

FRED GIROD
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 9
Portions of Marion, Linn and Clackamas County



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

November 23, 2016

Governor Brown,

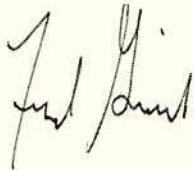
We are very concerned with the direction the ODFW Commission is taking on amending the rules implementing the Columbia River Reforms. Your appointee, Bruce Buckmaster, is leading an effort to rollback the reforms with continued extensive gillnetting in the mainstem of the Columbia River. This is NOT what we envisioned when we passed Senate Bill 830.

- SB 830 outlined four primary objectives for the Columbia River fishery reforms (Section 3a). The Commission appears to be putting one part of just one objective – enhancing the economic viability of commercial fisheries -- ahead of the rest of the objectives outlined in SB 830 and the foundational components of the bi-state agreement, including optimizing the overall economic value of Columbia River fisheries, transitioning to selective fisheries, and prioritizing recreational fisheries in the mainstem.
- SB 830 did not guarantee increased income for the commercial fishing industry or set a new economic baseline for considering the impact of the rules to the commercial industry. The Bi-State Columbia River fish working group report did set an economic baseline of \$3.6 million in commercial ex-vessel value (later revised to \$3.86 million).
- Sections 4 and 5 of SB 830 established the Columbia River Fisheries Transition Fund to mitigate for potential economic harm and offset the cost of fishing gear changes to the commercial industry. For the purposes of administering the Transition Fund, SB 830 defined “economic harm” as “the reduction, unrelated to environmental and market variability or personal circumstances, in the annual income of an individual” that is due to the rules adopted by the Commission. Not a single application for funding has been received even though the rules shifted allocations during the transition period – in direct conflict with the argument of some industry proponents that the commercial industry was entitled to what it would have received in absence of the reforms.

- SB 830 also established the Columbia River Basin Endorsement to fund the reforms. This \$9.75 annual endorsement fee – paid for by recreational salmon and steelhead anglers throughout the basin – funds these reforms and ODFW Columbia River fisheries management activities. The nearly 175,000 endorsements sold annually generates more than \$1.25 million for ODFW. When combined with revenue from the sale of fishing licenses and federal excise taxes on recreational fishing tackle, Columbia River fisheries generate over \$13 million for ODFW annually. Columbia River commercial salmon fisheries generate just a fraction of this amount of revenue for ODFW's budget.

If you do not correct this course, we fear that Oregon will break concurrent management with Washington and force us back into a bitter fight that the current reforms were set out to resolve. Please let us know how you plan on fixing this problem because sitting on the sidelines while your appointee Bruce Buckmaster dismantles the Columbia River Reforms is unacceptable. Your leadership is needed.

Sincerely,



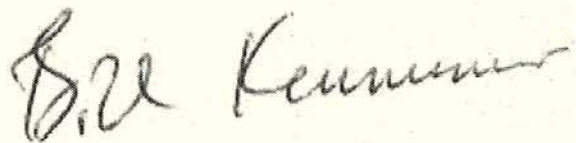
Senator Fred Girod



Senator Rod Monroe



Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson



Representative Bill Kennemer