

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 5, 2011

Mr. Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20426

OFFICE OF  
EXTENSIVE AFFAIRS  
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**Subject: Final License Application, Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2149-152)**

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

I write in support of Douglas County Public Utility District's 50-year License Application for the Wells Hydroelectric Project.

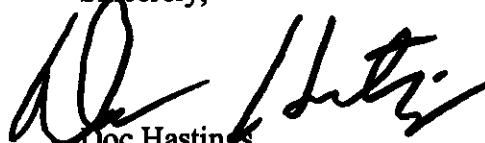
I understand the PUD has invested a substantial amount--over \$9.2 million--for the relicensing effort. Working closely with stakeholders, the PUD completed extensive environmental studies and resource management plans, including two Aquatic Settlement Agreements designed to address the protection of salmon, bull trout and several other aquatic species and water quality issues associated with the relicensing of the Wells Project.

Douglas PUD has exceeded project survival standards for juvenile salmon in its Habitat Conservation Plan incidental take permits, has demonstrated effective passage for adult salmon and steelhead, and has provided salmon habitat enhancement and hatchery production.

The PUD has entered into additional wildlife, recreation and other maintenance support agreements with nearby cities that are tied to the issuance of a 50-year license for the Wells Project. In total, Douglas PUD will provide an estimated \$644 million over 50 years, averaging nearly \$13 million per year. These costs are in addition to the current operating costs of the Wells Project, which has an impressive record of protecting natural resources.

The 12 management plans and 6 settlement agreements contained within Douglas PUD's Final License Application are all based on a 50-year license term. I urge your careful evaluation of Douglas PUD's Final License Application, estimated cost of environmental measures, broad array of stakeholder support for its settlement agreements and license application as you decide the length of the next FERC license for the Wells Project.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress