

July 5, 2011

RE: Nomination of Rebecca Wodder to Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Dear Senators:

As you know, the Federal Columbia River Power System is integral to the economic health of the Pacific Northwest. This hydroelectric system, which includes the Lower Snake River dams, provides us with clean, renewable and sustainable hydropower that provides about 60 percent of our electric generating capacity while keeping our carbon footprint at half that of the rest of the country. It also helps integrate new renewable resources, irrigates our farmland, and provides a river highway that supports jobs and transports goods that fuel the Pacific Northwest's economy.

As representatives of farmers, utilities, ports and navigation, food and forest products, and other businesses in the Northwest, we see daily how all thirteen million residents of the region benefit from a balanced approach to use of this river system. We are writing to strongly oppose the nomination of Rebecca Wodder to Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the Department of Interior because of her clear record of misunderstanding of the Columbia River System and her direct attacks against this system so vital to the Northwest. Since 1995, Ms. Wodder has served as President of American Rivers. During her tenure, she led efforts to remove the Lower Snake River dams and oppose the Obama Administration's Biological Opinion for salmon recovery in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. As reported in the New York Times on June 9, 2011, Ms. Wodder personally objects to this plan for operation of the river system so meticulously crafted by dozens of parties in the region.

In the position of Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Ms. Wodder would have great influence over the positions taken by the Department of Interior with respect to the Federal effort to recover listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Given Ms. Wodder's long tenure at an organization that has opposed collaborative efforts to develop a Biological Opinion to aid salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake Rivers and her strong bias for dam removal, we question her objectivity on these issues and her suitability for the position.

Technological improvements and significant changes in operations at federal dams in the Columbia and Snake Rivers have positively impacted the survival of salmon and steelhead, resulting in adult returns that are some of the highest seen in decades. This work will continue under the Obama Administration's 2010 Supplemental Biological Opinion for the hydroelectric system. This plan, which is the product of an unprecedented collaborative effort by the states of Montana, Idaho and Washington, Northwest Tribes, and Federal agencies, puts into place a comprehensive, science-based path for the next 10 years. American Rivers and Ms. Wodder have consistently opposed this Biological Opinion.

Accordingly, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Ms. Wodder for Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Sincerely,



Terry Flores, Executive Director
Northwest River Partners



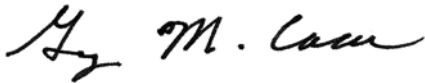
Scott Corwin, Executive Director
Public Power Council



Will Lutgen, Executive Director
Northwest Public Power Association



Glenn Vanselow, Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association



George Caan, Executive Director
Washington PUD Association



John Prescott, Executive Director
Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative



John Stuhlmiller, Director of Government Relations
Washington Farm Bureau



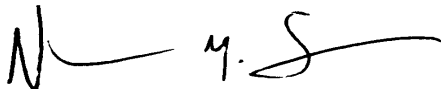
Kent Lopez, General Manager
Washington Rural Electric Cooperative
Association



Bill Drummond, Manager
Western Montana Electric Generating and
Transmission Cooperative



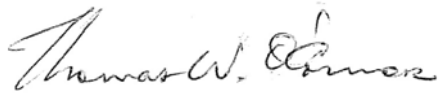
John Saven, Executive Director
Northwest Requirements Utilities



Norm Semanko, Exec. Dir. and General Counsel
Idaho Water Users Association, Incorporated.



William Hart, Executive Director
Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association



Tom O'Connor, Executive Director
Oregon Municipal Electrical Utilities Association



Paulette Pyle, Grassroots Director
Oregonians for Food and Shelter



Ted Case, Executive Director
Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Craig Smith, Vice President
NW Food Processors Association



Blake Rowe, CEO
Oregon Wheat Growers League



Llewellyn Matthews, Executive Director
Northwest Pulp & Paper Association



Ray Wilkeson, President
Oregon Forest Industries Council