



June 30, 2015

Friends of Bumping Lake  
4000 Aurora Avenue North  
Suite 224  
Seattle, WA 98103

**Date of Hearing : July 7, 2015**

**Hearing on S. 1694 - to amend Public Law 103-434 to authorize Phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project.**

Senator Murkowski (Chair) and members of the Committee. The following comments on S. 1694 are submitted in opposition to this version of the bill on behalf of Friends of Bumping Lake. Please include these comments as part of the hearing record of July 7, 2015 on S. 1694.

We have been monitoring the Yakima Integrated Plan and Workgroup for some time now. There are many good people in that room dedicated to accomplishing goals that will benefit their constituencies and their communities. There are also elements of the Workgroup that, as it was constructed, make it impossible for them to change course at all.

This is disappointing, because our expectation of public policy and government is that they should be able to consider change when given new data to work with. In December, 2014 the Workgroup was given unbiased data to consider in the Water Research Center cost-benefit analysis of the Yakima Plan, but the only outcome of that has been outright denial and a commitment to the analysis that they and the Bureau of Reclamation produced for their own uses.

The WRC report, which you be viewed at <http://swwrc.wsu.edu/2014ybip/> , clearly states that none of the water storage projects pencil out economically, and return far less than half of the initial investments on them over a 100-year span. Bumping Lake, a storage project that promises to drown out 1000 acres of ancient forest, destroy habitat critical to endangered species, and wipe out a beloved campground and cabin community just to provide water that would only be used in severe, single-year droughts returns 18 cents on the dollar.

Ultimately, the Workgroup will not change course because there are organizations in that room who want to build storage projects, no matter if they return 42 cents, 18 cents, or 9 cents for every dollar that is committed from our precious State and National budgets. While it seems ludicrous that these projects could ever happen, this draft legislation would provide Congressional approval to authorize and implement **the entire Yakima Plan**.

Please do not pass this current version of the plan until the Workgroup and the proponents make a commitment to solving our water issues in an economic way that benefits the many and not the few.

Thank you,

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." --Margaret Mead*

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