

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

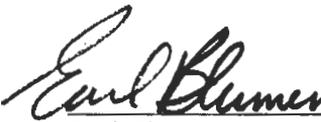
Dear Mr. President:

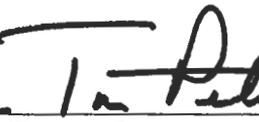
Restoring salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake River Basin is of national importance and a high priority. We recognize the crucial significance of preserving the economic and environmental benefits that these species provide. The salmon and steelhead industry account for more than 36,000 fishing jobs from California to Alaska and inland to Idaho and bring more than \$3 billion into rural Western economies annually.

The Federal Action Agencies were given the opportunity to draft a new Biological Opinion that protects salmon without harming ratepayers in the Northwest. Instead, the new draft Biological Opinion, released September 9, 2004 by NOAA Fisheries, does not ensure self-sustaining, harvestable populations, by relying on legal technicalities to justify not having to fully mitigate for the operation of the hydropower system. Consequently, this draft, if enacted, could place an even greater liability on thousands of West Coast fishermen, and millions of federal taxpayers. We have already spent more than a decade and over \$4.5 billion on salmon recovery in the Columbia and Snake River Basin. The new draft would cost \$600 million a year just to keep salmon on the brink of extinction instead of headed for improved survival rates and recovery.

Rather than settle for a Biological Opinion that redefines the problem instead of fixes it, we urge you to direct federal agencies to revise this draft to ensure significant recovery of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake River Basin. A new Biological Opinion must also recognize the Federal Government's numerous legal and tribal treaty obligations to recover salmon and take adequate action to leave the river and fish in better shape than before. This plan must be biologically, legally, and fiscally defensible. We recognize the need to protect ratepayers and the economy of the Northwest, and urge that all scientifically and economically credible options that meet these goals be considered in the plan. As it is now, we risk our past and future investments in one of the nation's greatest national treasures, the wild salmon and steelhead of the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,

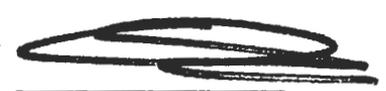

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

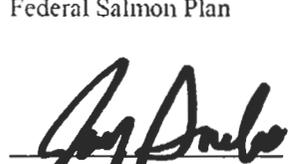

Thomas Petri
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Christopher Shays
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


David Wu
Member of Congress

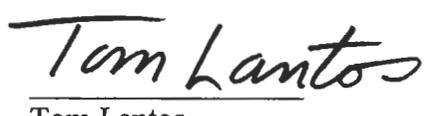

Jay Inslee
Member of Congress


Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress

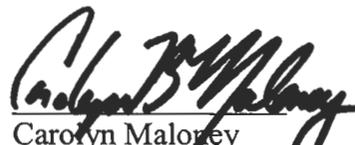

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

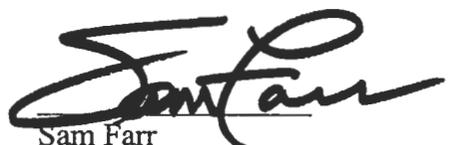

Howard Berman
Member of Congress

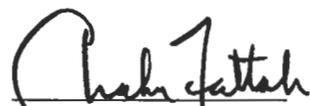

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Tom Lantos
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

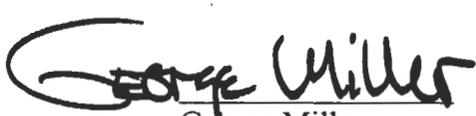

Robert Andrews
Member of Congress


Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

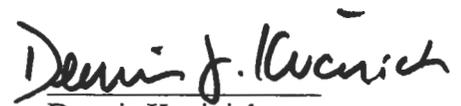

John Olver
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress


Henry Waxman
Member of Congress


Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress


Sander Levin
Member of Congress

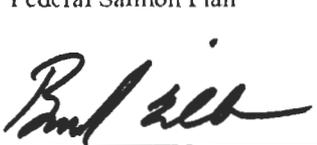

Richard Neal
Member of Congress


Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress


James Moran
Member of Congress

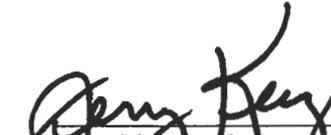

Ed Case
Member of Congress


Dale Kildee
Member of Congress


Brad Miller
Member of Congress

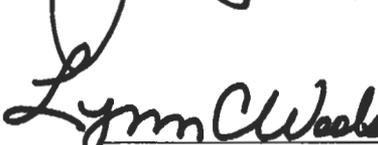

William Lipinski
Member of Congress


Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress


Gerald Kleczka
Member of Congress


Danny Davis
Member of Congress


Major B. Owens
Member of Congress

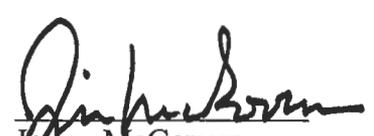

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress


Bob Filner
Member of Congress

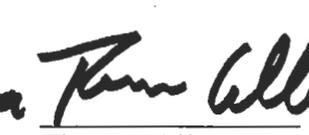

Pete Stark
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress


James McGovern
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Thomas Allen
Member of Congress


