



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 1, 2021

RE: Opposition to Washington Senator Maria Cantwell's proposed amendment to the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* that would add \$10 billion to the Bonneville Power Administration's authority to borrow money from the U.S. Treasury *with no conditions to ensure financial accountability, compliance with federal laws and treaties, or otherwise protect the public interest.*ⁱ

Dear Madam Speaker:

This is an urgent plea to you and your House colleagues to condition any increase in Bonneville Power Administration's borrowing authority upon a rigorous independent formal audit of Bonneville's finances, its business plan, and its decades of noncompliance with and aggressive subversion of multiple federal laws and treaties.

Bonneville's scofflaw use of its *existing borrowing authority* is causing economic, ecological and social damage of epic proportions extending thousands of miles along the Pacific coast from northern California to southeastern Alaska and more than 700 miles inland.ⁱⁱ

With virtually no federal oversight or accountability, Bonneville has egregiously misused its *existing borrowing authority*. Bonneville repeatedly has lurched from one costly financial disaster to another.ⁱⁱⁱ It is \$14.5 billion in debt.^{iv} It has made minimal payments on the principle of its *existing loan* from U.S. taxpayers for 50+ years.^v Bonneville is financially insolvent; it has maxed out its credit card with the U.S. Treasury and private lenders, ergo, its urgent need to borrow even more money from U.S. taxpayers.^{vi}

To the extent Bonneville has anything that plausibly could be called a "business plan", it is Senator Cantwell's amendment to the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* that would allow Bonneville to borrow even more money from taxpayers to cover up decades of incompetence and malfeasance. This is difficult not to notice. Many have made the necessary effort.

Bonneville's existing authority to borrow enormous sums of taxpayer money, its monopoly control over vast amounts of energy generated by the Federal Columbia Power System, its notorious upper management culture of political hacks and mediocrities, and the lack of federal oversight, long ago encouraged and enabled the agency to be politically captured/dominated by its large, politically powerful customers.

Together Bonneville and its politically powerful customers captured regional state and congressional elected officials—then other federal agencies, notably the northwest offices of the Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA Fisheries. The resulting incestuous relationship is a regional political hegemon that

protects and covers up for Bonneville, no matter how much economic, ecological and social damage it does.^{vii}

Bonneville's waste and misuse of federal funds and other scofflaw behavior is systemic.^{viii} For decades Bonneville has used the power of its *existing borrowing authority* to subvert multiple federal laws and treaties.^{ix}

Under cover provided by the regional political hegemon, Bonneville for 40 years has fanatically worked to subvert the Northwest Power Act of 1980—cited in Senator Cantwell's amendment—and the Endangered Species Act.^x

Bonneville is the puppet master behind the federal agencies' four decades-long obsession with protecting from the law four fatally ill-designed, illegal, uneconomical and destructive Army Corps of Engineers dams on the lower Snake River in southeastern Washington. No matter what it costs the region and the nation, now and in perpetuity.

Bonneville is the architect of what is arguably the most economically costly, ecologically and socially destructive pseudo-scientific con in the Nation's history—the Biological Opinions prepared under the ESA which federal courts for decades repeatedly have declared illegal—often with scathing sarcasm.

Bonneville says it has spent \$17 billion on salmon recovery to date as required by the Northwest Power Act of 1980.^x It is not hyperbole to suggest that it would be foolish to take at face value anything Bonneville says.^{viii}

It is true that Bonneville spent billions of public dollars to bribe states and tribes to formally support breaking multiple federal laws;^{xi} to buy [fund (sic)] money-hungry NGOs to obey Bonneville Omerta; to buy junk "science" to poison the decision making process; to attempt to suppress real science; to support shells for extinction of Snake River salmon, like the notorious remoras Public Power Council, Northwest River Partners and their ilk that exist in symbiotic relationship with the Bonneville Great White Shark Hegemon.

In short, Bonneville has wasted many billions of public dollars; caused \$billions in damage, devastated untold thousands of lives; destroyed innumerable small businesses and jobs; caused the loss of untold \$billions in economic opportunity foregone; corrupted governance throughout the Pacific Northwest.

A culture of incompetent mediocrities at Bonneville made energy produced by the Federal Columbia Power System arguably the most costly in the Nation.

Bonneville is functionally bankrupt; can't pay its bills; has maxed out its credit card with U.S. taxpayers and private lenders; and now sends Washington Senator Maria Cantwell to dutifully insert a near-doubling of its existing borrowing authority into the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* now pending House and presidential approval.

