

Emerald Farms

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Date: May 5, 2013

To: Whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the new Columbia River Treaty which would increase costs to the BPA Hydro System and ultimately to the end users. Any increase to farmers, especially the small family farmers such as us, is not acceptable with the rise in daily expenses and the taxes on businesses increasing rapidly. Plus the economy is trying to recover, and this would negatively impact all aspects of the economy.

Farmers have been footing the fish recovery for years and absorbing the billions of dollars spent due to litigation and no sound science, along with having to withstand the high costs of fuel, fertilizer, parts, labor, taxes, compliance to more regulations and general increase in expenses.

The increased costs make the off shore crops more affordable, and they do not have the quality control needed to grow safe crops to feed our county, due to the types of pesticides and pollutants. Our country should be self-sufficient and not be relying on other counties to feed us! In a disaster, this would make our country very vulnerable!

Just passing the increased expense onto the water uses, farmer and cities is not possible at this time. If the government wants a strong vibrant economy to pay taxes, then they need to stop increasing expenses on nonsensical things, such as throwing more money at fish recovery. After 20 years and billions of dollars spent the government cannot tell us how many fish they save annually. There is still heavy consumption from predators, nets across the Columbia which take fish indiscriminately and off shore fishing. Yet we have had records runs recently as a result of 100 yr cycles and small improvements.

There is NO justification of the money spent on fish. The cost, the expense and the negotiations to give more money to the nations is not justified, but instead it is abhorrent that any particular group would hold honest hard working small farmers as their pawns, is beyond belief.

Yes, many years ago we were not nice to the Indians, but we live in a society that believes in forgiveness and paying our debts. We have paid our debts many times over. In fact we have paid so many times, that it seems the thing to do. How much money has been given to them already.....and what have they done with it? Has all of it gone to restore the salmon runs? I would guess the answer to be NO. If so, then why should we give them more? Are the fishing practices the same as they were hundreds of years ago? No. They sell fish for cash on the shore and throw the non-cash fish killed in the nets back into the river.

Exactly what will the nations do with the money, to make the world better for mankind?
Humans, especially the small family farmers, need the money more than the fish. We need the money to pay our bills and grow quality, safe food for our country.

What have the tax payers received from the 1 billion dollars spent annually? Show me a significant results that state the cost of saving each salmon, how the farmers and taxpayer's money is spent to help the economy grow and how spending more will save the small family farms and not put them out of business. (Money for the government agencies for compliance should not count.) Then we can talk.