the people of the Northwest. As you may know, last summer, there was peak power demand in the Northwest, and without the LSRD, the situation may have been made worse. Your support of the navigation and power requirements of these dams are vital to the future of power generation in the Northwest.

Given the mission of the dams, I also support efforts to maintain proper dredging for turning basins and access channels, a key priority for the Snake River managed by the Army Corps. Maintenance of the Snake River between Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Washington is critical to support safe and efficient navigation. The Snake River is a vital pass-through for wheat exports, especially as global instability continues to destabilize food networks across the World.

Finally, as our Nation continues to face unprecedented challenges, I am thankful for the bipartisan efforts to ensure that the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 builds on what makes our country strong and recognizes the continued need to maintain the natural resources bestowed upon us.

Sincerely,

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress
1st Congressional District of Idaho