

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 16, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
Chair, Committee on Energy  
and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy  
and Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

We write to request that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee add the Klamath Power and Facilities Agreement Support Act, S. 5003, to the agenda for the next legislative hearing regarding public lands and water legislation.

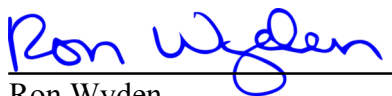
The bill provides explicit authorization for the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its agencies to operate and improve infrastructure, including Keno Dam, which PacifiCorp will convey to the federal government. This is critical in order to complement and maximize the benefits of dam removal efforts to restore the drought-stricken Klamath Basin. It also removes uncertainty regarding the scope of the Department's authorities that could result in financial burdens and unintended consequences for agricultural communities in the Klamath Basin.

In addition to support from the agriculture community in the area, the bill sets out to clarify authorities to address anticipated needs for existing infrastructure. The bill authorizes the DOI to protect ESA-listed species through fish screens and other restoration efforts which protect Tribal resources held in trust and avoid additional regulatory burden on stakeholders.

Finally, the legislation supports the Klamath Basin agricultural producers by authorizing activities and programs, including the use of renewable energy, conservation and efficiency measures that reduce power rates for hydroelectric power customers so they avoid paying rates two to three times higher than similarly-situated irrigators in the Northwest.

We would appreciate the help of the Committee in helping us to address the needs of Klamath Basin communities. Thank you for your consideration and for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the members of the Committee on this important bill.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator