

Comments on HB 1196, Department of Ecology's Yakima Bill

Good Morning (or afternoon as the case may be). I am Ed Henderson a retired professional civil engineer living in Seattle.

I have been studying the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan for over a year now. The Integrated Plan is a large complex proposal consisting of many independent projects. The proponents are attempting to present the IP as a single, complete package. This is not possible. Each project that will have to stand alone on its merits and be approved and funded individually.

HB 1189 states that the IP was reached by consensus; Consensus was only achieved within the carefully selected work group. The draft PEIS generated many comments, questions and opposition, many of which have not been satisfactorily resolved.

The centerpiece of the IP is the construction of additional water storage for "drought insurance" at Wymer dam and reservoir and an enlarged Bumping Lake. In 2008 the US BuRec found in their Feasibility Study that the Wymer project would only returned a benefit of 31 cents on a dollar cost and that enlargement of Bumping Lake wasn't worth studying because it would not provide a reliable source of water.

All the water in the Yakima Basin is appropriated. There isn't any more. The realistic solution to meeting future requirements is more efficient use of the existing supply.

The state legislature must require that significant conservation be a mandatory part of the IP.

I am encouraged by the requirement in section 3, page 7; that before any construction of additional water storage, a full study of the needs and uses to which the water is intended will be made and that all cost and alternatives will be examined. I am certain that if this is carried out more economical and environmentally acceptable solutions will be found.