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## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

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November 29, 2016

Brigadier General Scott Spellmon  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers  
Northwestern Division  
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 400  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Brigadier General Spellmon:

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council greatly appreciates the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in implementing section 1039(d) of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act of 2014, P.L. 113-121 (WRDA 2014), pertaining to the funding of watercraft inspection stations in the Pacific Northwest. The placement and continued operation of these stations is critical to the region's efforts to prevent an infestation of invasive quagga and zebra mussels in the Columbia River Basin.

Recent news of the detection of invasive mussel larvae in Montana reservoirs underscores the urgency for federal cost-share funds for constructing, operating and maintaining watercraft inspection stations. If invasive mussels were to enter the waters of the Columbia River Basin, damage to the hydropower system could be devastating. Overall estimates of economic impacts to the Northwestern states and Canadian provinces exceed \$500 million per year.

To date, the four NW states collectively spend about \$3.35 million each year on prevention efforts, including watercraft inspection stations. However, to ensure that this effort continues to be successful, the states need to greatly expand the number and hours of inspection stations. The timely release of the federal matching funds contained in the Corps' Fiscal Year 2016 federal appropriation is crucial to this effort.

We urge the Corps to complete the necessary documentation and disseminate the federal funding. Specifically, we ask for quick completion of the "Letter Report" and National Environmental Policy Act document by the Northwest Division and for quick review and approval by Corps Headquarters. We also ask that the Corps develop and sign cost-sharing agreements with the states as soon as possible, to allow states to establish and operate watercraft inspection stations in time for the spring boating season.

Again, thank you for your leadership and support and for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Lorenzen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Henry Lorenzen  
Chair

cc: Colonel Torrey DiCiro  
Mr. David Ponganis  
Mr. Rock Peters