

## Randi Anonymous

As a life long resident of Washington State, I have witnessed the stance our State has taken in expressing respect for the tribes of this region. We hear land acknowledgments from all business, organizations and groups. Our community has a deep respect for the tribes local to our area. Local media consistently highlights the respect Washington claims to have for the tribes that have lived here long before the state existed. Our state also prides itself on prioritizing environmental protection and sustainability.

A decision to place a damn would not only harm local tribes and infringe on their rights, but it would also negatively impact wildlife. Numerous studies in recent years have shown that building dams is harmful to many animal species- most notably salmon, whales and seals.

I understand that the goal of this dam is to reduce and control flooding in order to protect homes and businesses. While I can sympathize with that concern, homeowners and business owners were fully aware they were purchasing within a floodplain. This land has functioned as a floodplain for thousands of years, and it will continue to do so long after we are gone. I do not believe that human intervention is the solution.

As stated above, the State of Washington consistently emphasizes the importance of reducing human impact on the environment and respecting local tribes and their sacred lands. This dam does not reflect those values. We can say that we respect the tribes. We can say that we respect the fish and environment, but actions speak louder than words. The state's decision regarding this dam will reveal to our community its true values and priorities. Whether or not those align with what is publicly stated by our governor, state officials and media remains to be seen.