

Dear Senator _____,

I am writing to request that you DO NOT vote for Senator Lisa Murkoski's Senate Bill 724. This Bill would change the time (up to eight years) that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) can allow for extensions to complete hydroelectric approved projects.

The Okanogan Public Utility District (OPUD) is trying to re-electrify Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River in North-Central Washington west of the city of Oroville. They have missed several deadlines to comply with their FERC license. FERC has already given OPUD a two-year extension which expires July 1, 2017 to start construction.

OPUD has not been able to find a power company who wants to build it for them due to the questionable economic risk, including Energy Northwest who projected costs of construction by OPUD to be underestimated by 40%.

The ratepayers cannot ever get out from under debt of construction, operation, and maintenance if Enloe Dam is electrified because the small average amount of power it can generate (4.5 MW) will cost at least 2-3 times the cost of power OPUD now receives from BPA and Wells Dam contracts. OPUD has an additional 170 MW of power coming from Wells Dam in 2018, more than twice the load OPUD now needs. So Enloe power is not needed to meet the power needs of OPUD, and will only increase the debt load on the ratepayers.

Enloe Dam will result in power produced at cost that is substantially greater than market value and is not needed to cover OPUD's power needs.

Please do not contribute to an ill-fated power producing project which will create a financial hardship for the citizens of Okanogan County for decades.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

