

## **Opposing H.R. 3144 Requiring an Act of Congress to Alter Snake River Dams**

**WHEREAS** Columbia River salmon runs have been in decline since the construction of the four Lower Snake River Dams;

**WHEREAS** it is now known that salmon are practically the only food source for the Southern Resident Killer Whales that live in Puget Sound, the Salish Sea, and off the Pacific coast of British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon;

**WHEREAS** the Southern Resident Killer Whale population is also in severe decline;

**WHEREAS** a full range of options is needed to avert the extinction of certain Columbia River salmon runs and the Southern Resident Killer Whales;

**WHEREAS** Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA05) has introduced H.R. 3144, which would require an act of Congress before significant structural changes can be made to the Lower Snake River dams;

**WHEREAS** Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA05) has introduced H.R. 3144, which would further prevent any study, action, or engineering plan on the Columbia River Power System without an act of Congress;

**WHEREAS** passage of H.R. 3144 would inject needless delays and politicization into the urgent process of recovering the salmon and killer whale populations; and

**WHEREAS** H.R. 3144 would circumvent over two decades of court rulings;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee opposes H.R. 3144, and will inform the Washington State Democratic Congressional delegation of this position.

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Submitted by the Environment and Climate Caucus on 9/9/17.

The Resolutions Committee recommended that the resolution be sent to the floor.

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee amended and passed the resolution on 9/10/17.