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Columbia River Treaty Review Team:

Please accept the following as my comments on the Columbia River Treaty Review.

I believe that the United States should negotiate the next "Canadian Entitlement" from a position of power that we have earned over the past 2 centuries. The operation of hydroelectric facilities in Canada should not be an effort that is funded, in large part, by the American taxpayer. The US should not have paid for Canadian interests to build 3 hydroelectric dams that would subsequently be utilized to provide power to rate payers. Most businesses have to build, buy, rent, or lease the buildings where they establish their business. Under the CRT, US tax payers paid for 3 separate Canadian power generation facilities, and then these facilities made profits by selling the power they generated to rate payers. The giveaway must end.

The reality is that when it's cold, electricity will be generated. This will be done in both countries. When it warms up, winter snow packs will begin to melt and fill the reservoirs. This will be done in both countries. If dam managers aren't judicious in their management of water levels, they will risk either failing their dams, flooding downstream residents and infrastructure, or both. And guess what, this will be done in both countries. The ecological and social costs and benefits of having dams are roughly the same in both countries. This means that Americans should not have to pay another dime or send another kilowatt of electricity to Canada under a new agreement. Coordinated power generation will mostly occur naturally. Will American dam operators need to build in more flexibility in the future in the absence of the guaranteed coordination occurring today? Sure, but drawing down a reservoir 2 feet in August or December in any given year, beats the alternative of subsidizing another countries utility industry.

The Eureka area, in particular bears an enormous burden with Libby Dam. Although it has probably saved the community economically, residents here pay other prices. With winter draw downs, spring wind events create huge dust clouds that blow into the Tobacco Valley. From Victoria Day weekend (prior to Memorial Day) through our Labor Day weekend holiday, our town is flooded with part-time Canadian residents. While this is a great economic boost to our small community, these part-time residents create an atmosphere that most people living here want to avoid. It is not uncommon to see crowded beach areas filled with Canadians, boat launches with 30-45 minute waiting lines, inconsiderate boaters who routinely break our "No Wake" laws while they water ski up and down the shorelines of the reservoir. We have seen a dramatic increase in the rate of shoreline erosion as a result of the increased traffic. This inundation by the Canadians is a direct result of Canada's success with oil extraction from coal sands in Alberta. Their economic success has exacted a heavy toll on the residents of our valley, who can't afford to buy a home on their minimum wage tourism job due to the tourists buying all the property and homes in the valley.

My point is simply this: stop paying the Canadian government for anything relating to hydroelectric facilities. Stop sending electricity to Canada that is produced in the US, unless Canadian rate payers are going to pay American companies for it. Canadians are more than capable of paying for their own electricity. No one is paying residents of the Tobacco Valley any subsidy for crowding our play areas, nor

are they paying for the ecological costs we have incurred as a result of the construction of Libby Dam. Coordination of dam operation across political boundaries will be worked out as we go, but I am adamantly opposed to paying for something that in large part would be happening anyway. If coordinated operation of the systems hydro facilities is beneficial to the power producers, they'll probably figure out a way to coordinate making more money with or without the "Canadian Entitlement".

I am generally in favor of having the treaty. I've lived in the Columbia River watershed for 39 years and I'd never heard of the treaty until a month ago. It obviously provides many benefits to our communities, and I've lived or worked in many of them. I've lived both above and below Libby Dam for 20 years and know firsthand the benefits and costs of hydroelectric facilities. I also lived next to Noxon Rapids Dam for 4 months and worked between the Thompson Falls facility downstream to Lake Pend Oreille. As a fish biologist, I am very familiar with the costs of operating a hydroelectric facility. I would recommend keeping the bulk of the treaty and eliminate the "Canadian Entitlement". This country cannot afford to pay it and it is no longer necessary. Let private industry figure out a better way to make the system work for them.

Thank you for considering my input to this process.

Pat Price