

March 22, 2015

Chairman Edwards and Committee Members

Thank you for letting us comment on your proposed Senate Bills 206, 264 and 265.

We farm in the Klamath Reclamation Project near Tulelake, California. Our parents won WWII homesteads with a water right for time immemorial for them and their heirs, signed by the President of the United States, to "grow food for a hungry nation."

Most of you have never been to Tulelake or Klamath Falls. Did you know that historically our fields were under up to 30 feet of water in a navigable lake? That's why our President allowed the water to be rerouted and promised irrigators approximately 2 ½ acre feet of water of this lake to water our fields.

On the California side of the Project, it was historically a closed basin. This 30' deep lake had no way to leave the basin until the Project was built. A tunnel was blasted through Sheepy Ridge for this water to be diverted OUT of this historically deep lake and eventually INTO the Klamath River. It was built to provide food, the Klamath Dams were to provide affordable clean power, water storage and flood control. Contact me if you want documented information and photos.

Your three Senate Bills infer that the KBRA/Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement is a done deal. This deal downsizes agriculture, provides permanent easements, according to KWAPA/Klamath Water and Power director provides no promise of affordable power, it destroys green hydropower, destroys our sacred water rights, and provides no promise of water to irrigators but only a promise that we will be told how much water we might be allowed.

In an election: 80% of Siskiyou County, home of three Klamath River Hydroelectric Dams targeted for destruction, opposed the agreements that mandates four Klamath Dams be removed. 80% of Tulelake alone voted against the deal. Klamath County Commissioners who supported the KBRA were replaced by those who represent the will of their constituents, and those constituents oppose it. Senator Doug Whitsett and Representative Gail Whitsett also represent their constituents and have been repeatedly elected by the vast majority of voters. Elected officials, Siskiyou County Supervisors and Klamath County Commissioners, our local representatives and senators on the Oregon and California sides of the Klamath Basin, oppose the agreements and their obliteration of our farms and communities.

SB 206, based on your hopes of forcing the KBRA on our rural communities, takes away the sole purpose of the Reclamation Project and gives it to birds and fish. Did you know that, if the Project get's 100% of their deeded water (remember it was a 30'-deep lake; come and see the water marks on our hills), all the runoff goes into the refuges? This project is over 90% efficient. When we use the water, our water table is so high that it all goes to the next place, being reused over seven times. Please do not support SB 206.

SB 264 assumes the Klamath Agreements are a done deal. Our communities and all of our elected officials oppose them. We do not want your OWRD director to participate in the deals that promote the settlement schemes which our communities oppose.

We have been at most of the irrigation district and other public meetings, so are informed about information that has not been kept from us in secret meetings. We have endured the blackmail of the KBRA supporters and the tribes and have written proof of this blackmail. At a fairly recent public meeting the Klamath tribal chairman told the public, if the dams don't come out, or if they are not given another land base (that they already sold at least twice before), they will call on the Klamath Project water. Do you want documentation of this? It is all available. Yet the Karuk tribal chairman (on public video) promised that after the dams come out, he would be first in line to get rid of the Keno Dam (providing on-Project irrigation). He calls the Klamath irrigators in the video the "enemies."

SB 265 provides funds to support the agreements that are borne through blackmail, yet calls for the demise of the river and our communities. If it comes up for a vote, please vote no.

At the minimum, if you are wanting to support the Klamath "agreements" through these bills, if you have no time to read the KBRA, please consider a few facts regarding these "agreements"

- * 22 million cubic yards of sediments will cover the fish and their habitat with dam destruction

- * Wind power is being shut down because windmills are killing thousands of birds including eagles. Our solar sun does not always shine. Do you want nuclear or coal to replace hydropower?

- * Fish hatcheries will be destroyed along with the dams, along with any means of keeping government the historically-high water level mandates that the National Academy of Science committee said are unreasonable.

- * Alternatives - When our state senators and representatives held a public-input meeting, over 500 people attended or wrote comments. Klamath Water Users Association, Klamath River Tribes, and Family Farm Alliance director boycotted the meeting. The meeting was to get input on alternatives to the Klamath "agreements" and solutions. A video was made. Also our Bi-State Alliance was formed with 3 counties involved that found solutions but the KBRA supporters were forced to uphold the dam-removal/ag downsizing agreement in its entirety so these solutions were ignored. The public is banned from the table, and only dam-removal supporters were allowed.

- * Any water storage may not be used for irrigation but only for fish: KBRA "Environmental Water" Section 20.5-20.52. We often have an abundance of rain or snow, but the KBRA will not allow us to store it for summer irrigation>

- * I made video of when PacifiCorp opposed dam removal and said that the environmental groups and their lawsuits are making it impossible to continue to keep the dams which provide affordable power to 70,000 families. Craig Tucker, formerly director of Friends of the River and trained environmental activist and community organizer trained by Green Corps, led the tribes to protest in Scotland when Scottish Power owned the dams, then to protest at Berkshire Hathaway stockholder meetings which forced Pacificorp to agree to sell their private dams. They made a deal to agree to dam destruction that we ratepayers and taxpayers must pay for. Tucker is spokesman for the Karuk Tribe and a founder of Klamath Riverkeepers who sued to shut down suction dredge mining on the Klamath River and beyond.

The tribes and environmental groups on the KBRA “stakeholder’s list all support removing all the hydro dams in the West, and boast that Klamath Dam destruction will be the largest dam destruction in history set a precedence of destroying the rest.

* According to California Waterfowl Association President Robert McLandress, Over 50% of food to this most important stop on the migratory bird Pacific Flyway is provided by the farms. He said on video, *“There are 489 species of wildlife here in the Klamath Basin. The biological opinion deals with three.”* The KBRA demands signers to agree to support these biological opinions that downsize agriculture which feeds the wildlife. With these “agreements”, thousands of acres of land that are currently farmed, and that were historically under up to 30’ under water, will be fallow, with no food or wildlife, only dust and erosion.

* It was promised that when the government would destroy Chiloquin Dam awhile back, 94% of sucker habitat would be restored and suckers would no longer be endangered and we could have our full allotment of water. The dam was destroyed and suckers have not made a comeback. The experiment of destroying Klamath River dams will obliterate our fish habitat, wildlife habitat and our communities which presently have over 15% unemployment due to environmental regulations and experiments mandated by people who do not live here.

Thank you for allowing input into your proposed bills.

David and Jacqui Krizo

3rd and 2nd generation farmers in the Klamath Reclamation Project