Robert Menendez
Member of Congress

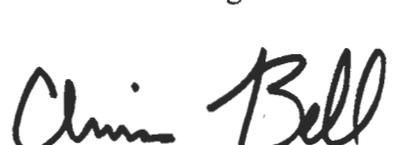

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress


Donald Payne
Member of Congress


Timothy Bishop
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Lane Evans
Member of Congress

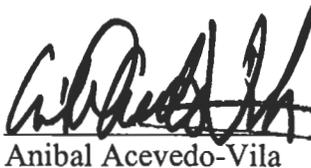

Chris Bell
Member of Congress

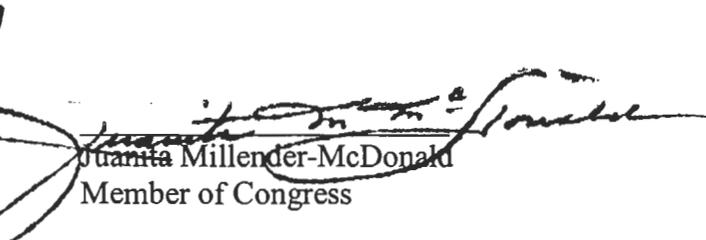

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

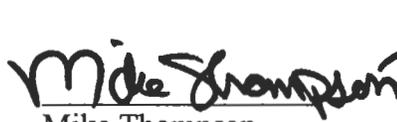

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress


Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Member of Congress


Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

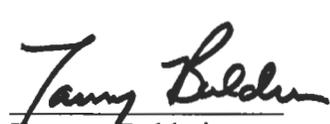

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

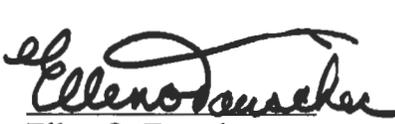

Grace J. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Joseph Hoeffel
Member of Congress


Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress


William Delahunt
Member of Congress

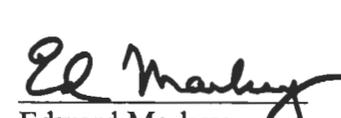

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress


Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress


Susan Davis
Member of Congress

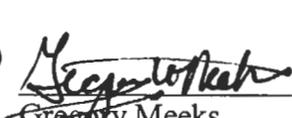

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

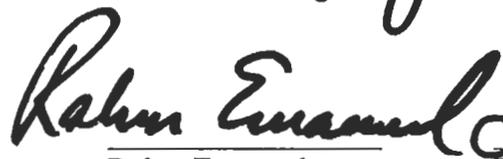

John Lewis
Member of Congress


Edward Markey
Member of Congress

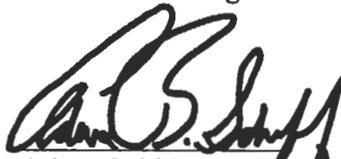

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

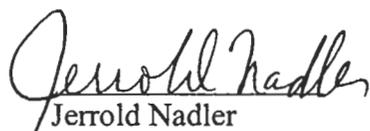

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress


Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress


Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress

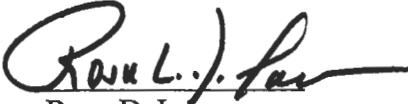

Lois Capps
Member of Congress


Adam Schiff
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


James Leach
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

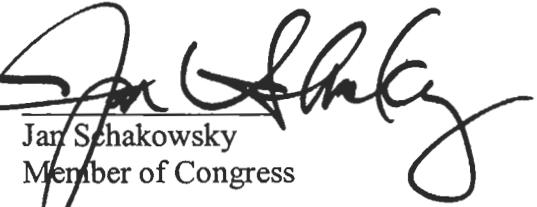

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

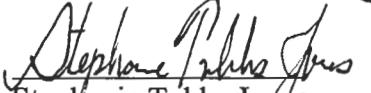

Jane Harman
Member of Congress


Michael McNulty
Member of Congress


Julia Carson
Member of Congress


John Larson
Member of Congress


Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress

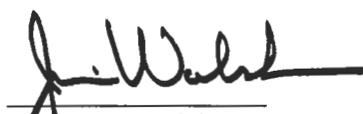

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress


Timothy Johnson
Member of Congress


Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress


Nick Lampson
Member of Congress


John Dingell
Member of Congress

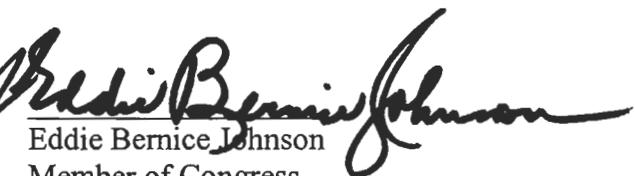

James T. Walsh
Member of Congress

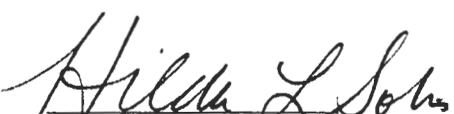

Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress


Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress


Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress


Nita Lowey
Member of Congress


John F. Tierney
Member of Congress


Robert Matsui
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress


Wayne Gilchrest
Member of Congress