



**Curry County
Board of Commissioners**

Court Boice, *Com*

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HB 2379

April 8th, 2019

Subject: Letter to Oregon State House Natural Resource Committee work session on 4/9/19

Dear Honorable House Natural Resource Committee Members;

I understand your committee will be addressing HB 2379 in a work session on April 9, 2019 and am writing today as a Curry County Commissioner to request that you give special consideration to the HB 2379-1 amendments that are critically important to the rural Southern Oregon Counties of the famous Rogue River Basin.

Rep. David Brock Smith has worked with us to craft and sponsor HB 2379-1, a piece of legislation that reaffirms the ability of our three counties (Jackson, Josephine and Curry) to seek a strong position in dealing with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in relation to the iconic Rogue River Spring Chinook run which has been decimated by required but unfulfilled agreements to keep the Rogue River fishery healthy and abundant, as it was before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lost Creek Dam Project, completed in 1977.

This piece of legislation gives the counties a tool to negotiate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ODFW, avoiding legal action by making it clear that all the three Rogue River Basin Counties have legal standing. We believe that establishing standing will likely go a long way in avoiding legal action and will do much to support the position of our county that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has violated Directive and Authorization of Dam Construction and Operation.

The Lost Creek Dam Project blocked 33% of existing wild spring chinook habitat, and effects of the dam have reduced Rogue River wild spring chinook population for both wild and hatchery fish by over 60% within the last fourteen years, with an economic loss of over \$366,000,000 to state and local economies over the last two decades.

We request this help to get U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ODFW to the negotiating table with a strong message that this cannot continue, and the contract with the counties and public needs to be upheld.

Thank you for your consideration.

Court Boice, Curry County Oregon Commissioner

Representative Brad Witt – Chair
Democrat - District 31 – Clatskanie

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