

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Roblan, Thatcher, Rosenbaum
<b>Nays:</b>	-
<b>Exc.:</b>	Hunt
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Mourns the submerging of Celilo Falls in 1957 caused by the damming of the Columbia River at The Dalles.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Destruction of Celilo Falls
- Sources of spiritual sustenance for native peoples
- Instruction through meditation on the wisdom of the earth
- People who suffer as a result of “progress”
- Purposes of re-engineering of the Columbia River, including transportation and electricity
- Purposes of the resolution, including education and healing

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Deletes the term “perpetually”, adds names of tribal organizations inadvertently omitted.

**BACKGROUND:** Celilo Falls was a unique natural feature formed by Columbia River waters flowing west through basalt-laden narrows of the Cascade Mountains toward the Pacific Ocean. The 20-foot falls were followed by a mile of narrow, channeled rapids with a drop of 8 feet in river elevation. During spring runoff, water at nearly one million cubic feet per second (CFS) would rush over the falls, creating a tremendous roar that could be heard for miles. By comparison, Niagara Falls flow at about 200,000 CFS.

For millennia, native peoples had come to Celilo to fish and trade goods. Artifacts retrieved from the original village site suggest that tribes from as far away as the Great Plains, Southwestern United States, and Alaska gathered, and that the site had been occupied continuously for at least 10,000 years. When Lewis and Clark passed through in 1805, they were struck by the high population density as well as the variety of peoples gathered at Celilo, noting a "great emporium...where all the neighboring nations assemble."

To circumvent the falls, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built The Dalles-Celilo Canal, which opened on May 5, 1915. As Columbia River traffic increased during the 1930s, however, so did the need for easier navigation through the area. In 1957 the Corps completed work on The Dalles Dam, and on March 10, 1957, a rising Lake Celilo submerged the falls, the fishing platforms, and the village of Celilo. The reservoir eliminated important fishing grounds for many Indian tribes that relied upon the salmon caught at the falls.

5/9/2007 3:52:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*