



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

November 26, 2018

Elliot Mainzer
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

Dear Administrator Mainzer:

The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG), comprised of legislators from the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho, provides a forum to address common concerns along the Columbia and Snake River Basins. LCRG is facilitated by The Council of State Governments West (CSG West), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization serving western state legislatures.

The members of the LCRG are very concerned about the threat of aquatic invasive species in the Columbia River system, especially quagga and zebra mussels. If these mussels gain a foothold in the basin, particularly hydroelectric dams and fish passage facilities, the results could be catastrophic for many native species and the economic damage to communities throughout the basin could be immense. Efforts to combat these mussels are being made within each of the four LCRG member states and across the region, and we are grateful for the funding provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to support invasive mussel activities coordinated by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

With this support in mind, on behalf of the members of LCRG, I write to express our concern about potential reductions in funding for the prevention of aquatic invasive species as part of BPA's proposed across-the-board budget reductions. We are aware that BPA is experiencing declining electricity sales and that it must therefore find ways to reduce costs. However, because the potential for environmental and economic impacts are so extensive, we urge BPA to maintain funding that supports regional coordination to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.

The members of LCRG stand ready to serve as key partners to meet this important challenge. We will also be requesting the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, as part of its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process, to expand its goals and strategies to prevent the introduction of non-native and invasive species in the Columbia River Basin.

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Sen. Stuart Adams, UT | *Chair, CSG West*
Rep. Kimberly Dudik, MT | *Chair-Elect, CSG West*

Sen. Michael Von Flatern, WY | *Vice Chair, CSG West*
Sen. Sam Hunt, WA | *Immediate Past Chair, CSG West*

Edgar Ruiz | *Director, CSG West*

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Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. If you or your staff have any questions about LCRG, please feel free to contact CSG West director, Edgar Ruiz, at (916) 553-4423. If I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me at (360) 786-7960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Chandler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Bruce Chandler
Washington House of Representatives
Chair, CSG West's Legislative Council on River Governance

CC:
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
LCRG Members