The Bonneville political hegemon obviously doesn't care about public costs or benefits.^{xii} It's U.S. taxpayer and Northwest ratepayer money being wasted. The economic, ecological and social damage doesn't affect the Bonneville Hegemon. Its principals, enablers and shells have never been held accountable; they believe they will never be held accountable for betraying the public trust while taking the public's money now, in retirement, and in follow-on sinecures. For them it's The Northwest Big Short. "I'll be gone. You'll be gone".

The Bonneville hegemon cares only about maintaining its power and control. To do that, it desperately needs increased borrowing authority, continued political cover for its incompetence and malfeasance, and continued lack of federal oversight and accountability—all of which dutifully would be provided by Senator Cantwell's amendment to the infrastructure act.^{xiii}

Madam Speaker, it is incontrovertible: the people of the Nation and the Northwest cannot be protected from the Bonneville political hegemon from within the Northwest region.

Bonneville is a *federal* agency. It markets and transmits power from *federal* dams. Bonneville lives off money borrowed from the *federal* government—and is never repaid. Bonneville flaunts all *federal* laws designed to constrain its behavior and/or protect public resources. It is a *federal* duty to bring this *federal* agency under control and force it to serve the public interest as intended.

Senator Cantwell's amendment was crafted by Bonneville to give it de facto license to cover up and perpetuate decades of incompetence, malfeasance and epic betrayal of the public trust that are wreaking economic, ecological and social havoc throughout the Pacific Northwest and severely damaging the national interest.

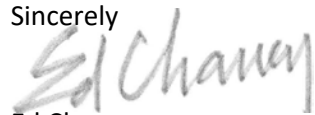
It is incontrovertible that forcing Bonneville to act in a business-like way, and to comply with federal laws and treaties, would stop the hemorrhaging damage, and would produce immediate and perpetual economic, ecological and social benefits for the Northwest and the Nation.

Madam Speaker, this literally is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of epic proportions! Due to decades of scofflaw incompetence and malfeasance the Bonneville Hegemon—long morally and ethically bankrupt—is now facing economic bankruptcy. It is vulnerable to reform as never before. You and your House colleagues must act now to protect the public interest, or all is lost.

We urge you and your colleagues in the House to take strong action to ensure that any increase in Bonneville's borrowing authority is conditioned upon a rigorous, independent, formal audit of Bonneville's finances, its business plan, its decades of notorious noncompliance with and aggressive subversion of multiple federal laws and treaties, and of the resulting ongoing epic economic, ecological and social damage.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely



Ed Chaney

Director, Northwest Resource Information Center^{xiv}

ⁱ *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Sec. 40110. Power Marketing Administration Transmission.*
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684/text>

ⁱⁱ For an overview of the effects of Bonneville's incompetence and malfeasance enabled under its *existing borrowing authority*:

https://www.nwric.org/documents/Seattle_Times_Full_Page_Ad.pdf
https://www.nwric.org/documents/The_NW_Big_Short.pdf
https://www.nwric.org/documents/DOE_IG_petition.pdf
http://www.nwric.org/documents/Comments_draft_amendments_2009_program.pdf

The four Army Corps of Engineers dams built 1960-1975 on the lower Snake River in Washington were not built according to law requiring them to allow safe passage of juvenile salmon from the vast pristine headwaters of the upper Snake River Basin.

The dams threaten extinction of Snake River salmon, one of the world's unique, irreplaceable, perpetually renewable natural resources. Loss of Snake River salmon also threatens salmon-dependent Southern Resident Orcas and a multitude other marine and freshwater animals and ecosystem functions for thousands of miles along the Pacific coast from northern California to southeast Alaska and more than 700 miles inland.

The dams cause billions of dollars in damage. Billions more spent to try to cover it up. Untold thousands of lives damaged. Untold numbers of small businesses destroyed; jobs lost.

ⁱⁱⁱ BPA played a central role in the largest municipal bond default in history, the Washington Public Power Supply System debacle of the late 1970's and early 1980's. Bonneville's ratepayers were stuck with \$6 billion of the cost. The bond default that BPA assumed was for \$2.2 Billion. That number has grown because the WPPSS / Energy NW loans are private debt, not Treasury debt. BPA has, over the years, moved debt from its Treasury books to the WPPSS books to free up its borrowing from the Treasury where the maximum principal is capped but the interest rates are better. *Personal communication Anthony Jones, Rocky Mountain Econometrics.*

<https://www.bpa.gov/news/pubs/FactSheets/fs-201306-The-relationship-between-BPA-and-Energy-Northwest.pdf>.

See analysis by S&P Global @ <https://www.energy-northwest.com/whoweare/finance/Documents/Investor%20Relations/2019%20PDFs/SP%20Rating%20Report%20-%20Bonneville%20Power%20Administration.pdf>

During the Enron-manufactured power crisis of 2000, Bonneville didn't have enough power to supply all of its customers. It made some ill-advised buy-backs of large industrial contracts, including a \$225 million dollar loan to a criminal enterprise that had leveraged the purchase of the former Alcoa Aluminum plant in Longview, Washington. The plant never reopened, and the loan was never repaid.

Details on this costly Bonneville upper management fiasco and the characteristic attempted cover-up @ <http://www.bpawatch.com/newsletters/BPANewsletter2-11-2-07.pdf>.

Bonneville upper management paid insufficient attention to implementing the Residential Exchange provided for in the Northwest Power Act. Characteristically, Bonneville sought to bribe and intimidate intended beneficiaries with public funds and call it a "settlement". When challenged in court, Bonneville characteristically argued the court must defer to Bonneville's discretionary authority. The

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals didn't buy that argument.

“ BPA cannot acquire an NBA franchise just because it can be accomplished by contract; “BPA has broad authority to settle claims, but it cannot buy timeshares in the Bahamas by calling it a “settlement.”

Bonneville was belatedly forced into a \$3.3 billion settlement which in turn forced a 7.8 percent increase in its wholesale power rate. *Portland General Electric et al v. BPA, F.3d, WL 1288786 (9th Cir. 2007)*; see also *Golden Northwest Aluminum et al. v. BPA, F.3d, WL 1289539 (9th Cir. 2007)*; *Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County, et al. v. BPA, F.3d (9th Cir. 2007)*

On February 15, 2013, an administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission found Bonneville guilty of illegally manipulating the market by limiting electricity supplies and overcharging California utilities in the summer of 2000. This resulted in high prices and rolling brownouts and blackouts. Pacific Gas & Electric was driven into bankruptcy.

See e.g., <http://www.bpawatch.com/newsletters/BPANewsletter1-10-30-07.pdf>;
<http://www.sustainablebusinessoregon.com/articles/2011/07/bpa-settles-residential-exchangedispute.html?page=all>;
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-20/enron-era-ruling-signals-1-6-billion-californiarefunds.html>.

^{iv} By law Bonneville's \$14.5 billion in debt must be repaid, in full, with interest, by ratepayers. Interest costs on Bonneville's *existing borrowing authority* already account for about 25 percent of BPA's annual expenditures, roughly \$9 of BPA's \$36/MWh rate. Doubling BPA's debt as Senator Cantwell proposes, could increase that number to \$18/MWh, making the interest portion of a BPA power rate higher than the full delivered cost of energy from current state-of-the-art solar farms. *BPA Bailout*, Anthony Jones, Rocky Mountain Econometrics. July 2021.

BPA's largest expense beyond its debt is its failed salmon recovery program [sic], which since its inception reportedly has spent \$17 billion, produced 5 illegal Endangered Species Act Biological Opinions, not recovered any ESA-listed stocks of salmon, and left large sectors of the regional economy vulnerable to decisions by the federal courts.

<https://www.bpa.gov/news/pubs/FactSheets/fs-201901-BPA-invests-in-fish-and-wildlife.pdf>.

^v *Personal communication*, Anthony Jones, Rocky Mountain Econometrics.

^{vi} In 2018, then-BPA Administrator Elliot Mainzer said, “We've taken huge hits in the secondary revenues market just like every other hydro provider up here, with cheap gas, low load growth, and the oversupply conditions. It's been a bloodbath for folks in the wholesale market. I'm not in a panic mode, but I am in a very, very significant sense of urgency mode.” *Elliott Mainzer, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration, March 14, 2018*.

BPA is going broke trying to sell power that is no longer competitive. It will crash if it cannot be forced to shed uneconomic infrastructure (and related politically-driven obsessions), shift to lower cost production, and free itself from mountains of debt.

Bonneville is one of the highest leveraged power marketers in the country. It is near its borrowing limits to both the Treasury and to private lenders. Senator Cantwell's amendment would allow Bonneville to borrow even more money to spend on its existing uncompetitive portfolio—notably including the four lower Snake River dams—a process that will also lead to higher rates.

