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Mr. Steven J. Wright, Administrator  
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Ms. Melinda Eden, Chair  
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December 6, 2005

Dear Mr. Wright and Ms. Eden:

It is with great disappointment that we are addressing the needs of salmon recovery on the Columbia River. After 20 years of hard, sound data made available to state, federal and tribal fishery biologists and sport and commercial fishers from the Fish Passage Center, we are having to start over from the beginning. The compromise in data collection alone is likely to jeopardize the integrity of the information in the future.

Once we pick up the pieces of this mess, there are certain steps to ensure this critical science remains credible to scientists and the recovery of these salmon. Our jobs depend on it!

- 1) All the information collected must be housed in one location. Access for scientists and the public must be assured. The Fish Passage Center has provided valuable information to our business community in planning for future fisheries. The more information we have, the better we can accommodate the people and places we serve.
- 2) The information collected must remain independent in order to remain viable. Too many times we have seen credible science tweaked to fit the need of the collector. The numbers speak the truth and allow fishery and hydropower decision makers to base their actions on proven results. This must not change in order to offer the wild salmon of the Columbia a real chance at recovery.
- 3) We must continue to collect the information that verifies the trends of the populations of outmigrating juveniles and immigrating adults. The Fish Passage Center seemed to have it all in place and to negate the information and the history behind it could be a huge waste of taxpayer and ratepayer money!

We sincerely hope that the Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council will take into account all that the Fish Passage Center had to offer and try their best to mimic the successful history that it had. Over 3,600 sportfishing jobs and 3.5 billion dollars in annual revenue reflect the importance to Columbia River salmon recovery. We simply can not afford to jeopardize sound science.

Thank you,

Bob Rees  
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