

Dear Representative Clem, Representative Helm, and Representative Post,

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on HJM 15.

My name is Amber Schulz, and am a Celilo descendent.

As a child, my mother was taken from her family and raised by non-Natives far from Celilo Village. It has been a generation-long struggle to find our family and reconnect. The people of Celilo Village have lost more than anyone can imagine: children; traditional way-of-life; and, of course, Celilo Falls.

And yet, there are organizations that are attempting to take one more thing away from the people of Celilo: Identity. These organizations pose as 'friends' and purport to represent the people of Celilo by using the Celilo name. But they do so in a vacuum. These organizations have no relationship with the people who live in the village today. They are in no way associated with the village. They have not engaged Celilo Village leadership. They certainly do not donate any of the funds raised to assist the people of Celilo Village.

Though a guest in the Celilo Village community, I have spoken with the elders. They told me that they DO NOT want to see or hear the falls, now that they have been inundated by The Dalles Dam. It was an ugly thing that happened, and the people have mourned the loss. But now the falls are sleeping. To reveal them again would be to rip the band-aid off of a bad wound. It would be too painful.

Please do not legitimize the short-sided, narrow goals of these harmful organizations that seek to uncover the falls for their own, selfish gains. Authorizing a feasibility study would lay the path to taking away yet another thing from a people that have already lost so much. Its cruel, and uncalled for. How much pain is the government willing to inflict upon a small, Native American fishing village?

Do not authorize the feasibility study to lower Lake Celilo and reveal Celilo Falls.

Thank you,
Amber Schulz
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