

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<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:** Urges Congress to continue funding the Celilo Village Housing Restoration Project.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of ancient people's living in the Celilo Falls area; current tribal residents of the area
- Fishing resource ended with flooding of the falls, March 10, 1957
- Eyewitnesses of the event and effect on the witnesses
- Alternative to Congressional funding is relocation of native populations
- Promises made by the federal government

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**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.

A smaller Celilo village was built on nearby federal land where it remains to this day. For the last three years, Congress has appropriated funds to refurbish the village. The restoration project has not been completed, however, and Congress is not planning to fund its completion.

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