

David Tarico

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to share my serious concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. I am particularly troubled by the projected ecological impacts outlined in the DEIS, especially the significant and irreversible harm to salmon and steelhead populations. The anticipated losses to Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead—in one of the basin's most critical spawning areas—should be considered unacceptable. Once these habitats are damaged, they cannot be meaningfully restored.

I am also deeply concerned about the scale and cost of this project, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. With estimated costs ranging from \$1.3 to \$2.3 billion, the dam appears to deliver limited flood-reduction benefits while imposing long-term ecological and community risks.

Flooding in the Chehalis Basin can be addressed through alternative measures that are both effective and far less damaging. Approaches such as the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative offer meaningful flood reduction without sacrificing the river's ecological health. I strongly urge Ecology to prioritize and pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
David