



July 6, 2022

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

On behalf of the over 80 member organizations of the Columbia River Treaty Power Group, we write to express our great appreciation for your efforts, and those of your staff, to include provisions in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (H.R. 7776/S. 4136) to address flood risk management issues that appear to have impeded progress on negotiation of modifications to that Treaty. The collective effort made by you, your staff, and a few other staff in the Northwest delegation, have resulted in a much-needed congressional directive to the Corps of Engineers to put forward a plan to manage flood risks along the Columbia in a manner that takes into account cross-border issues and flood risk management needs. While we are well aware that the provisions are in the House bill and not yet adopted in final House-Senate language, we are hopeful that the House language will prevail.

The members of the CRT Power Group have worked strenuously with the delegation, as you know, and the relevant federal agencies to obtain Treaty modifications which are fair to interests on both sides of the border of the United States with Canada---modifications which we have shown are overdue, would reduce the US obligations for ratepayer overpayments in the form of the "Canadian Entitlement" and were fully envisioned by the stakeholder Regional Recommendation of 2013. The requirements that are in section 315 of H.R. 7776 and section 141 of S. 4136 will go a long way to spur the current bilateral negotiations toward a favorable conclusion which treats fairly the interests of both countries with appropriate shared burdens with respect the value of coordinated operation and flood risk management.

We commend you for your leadership of the Committee to successfully incorporate strong and favorable language into the House WRDA bill, and for your staff working in a bipartisan, bicameral manner with Senate leaders. We urge final passage of WRDA legislation which incorporates the House language, with, if possible, deadlines for the study and flood risk management plan, as well as the strong encouragement to the Corps to use all available authorities to work with the US Negotiating team to successfully conclude negotiations for a modernized Columbia River Treaty which provides an appropriate net benefit to US ratepayers in any resulting arrangement with Canada.

Sincerely,

Scott Simms
CRT PG Chair
Executive Director
Public Power Council

Kevin Nordt
CRT PG Vice-Chair
Chief Resource Officer
Grant County PUD

Chris Robinson
CRT PG Vice-Chair
General Manager
Tacoma Power