

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	3 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Prozanski, Walker, Burdick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Beyer, Kruse
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/8

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The loss of Celilo Falls
- Different native tribes that used to gather at the falls

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Located between the states of Oregon and Washington, Celilo Falls was a unique natural feature formed by the push of the Columbia River through the basalt laden narrows east of the Cascade Mountains onward toward the Pacific Ocean. During periods of high water, it was noted that nearly one million cubic feet of water per second would pass over the falls, creating a tremendous roar that could be heard many miles away. For comparison, the flow of Niagara Falls is approximately 200,000 cubic of feet of water per second.

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 there, 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 variety of peoples gathered at Celilo, noting a "great emporium...where all the neighboring nations assemble." They also wrote of the high population density in this region.

In 1913, the Army Corps of Engineers built The Dalles Celilo canal to circumvent the falls. As river traffic increased during the 1930s on the Columbia, so did the push for creation of a faster more navigable route through the Celilo area. In 1952 the Army Corps of Engineers commenced work on The Dalles Dam, completing it by early 1957. On March 10, 1957, a rising Lake Celilo submerged the falls, fishing platforms, and the village of Celilo. A smaller village was built nearby on federal land where it remains to this day.

For the last three years, Congress has appropriated funds to refurbish the village of Celilo. The restoration project has not been completed. However, Congress is not planning to fund completion of the restoration project.

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