

Susan OConnor

Dear Department of Ecology:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. I am writing to oppose the flow-through dam option due to the environmental damage that would occur and its effect on fish, loss of old growth forest, and impact on tribal resources and culture.

I question a proposal that could cost more than \$2 billion dollars and take years to build at a time that our Governor and State Legislators are struggling to deal with a budget shortfall. I also question a plan to build a dam, when we are spending other state dollars to take down dams in order to restore waterways and the health of spring and fall Chinook. Tribes are saying that the Chinook can't take another blow.

It seems like the dam might have become a proposed option because short-sighted commercial development was allowed in the flood plain. Through my environmental efforts over the past 15 years, I know that we need to build climate resilience across our country. However, in this case I believe there are ways to make the Chehalis Basin resilient with non-dam alternatives like changing forest practices so there is less runoff, stopping commercial building in the flood plain, and buying out or re-locating at-risk properties.

I urge you to identify non-dam alternatives to this concern about flooding.

Susan O'Connor