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I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Emerald People's Utility District regarding the recent working draft for the Columbia River Treaty. We are extremely disappointed in the limited view of the recommendations concerning the future of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada. The working draft is seriously flawed and it should not serve as the basis for a final recommendation to the Department of State.

Specifically, the draft needs more balance in describing the eco-system benefits of the power production. As you are aware, much of the West is moving towards more renewables at the same time that loads are finally starting to increase again. The hydro benefits from the CRT could help to serve these needs in a sustainable, carbon-neutral way that would benefit the entire region's ecology. The current plan seems to be to add wind and solar with single cycle gas as the backup generation resource. This will add carbon to the atmosphere and be a less desirable outcome.

While salmon recovery is important, so are the other ecological benefits from the system, namely power production and carbon free support of renewables. We urge you to improve the balance of these needs as you move to the next draft of the CRT.

Thank you for considering Emerald PUD's views. We look forward to a final recommendation for the State Department that represents all of our region's interest in the Columbia River Treaty.

Sincerely,



Scott A. Coe
General Manager

