

# Bruce Turcott

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am a 35-year resident of Thurston County and native Washingtonian. I value our natural environment and have advocated for and supported conservation for decades.

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. I am unalterably opposed to new dams on free flowing rivers.

Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk.

I find it difficult to believe that Ecology is proposing a new dam in the year 2026. More effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Turcott