

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development, and Related  
Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2362-B Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development, and Related  
Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include language that would prohibit federal agencies from utilizing federal funds from for the removal of federally-owned and operated dams.

In recent years, extremist environmental groups have increased efforts to dismantle and remove federal dams. These efforts defy commonsense, particularly at a time of major water challenges across the West and with an increasing need for clean, renewable hydropower. Electricity generated from Army Corps and Bureau of Reclamation operated dams is utilized by millions of Americans every day and represents the largest source of renewable energy in the country.

Fringe efforts to remove these dams are not only misguided, but extremely dangerous.

Many of these dams are essential components for flood control, strategic water storage, and life-sustaining irrigation for millions of acres of American agriculture. Tens of millions of Americans rely on these dams to supply their drinking water and support their livelihoods. The vital water, energy, economic, and ecological benefits provided by federally-owned and operated dams must be protected.

Terry Flores, of Northwest RiverPartners, opposes current efforts to remove four dams in Washington stating, "The four dams produce enough electricity to power a city the size of Seattle." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has publically stated that it would "take two nuclear, three coal-fired or six gas-fired power plants to replace that power."

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017:

*Sec. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the removal of any federally-owned or operated dam.*

Dams are crucial for power generation, flood prevention, and water storage. With one of the worst droughts in 100 years currently transpiring in the West, removing dams for political reasons will only exacerbate these challenges. We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

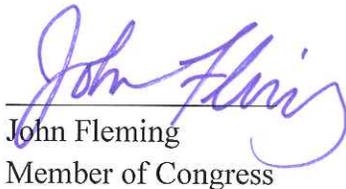
Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



John Fleming  
Member of Congress