

Testimony of Friends of Bumping Lake

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, House of Representatives

Olympia, WA

January 22, 2013

On HB 1196

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, Friends of Bumping Lake is a membership organization that seeks to protect the existing ancient forests, critical endangered species habitat, and recreational opportunities of Bumping Lake within the Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest, southwest of Goose Prairie, WA. There are currently, 15 cabins surrounding the existing Bumping Lake, including 2 that have been recognized for Historical preservation. These cabins, a marina, a National Forest campsite that welcomes over 20,000 people each summer, and National Forest trails, along with the ancient forests and critical endangered species habitat would all be flooded by a new Bumping Lake dam.

HB 1196 would provide Legislative approval to proceed with the construction planning of new expensive controversial storage projects in the Yakima Basin. Friends of Bumping Lake supports the specific amended language submitted by the Sierra Club on HB 1196.

In particular, the Legislature should not endorse constructing the Bumping Lake project because:

The Legislature should not appropriate more funds on the Bumping Lake project because it is not the most cost-effective nor best way for Yakima famers to get water in drought years. The Department of Ecology itself has identified numerous Enhanced Water Conservation projects that together could save more annual acre-feet of water than an enlarged Bumping dam could ever produce, yet mandatory conservation is not a part of the Yakima Basin Plan. Additionally, senior water districts are actually dis-incentivized to conserve water because of archaic use-it-or-lose-it water laws.

In an era of celebrating dam removal and returning impacted ecosystems to natural balances, these destructive, wasteful, incredibly expensive dams are not what we as a state should be concentrating our precious budgets on. Please consider sending Ecology a message that they should re-prioritize their strategies and instead of throwing away needed money, use the political power behind irrigation security to change existing laws and use a more thoughtful approach to getting what is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

On behalf of

On behalf of Chris Maykut, President

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