

Representative Grace F. Napolitano, Chairwoman
Representative Tom McClintock, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee Water and Power
1324 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Original delivered by facsimile

July 13, 2010

**Re: Subcommittee on Water and Power Oversight Hearing (scheduled for July 15, 2010)
on "The Bureau of Reclamation and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:
A Progress Report and Planning for the Future"**

Chairwoman Napolitano and Ranking Member McClintock:

The signatories to this letter represent Tribal nations, farmers, ranchers, water suppliers, commercial fishermen, and local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations. Each of the undersigned is a party to the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (Klamath Agreements). We write to express our support for the use of federal funds for scientific and environmental review purposes in the Klamath Basin, as well as to thank you and the other Subcommittee members for focusing the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) on "Planning for the Future."

On February 18, 2010, we joined Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Governors Arnold Schwarzenegger and Ted Kulongoski, Dr. Jane Lubchenco of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Assistant Attorney General Ignacio Moreno, and others at the Oregon Capitol building to execute the Klamath Agreements at a signing ceremony that drew more than 500 people. We recognize that the Subcommittee's July 15 oversight hearing is not expressly about these agreements, but we wish to address the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to carry out certain provisions of these agreements.

It is important to note that the Klamath River was once the third most productive salmon river on the west coast, behind the Columbia-Snake and Sacramento River systems, and is home to one of the oldest Reclamation Projects and an important agricultural community. The Klamath has sadly become internationally infamous for the status quo of continual crisis, decimated salmon runs, water curtailments, financial hardship for local communities, and ongoing litigation. Yet, our coalition for problem-solving in the Klamath is an antidote to that history. Never before in one of the West's most controversial watersheds have so many people from these diverse backgrounds gotten so far with such a comprehensive solution.

The Bureau is using approximately \$11 million in ARRA funds for environmental review and studies related to dam removal consistent with the Klamath Agreements. To be very clear, we support use of federal funds for this purpose, because we collectively stand for fair, open, transparent and objective science to guide decision-making in this Basin. In our view, the undertaking of dam removal should be based on sound-science and compliance with applicable environmental review. On this point, at least, supporters and critics of the Klamath Agreements agree. Put simply, analysis of dam removal consistent with the agreements and compliance with

the National Environmental Policy Act is good policy not bad. It should be applauded not attacked.

We also appreciate the Subcommittee's broader interest in helping the Bureau plan for the future. The facts are that we face a greater likelihood of drought in the future around the West in general and in the Klamath Basin particularly. Less water in the future for the many competing uses in the Basin is likely to produce more conflict not less. Now is the time for the Bureau to look forward and plan for the future. Waiting until the next drought to ensure better water management is reactive.

We need proactive solutions. The Klamath Agreements provide proactive means to better manage water in the Basin, including real-time management, predictive tools, drought response tools, and collaborative mechanisms between farmers, ranchers, agencies, conservationists, and Tribes. For far too long, many in the Klamath have insisted that a choice must be made between fish and farms, people or the environment. We reject that view. We choose farms and fish; a healthy environment and sustainable rural communities. We can do both. Now is the time for the Bureau to look forward, and we appreciate the Subcommittee's focus on that goal.

Thank you for your time in consideration of this letter. We stand ready to provide additional input to the subcommittee on any matters related to the Klamath Basin. We look forward to working with you, your staff, and all members of the Subcommittee in ending the perpetual conflict in the Klamath Basin and implementing the practical solutions that we propose in the Klamath Agreements.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with additional questions.

Sincerely yours,

Charlton H. Bonham
Trout Unlimited

Steve Rothert
American Rivers

Curtis Knight
California Trout

Craig Tucker
Karuk Tribe

Troy Fletcher
Yurok Tribe

Carl Ullman
Klamath Tribes

Greg Addington
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Mark Rockwell
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