Debt and other BPA financial details @ <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/us-public-finance/fitch-rates-energy-northwest-wa-elec-rev-ref-bonds-aa-affirms-bonneville-idr-at-aa-04-05-2021>

Madness Alert:

The Bonneville Power Administration Hegemon literally is pathologically obsessed with protecting four ill-designed Corps of Engineers dams on the lower Snake River in Washington from multiple federal laws and treaties. This is quintessentially symptomatic of the political madness that long ago drove the Northwest and the Nation into the economic and ecological ditch.

These four dams are not economical to maintain, even if you ignore the enormous external costs they impose on the Northwest and the Nation. They produce a relatively small amount of energy, virtually none when the Northwest needs it, energy which is sold almost exclusively on the surplus market, largely to California, for about \$19/MWh, a loss of \$26/MWh, subsidized by Bonneville ratepayers.

The energy produced by these dams has been replaced by conservation and renewables more than 10 times over as envisioned in the 1980 Northwest Power Act. The region has a surplus of energy as far as the eye can see. Irrigation and waterway transportation interests could be held harmless for pocket change.

The annually compounding billions of dollars of economic, ecological and social damage caused by these dams is, of course, suffered by the general public. And future generations will perpetually pay the price of the wanton destruction of Snake River Basin salmon, one of the earth's unique, irreplaceable, perpetually renewable natural resources.

^{vii} In their fanatical zeal to perpetuate hegemony over the Federal Columbia River Power System and regional politics, these agencies conspire and spend billions of public dollars to defend the disastrous status quo that costs the region and nation untold billions of dollars in damage, billions more in wasted public funds, and billions more in lost economic opportunity. It's all being done in plain sight; Q.E.D.

^{viii} *Request for U.S. Department of Energy Inspector General Investigation of Waste of Federal Funds and Violations of Other Federal Laws by Scofflaw Culture in Upper Management of Bonneville Power Administration*, Northwest Resource Information Center. March 4, 2013.

https://www.nwric.org/documents/DOE_IG_petition.pdf

The Northwest Big Short—Fact Sheet, A Northwest Energy Solution: Regional power benefits of the lower Snake River dams—Spin Doctors Hoist Bonneville Power Administration On Its Own Petard, Northwest Resource Information Center, Inc. June 2016

http://nwrhc.org/documents/The_NW_Big_Short.pdf.

^{ix} **The Northwest Power Act.** *Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, Pub. L. No. 96-501. (1980).*

Four Army Corps of Engineers dams built 1960-1975 on the lower Snake River in Washington were not built according to law requiring them to allow safe passage of juvenile salmon from the vast pristine headwaters of the upper Snake River Basin. Before the concrete was dry on the last dam to be completed, it was obvious that a catastrophe of epic proportions was in progress.

Congress acted swiftly. It enacted what is commonly called the Northwest Power Act of 1980 which mandated Snake River salmon be protected and restored. It gave the four northwest states, through what is now the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, ONE YEAR to produce a plan to change Federal Columbia River Power System as necessary to accomplish that objective.

“ . . . conservation and enhancement of the great migratory fish and wildlife populations of the Pacific Northwest, something of great concern to the sportsmen and conservationists of this Nation, are for the first time, a matter of urgent priority under this legislation. They are placed on a par with other purposes for Federal facilities in this area. If the fish populations of the Pacific Northwest are to be restored to the sportsmen, the Indians and the commercial fishermen, this is the mechanism which will do it.” 126 *Cong. Rec. H10680 (Rep. Dingell)*

The Council was quickly politically captured and corrupted by Bonneville, its enablers and shills, and refused to follow the law. Billions of public dollars were spent over decades on Rube Goldberg antics attempting to protect the ill-designed dams from laws and treaties. It was akin to pasting butterfly wings on pyramids hoping to make them fly. It was more public money down the Bonneville Hegemon Rat Hole.

CBS 60 Minutes in 2000 did a segment that illustrates the lengths to which the federal agencies went trying to overcome the dams' fatal design flaw. To watch, sign in to cable TV provider, disable any ad blocker for cbs.com, and suffer through 1 or 2 commercials.
https://www.cbs.com/shows/60_minutes/video/776212636/fish-fuss-over-salmon/

All Snake River salmon, once numbering in the millions of adult fish and contributing to fisheries and ecosystem functions for thousands of miles along the Pacific coast and 700+ miles inland, were classified as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

In 1995 the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in a suit filed by NRIC that the Council was guilty of failing to follow the law requiring protection and restoration of Snake River salmon. Furthermore, the Court ruled that the law proscribed using economic costs as the excuse for refusing to do so. *Northwest Information Center, Inc. v. Northwest Planning Council*, 35 F.3d 1394 (9th Cir. 1994), cert. denied, 116 S.Ct.

