

Angela McPhee

Dear Department of Ecology,

I care deeply about the future of the Chehalis River and the communities and wildlife that depend on it. This river is a defining part of our region, and its health matters not only for today, but for future generations. That is why I am concerned about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River.

Based on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead. The upper Chehalis is one of the basin's most important spawning areas, and damage to these habitats would be permanent. I am also concerned about the dam's extreme cost—estimated at \$1.3–\$2.3 billion—and the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS, especially given the limited flood-reduction benefits the project would provide.

More effective and less damaging flood-risk solutions already exist. I urge the Department of Ecology to reject the proposed dam and instead pursue the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative and other approaches that protect both communities and the ecological health of the Chehalis River.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Angela McPhee