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WASHINGTON

December 2, 2005

The Honorable Joshua B. Bolten, Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Bolten:

We are writing to express our strong support for funding of the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project in the President's FY2007 budget request. In particular, we urge you to include \$40 million to continue construction of the project in FY2007.

The Channel Improvement Project will modernize a transportation route that provides low-cost, efficient access to export markets for farms and businesses throughout our four states and the Midwest. We are very pleased that the Corps of Engineers will make significant progress in constructing the project this year. By the end of CY2005, about 25 percent of the Columbia River navigation channel will be deepened to 43 feet. The \$15 million provided by the FY2006 Energy and Water Appropriations Act will enable the Corps to deepen even more of the channel in CY2006.

Given the \$15 million appropriation for FY2006, about \$65 million in federal funds will be required to complete the project. If \$40 million were appropriated for FY2007, it would be reasonable to expect that the balance could be secured in FY2008 — finishing the project and delivering its transportation cost savings to U.S. exporters.

We appreciate the President's personal support for this project, as demonstrated by his announcement in August 2004 at the Port of Portland. The President captured the project's benefits when he said:

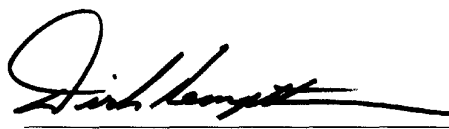
“By deepening the channel of this river from 40 to 43 feet, we will create new export opportunities at Columbia River ports, we'll help our farmers and ranchers, we'll help our manufacturers remain competitive, we'll protect and restore jobs — really good paying jobs — and we'll help conserve and restore the river ecosystem. This is a vital project....”

The Honorable Joshua Bolten
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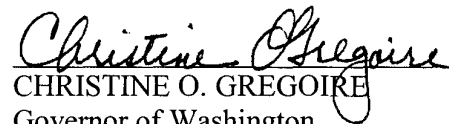
As OMB reviews the FY2007 budget request for the Corps of Engineers, we ask that you include \$40 million to continue construction of the project at the most efficient rate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

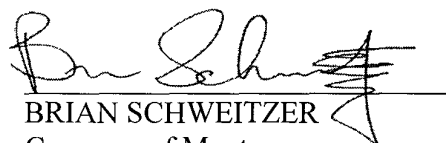
Sincerely,




DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor of Idaho



CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor of Washington



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor of Montana



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor of Oregon