

## Pamela Stein

Dear Department of Ecology,

Thank you for accepting public comment on this important issue, a draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed dam on the Chehalis River. I submit this comment in deep opposition of this proposed dam and to the harm it will impose on our communities, our fish runs, and our state budget.

I appreciate that the Washington Department of Ecology has taken an in-depth exploration into the many negative environmental impacts that construction and operation of this proposed dam will cause up and down the Chehalis River Basin.

There are five impacts that the DEIS notes cannot be mitigated:

The proposed dam would cause irreparable harm to our fish runs, especially the increasingly scarce Spring Chinook run, as well as Fall Chinook, and steelhead.

The dam would significantly degrade water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation both above and below the proposed site area.

The DEIS clearly lays out the reality that this is a dam (despite attempts to characterize it otherwise), that will have catastrophic impacts similar to those that have caused so much damage to rivers, fish, and communities through our state and our nation. Around our state and around the country, we are removing dams for these reasons.

The proposed dam would cause irreplaceable harm to our water supply, since dam construction will require an immense water expenditure and river dewatering during construction, as well as impacting water rights holders downstream.

The proposed dam would cause irreplaceable harms to tribal cultural, fish, and livelihood interests above and below the site, including all the way down to Grays Harbor.

Simply put, this dam is a disaster in the making. We can do better. Thank you for your consideration.