



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTHWEST'S DAMS AND HYDROSYSTEM

WHEREAS, the rivers and hydrosystem provide multiple benefits to the Northwest's economy: including energy production, irrigation, flood control, trade, fishing, and habitat for fish and wildlife;

WHEREAS, the dams and hydrosystem provide the Northwest's families and businesses with a critical source of clean, renewable, and reliable energy;

WHEREAS, the electricity generated by the dams and hydropower system is affordable, and supplies over two-thirds of our region's current energy needs - and is essential to support future growth in the region;

WHEREAS, because the energy produced by the dams and hydropower system is instantaneously available, it is needed to support other renewable energy sources when the wind does not blow and the sun does not shine;

WHEREAS, any losses in hydrosystem capacity and energy will necessarily result in the development of more fossil-fueled generation, accelerating global warming and climate change concerns;

WHEREAS, several Northwest salmon and steelhead species are listed under the Endangered Species Act and require that a comprehensive approach be taken to protect them, which includes addressing harvest, habitat, and hatcheries in addition to hydro;

WHEREAS, Northwest utility customers and dam operators have made significant investments in improvements to the dams and in hydrosystem operations to benefit fish and wildlife that are contributing to increases in salmon survival;

WHEREAS, salmon runs vary widely from year-to-year (between 2001 and 2004 some of the highest salmon runs in history occurred) and are heavily affected by ocean conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Northwest's interests including state and federal agencies and Indian tribes, are engaged in collaborative discussions to develop a new Biological Opinion under the ESA to protect listed salmon and steelhead stocks. **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, this day of _____ 2007, that (organization) supports the clean, renewable hydrosystem in the Northwest and opposes further changes in dams or operations that are not science-based or cost-effective.

Return to:

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