

Joseph Butera

Feel free to adapt our sample letter below and submit your comments to the Washington Department of Ecology by copying and pasting into the portal link above. Say why you care in your own words. A brief personal connection makes your comment stronger. Share 1–2 key concerns. Focus on what matters most to you—fish, cost, safety, alternatives, etc. End with what you want Ecology to do. A clear request helps your comment be counted correctly.

Upper Chehalis River near proposed dam site. Photo by: Steelhead and Salmon Conservation Society.

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk.

More effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Joseph S. Butera