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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
49th DISTRICT  
JIM MOELLER

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives

HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS  
COMMERCE & LABOR  
JUDICIARY  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS AFFAIRS



June 4, 2007

Dr. Tom Karier,  
Chair, Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
851 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97204

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Dear Dr. Karier:

We are writing to you today to support the application from Smith-Root L.L.C., a Vancouver Washington company that has developed an innovative non-lethal method of deterring sea lions which are currently endangering the salmon population. This local company has applied for a project grant from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program under the Northwest Power Act.

The goal of the Innovative Fish and Wildlife Project is to enable applicants to propose innovative, on the grounds projects which would contribute to an improvement in the survival of Columbia River fish and wildlife. Smith-Root, L.L.C. has developed technology that would be a great fit for the goals of this program and grant. The goal of this company is to use non-lethal electrical barriers and sonar systems to deter marine mammals.

We are sure that you are aware, that sea lions have become an enormous problem by preying on endangered salmon. Smith-Root has completed tests in British Columbia at the request of the Pacific Salmon Commission which shows that marine animals are extremely sensitive to a weak field of underwater pulse currents at levels that will not harm humans, fish or marine mammals. We believe that a demonstration project in the Columbia Basin would be beneficial to both fish and marine mammals.

We urge you to give Smith-Roots application serious review, and I appreciate your attention to this humane method of dealing with a serious problem facing northwest salmon.

Sincerely,

Representative Jim Moeller

Representative Bill Fromhold

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