

# WPUDA supports protecting our clean energy future by preserving the Northwest's valuable hydropower resources.



*WPUDA supports House Resolution 3144 which provides for the continued environmentally responsible operations of the federal hydropower system for the benefit of the people of Washington.*

**House Resolution 3144 ensures the best available science remains in place to protect salmon and maintain the value of our clean hydropower resources.**

Hydroelectric dams provide more than 60-percent of the Northwest's energy. The Federal dams, including the Snake River Dams, are a vital part of our clean, renewable energy portfolio and a critical component of the Northwest's economic prosperity. Despite the success of the current Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion (BiOp), a U.S. Western District Court Judge rejected the plan and ruled all options need to be reviewed including breaching or removing one or more of the Snake River dams. The Snake River Dams provide up to 2,000 megawatts of sustained, peaking capabilities in addition to 1000 average megawatts of clean, renewable baseload energy to the region and provide a low cost, flexible generating resource to balance intermittent renewables such as wind and solar.

HR 3144 provides relief to the endless litigation of federal hydropower system operations by directing the federal agencies to implement the current BiOp as adopted in 2014. The current BiOp is based on the best available science, has been vetted by stakeholders and was formally approved by the Obama Administration.

## **WPUDA urges support of HR 3144 to preserve the value of the Federal hydropower system**

- The Bonneville Power Administration has spent over \$16 billion on infrastructure and fish mitigation projects since 1978.
- These improvements and mitigation measures are paid for by PUD customers through their electric bills.
- PUD customer bills are already higher by at least 15% for fish mitigation programs.
- The "spill test" ordered by the judge will be an additional cost that will result in higher electric bills for Northwest families and businesses and is likely to be more detrimental to the fish runs than helpful.

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