October 18, 2016

TO: The Honorable
   Rep. Denny Heck
   Rep. Derek Kilmer
   Rep. Adam Smith
   Rep. Rick Larson

CC: The Honorable
   Chairman Fred Upton, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
   Chairman Rob Bishop, House Committee on Natural Resources
   Senator Maria Cantwell

The Wise Use Movement strongly opposes S. 1694, Senator Cantwell’s controversial Yakima Bill. We further object to your support of S. 1694, which passed the U.S. Senate attached to a non-energy bill, S. 2012, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016.

Only a single Senate committee hearing was held on S. 1694 and no bill opponents were allowed to testify. No House committee hearing has been held on the companion bill, H.R. 4686. The House of Representatives should not support a bill that has had no House hearings. The Wise Use Movement requests that you withdraw your support for S. 1694, until the House holds field hearings on H.R. 4686.

Finally, contrary to misinformation you may have received, the Yakima Plan is fatally flawed. S. 1694 supports building new expensive and environmentally destructive new irrigation dams that have a negative benefit-cost ratio. It is also a bad national model for water policy planning as the enclosed article from “The Water Report” details.

Please withdraw your support for the non-energy S. 1694 from consideration as part of any energy bill negotiated between the Senate and House of Representatives on S. 2012 and H.R. 8. Thank you.

John de Yonge

John de Yonge
President