The Council appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which denied cert [in effect upheld the Court of Appeals ruling].

Subsequent court decisions ruled that if the Council fails to follow the law, the federal agencies have the independent duty to protect and restore Snake River salmon. *N.W. Env'tl. Def. Ctr. v. Bonneville*

Power Ass'n, 117 F.3d 1520 (9th Cir. 1997). ". . . if the Council's Program fails to ensure adequate fish survival, BPA would be required to take additional measures . . ."

The Endangered Species Act. A Biological Opinion is the document required by the Endangered Species Act in which NOAA is to identify the factors responsible for the salmon being listed, and to define measures that must be taken to ensure those causative factors don't jeopardize the future recovery of the listed species sufficiently to avert extinction. It is not, as some mistakenly think, the "recovery plan" required by the Act. Not that that mattered to NOAA Fisheries, which argued that the ESA requires only that a recovery plan be prepared, not that the fish actually have to be recovered. You read that correctly.

In August 2011, U.S. District Court Judge James Redden rejected the 2008/2010 BiOp as being made of much the same scofflaw stuff as the previous versions.

"As the parties are well aware, the [2004] BiOp was a cynical and transparent attempt to avoid responsibility for the decline of listed Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead." *2005 WL 1278878 (D.Or.)*

U.S. District Court Judge Redden remanded the BiOp and NOAA Fisheries appealed; the district court remand was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"At its core, the 2004 BiOp amounted to little more than an analytical sleight of hand, manipulating the variables to achieve a "no jeopardy" finding. Statistically speaking, using the 2004 BiOp's analytical framework, the dead fish were really alive." *524 F.3d 917 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.*

On May 6, 2016, U.S. District Judge Michael Simon rejected the agencies' latest new-improved BiOp as inadequate. He ordered NOAA, as well as the Corps and Bureau of Reclamation, back to the drawing board, and that their next BiOp must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

"The Federal Columbia River Power System remains a system that 'cries out' for a new approach and for new thinking . . ." ". . . it may well require consideration of the reasonable alternative of breaching, bypassing, or removing one or more of the four Lower Snake River dams. This is an action that NOAA Fisheries and the action agencies have done their utmost to avoid considering for decades." *Case No. 3:01-cv-0640-SI Opinion and Order.*

The federal agencies, under puppet master Bonneville's direction, spent an estimated \$80 million public dollars torturing the facts to make them confess that doing more of the same antics driving Snake River salmon to extinction to date would not drive them to extinction in the future. Actually, not to put too a fine point on it, the agencies underlying argument is familiar; in effect, no one could absolutely prove otherwise, therefore, the agencies' discretion trump common sense and what had been happening in plain sight for four decades. *Columbia River System Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, July 2020.*

The agencies' EIS showed that breaching the four lower Snake River dams to recreate a free-flowing river—which would avert extinction of Snake River salmon and save billions of dollars—actually would reduce Bonneville's annual costs by 15 percent compared to the disastrous status quo. *Table 3-312.*

Change in Annual-equivalent costs under the Multiple Objective Alternative compared to the No Action Alternative.

More importantly, to the discerning eye, the \$80 million 2020 EIS confirmed the conclusion of the \$30 million 2002 EIS that ONLY breaching the dams would restore Snake River salmon to productive levels, stop the hemorrhaging economic, ecological and social damage and, thereby, comply with multiple long-standing federal laws and treaties. *Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, February 2002.*

Wilderness Areas. Wild & Scenic Rivers. National Recreation Areas. Within the Snake River Basin is the largest contiguous wilderness and roadless land complex and largest expanse of pristine and near pristine salmon habitat in the coterminous United States. This 14 million-acre area includes more than 4.4 million acres in 6 Wilderness Areas, more than 700 miles in 12 Wild and Scenic Rivers, and nearly 1 million acres within 2 National Recreation Areas.

Protecting wild salmon was a primary purpose of the laws creating all these areas. For example, legislation establishing the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in 1972 has as its first purpose "the protection and conservation of the salmon and other fisheries."

The Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 states:

"...these wildlands and a segment of the Salmon River should be incorporated within the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in order to provide statutory protection for the lands and waters and the wilderness-dependent wildlife and the resident and anadromous fish which thrive within this undisturbed ecosystem..."

