

William Atlas

Hello, I am writing you to voice my strong opposition to the construction of a flood control dam on the Chehalis River. This project would be an ecological and economic disaster for the state of Washington, and would set back efforts to undo the harms of similar large dams across Washington State. As a native Washingtonian and long-time resident of the region, I am appalled that our state is even considering a large dam on the Chehalis River as an option for managing flood risk in the 21st century. We have over a century of evidence telling us that when we build major dams, salmon and other wildlife species are never able to recover to their former levels of abundance and diversity.

If built this dam will cost Washington taxpayers over \$2 billion dollars, producing an astronomical financial debt to our already fiscally stressed state. A fraction of this amount could buy out hundreds if not thousands of landowners in high-flood risk areas, and support floodplain and riparian restoration that offer the only viable long-term solution for mitigating flood risk in the Chehalis.

In summary this project would be an economic and ecological calamity for Washington State. Please say no to a flood control dam in the Chehalis basin and work with local landowners to identify other solutions that don't require permanently sacrificing the upper Chehalis watershed as salmon and steelhead habitat.