

Testimony of Friends of Bumping Lake

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water & Rural Economic Development

Olympia, WA

February 7th, 2013

On **SB 5367**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, Friends of Bumping Lake is a membership organization that seeks to protect the historical structures 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 would all be flooded and destroyed by a new Bumping Lake dam.

SB 5367 would provide momentum to the Yakima Basin Integrated Water Management Plan which includes this massive, controversial dam as well as an even bigger financial loser in the Wymer Dam.

The Senate should **not** approve this bill for a two main reasons.

1. From a financial perspective, this plan should be highly scrutinized by all members of this committee. There is no updated benefit/cost analysis for Bumping, and the most recent 2008 Bureau of Reclamation study of Wymer found that it had a taxpayer benefit-cost ratio of 31 cents on the dollar. Additional scrutiny should be given to the Yakima Workgroup's own economic analysis of their project, which attributes the vast majority of the 100-year social benefit of this plan to fish restoration. Given that much of the rhetoric around this bill has to do with irrigation security, it's worth noting that only \$800 million of 100-year economic benefit is attributed to that facet of it. Ecology has spent millions of dollars in the past several years on numerous dam studies and is now part of a team asking for billions of dollars for 'insurance dams'. In an era of dam removal, it makes no fiscal sense to spend our precious dollars on something that may never be useful and eventually torn down.
2. From the perspective of a property owner and citizen of Washington, a massive dam being installed at Bumping Lake would be an atrocity. I am a member of the third of five generations that spend much of each year at Bumping Lake, in a tiny cabin my great-grandfather and grandfather built 75 years ago. Just this month, we received word that our cabin has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our community, in addition to the 20,000 people who come to the lake each year, stand to lose a beautiful, pristine, unique area that is unparalleled in Eastern Washington.

The Yakima Basin Plan does not appear to be a plan that will be majority-funded by the federal government and we as a State will have to come up with at least half of the eventual \$5 billion price tag. Wasteful, incredibly expensive dams are not what we as a state should be concentrating our precious budgets on. Please consider sending Ecology and Governor Inslee 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.

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