Native American Indian treaty-reserved rights. In multiple treaties with the U.S. numerous tribes and bands of Native American Indians ceded vast areas of territory to the U.S. at the point of a gun, e.g., the so-called 1855 Stevens Treaties. However, many reserved their rights to fish for salmon. In 1905 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld these rights saying salmon were "not much less necessary to the Indians than the atmosphere they breathed." *United States v. Winans, 198 U.S. 371 (1905).*

Of course, all such treaty promises were broken and ignored by Bonneville and allied federal agencies, the Northwest Power and Conservation [sic] Council, and the northwest congressional delegation—all obsessed with covering for Bonneville's obsession with protecting the ill-designed pork barrel dams on the lower Snake River, no matter what treaties or laws say, or how much damage the dams cause.

^x <https://www.cbulletin.com/draft-report-pegs-bpas-2019-fish-wildlife-costs-at-788-million-17-billion-since-1981-25-percent-of-wholesale-power-rate/>

^{xi} The Columbia Basin Accords are perhaps the most sordid example of Bonneville's corruption and hubris, the power of the allied political hegemon, and the culture of Bonneville Omerta in Northwest news media and many sycophant NGOs.

In plain sight, with no dissenting voices, Bonneville literally spent billions of public dollars to bribe Washington, Idaho and Montana and several Native American Indian tribal governments to formally support Bonneville-directed federal agency illegal BiOps in federal court. And further, to agree that

these illegal BiOps also satisfied the Northwest Power Act and Clean Water Act.

And furthermore, those bribed would also formally oppose decommissioning the lower Snake River dams, the action Bonneville and allied federal agencies spent \$110 million public dollars demonstrating was the ONLY path to fulfilling the salmon restoration mandate of the Northwest Power Act and multiple other federal laws and treaties.

“The parties agree that the federal government’s requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Northwest Power Act are satisfied for the next 10 years and that they will work together to support these agreements in all appropriate venues.” *Bonneville Power Administration press release on draft “Accord” with Kalispel Tribe, July 11, 2011.*

<http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/Partners/FishAccords.aspx>.

<http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/Files/BiologicalOpinions/3-tribe-AA-MOA-Final.pdf>;

<http://www.salmonrecovery.gov/Files/Newsroom/KalispelMOAFinal06252012.pdf>.

See the discussion of the following item 3 beginning on page 24 @

http://nwr.org/documents/DOE_IG_petition.pdf

3. Bonneville upper management uses federal funds to bribe Native American Indian and state governments in an effort to influence the federal judge in the ESA litigation and to subvert the salmon restoration provisions of the Northwest Power Act and other federal laws.

See also <https://www.bpa.gov/efw/FishWildlife/CBFA/Pages/default.aspx>.

^{xii} Bonneville and its allied federal agencies spent an estimated \$110 million on studies that reveal breaching the dams to restore a free flowing river is the ONLY way to stop the damage, save the salmon, and comply with multiple federal laws and treaties. *Columbia River System Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, July 2020, and Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, February 2002.*

Instead, with its *existing borrowing authority*, to date Bonneville has wasted billions of ratepayer dollars—an order of magnitude or more than the net cost of their removal—to shield the uneconomical, destructive dams from the law. Now, Senator Cantwell seeks to roughly double Bonneville’s borrowing authority so Bonneville can survive economically and double down on and cover up the damage it has done to date.

^{xiii} Senator Cantwell’s amendment is redolent with whitewash language about Bonneville producing a new “financial plan”; to “engage Tribes [this is a real cosmetic gagger], customers and other stakeholders”; act in ways consistent with “attainment of the Columbia River Basin Partnership’s salmon and steelhead recovery goals”—the latter is a notorious, transparent regional con perpetrated by the Bonneville hegemon and enthusiastically embraced by the Northwest NGO variant of the Vichy French.

As scripted by Bonneville, all the whitewash would be applied at Bonneville’s discretion. Of course, no mention of Bonneville’s legal duty, or of any enhanced federal oversight or accountability for taxpayers’ current \$14.5 billion loan or proposed new \$10 billion loan from the taxpayers.

^{xiv} Northwest Resource Information Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, scientific, educational incorporated in Idaho in 1976 under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NRIC's founding mission was to help protect Snake River salmon and dependent economies then imperiled by four ill-conceived Army Corps of Engineers dams on the lower Snake River in southeastern Washington. <https://nwrhc.org>.

NRIC director Ed Chaney has a half-century of professional experience with the Bonneville Power Administration political hegemon at local, state, tribal, regional and national levels. <https://nwrhc.org/director.html>.