April 19, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

Lincoln County fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

Specifically, funds would be used for East Columbia Basin Irrigation District to complete designs on some pump and pipeline systems within OGWRP and begin design on additional systems required to implement the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s preferred alternative for the Program. The request also includes funds to automate East Low Canal gravity-delivery head gates to adjust for fluctuations resulting from conveyance of new pump plant diversions.

Retaining this land in irrigated agriculture benefits dozens of rural communities by maintaining the local tax base that supports schools and other community services. It also preserves the sole domestic water supply the rural communities in the area rely upon. This effort continues phased development of the Congressionally-authorized Columbia Basin Project, which today, is responsible for over $5 billion in annual, cumulative economic activity. The CBP is only partially complete and was designed to serve hundreds of thousands of additional acres of irrigated farmland that feeds the world and is the economic engine that powers central Washington: significantly contributes to our state and federal economies.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Hutsell, Chairman
Rob Coffman, Vice Chair
Mark R. Stedman, Member
April 19, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The Grant County Board of Commissioner write in full support of the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

BOARD OF GRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cindy Carter, Chair

Danny E. Stone

Rob Jones

Cc: Columbia Basin Development League

Danny E. Stone  
District 1

Rob Jones  
District 2

Cindy Carter  
District 3

"TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS, SERVING TOGETHER WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, WHILE FOSTERING A RESPECTFUL AND SUCCESSFUL WORK ENVIRONMENT."
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

I’m writing you today in full support of the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Danny E. Stone
Grant County Commissioner
District 1

Cc: Columbia Basin Development League

Danny E. Stone
District 1

Rob Jones
District 2

Cindy Carter
District 3

“TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS, SERVING TOGETHER WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, WHILE FOSTERING A RESPECTFUL AND SUCCESSFUL WORK ENVIRONMENT.”
April 16, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Vicky Sharlau, Executive Director
Columbia Basin Development League
203 Mission Avenue, Suite 107
Cashmere, WA 98815

Dear Vicky Sharlau:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) fully supports the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), an effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,700 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

Specifically, funds would be used for East Columbia Basin Irrigation District to complete designs on several pump and pipeline delivery systems within OGWRP and begin design on additional systems required to implement the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Ecology’s preferred alternative for the Program. The request also includes funds to automate East Low Canal gravity-delivery head gates to adjust for fluctuations resulting from conveyance of new pump plant diversions.

Retaining this land in irrigated agriculture benefits dozens of rural communities by maintaining the local tax base that supports schools and other community services. It also preserves the sole domestic water supply the rural communities in the area rely upon. This effort continues phased development of the Congressionally-authorized Columbia Basin Project, which today, is responsible for over $5 billion in annual, cumulative economic activity. The Columbia Basin Project is only partially complete and was designed to serve hundreds of thousands of additional acres of irrigated farmland that feeds the world and is the economic engine that powers central Washington: significantly contributes to our state and federal economies.
Ecology, working with project partners, has invested approximately $105 million in grants into OGWRP and supporting activities through state legislative appropriations since 2006. Ecology is extremely interested in making this project a success and we value the opportunity to cost share with a federal partner on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Downes at (509) 454-4259 or by email at Melissa.Downes@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

G. Thomas Tebb

G. Thomas Tebb, L.Hg., L.F.G.
Director
Office of Columbia River

GTT:MD:cms (210412)
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

We, the state legislators of the 13th legislative district, fully support the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land--that drives thousands of jobs in the region--would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Judy Warnick
Representative Tom Dent
Representative Alex Ybarra
13th Legislative District
13th Legislative District
13th Legislative District
April 16, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The City of Moses Lake fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land--that drives thousands of jobs in the region--would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

David Curnel  
Mayor  

DC/js
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The City of Othello fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

Shawn R. Logan
Mayor
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

Grant County Port District No. 8 fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Pat Millard  
Manager  
Grant County Port District No. 8
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The Greater Pasco Area Chamber of Commerce fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

Colin Hastings  
Pasco Chamber of Commerce
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

Port of Moses Lake fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Milt Miller
Director of Port Facilities
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

Port of Othello fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

Chris Faix
Executive Director
April 14, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

I, Senator Mark Schoesler fully support the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Senator Mark Schoesler
9th Legislative District
Washington State Senate
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

Town of Odessa supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

William F Crossley  
Mayor
Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The Washington State Potato Commission supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Our family farms produced almost 10 billion pounds of potatoes on 155,000 acres in 2020. Most of our harvested crop is used in minimally processed applications—for example, the production of frozen french fries, potato chips, and dehydrated potato products such as instant mashed potatoes. We also have robust fresh potato production which supports domestic food security. We estimate that 9 out of every 10 potatoes grown in Washington will leave the state. Our production makes up roughly 20% of all U.S. potato production. Water delivered to this region is critical for our ability to continue to supply food both domestically and internationally.

The effort to continue phased development of the Congressionally authorized Columbia Basin Project, which today, is responsible for over $5 billion in annual, cumulative economic activity is critical for rural Washington State.

Sincerely,

Matt Harris
Director of Governmental Affairs
Washington State Potato Commission
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The Port of Pasco fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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This effort continues phased development of the Congressionally-authorized Columbia Basin Project, which today, is responsible for over $5 billion in annual, cumulative economic activity.

The CBP is only partially complete and was designed to serve hundreds of thousands of additional acres of irrigated farmland that feeds the world and is the economic engine that powers central Washington. The Port supports completion of the full CBP for the significant contribution it would bring to our state and federal economies.

Sincerely,

Randy Hayden, Executive Director
April 16, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The Washington State Water Resources Association (WSWRA) fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP). WSWRA is the coordinating agency for irrigation districts in Washington State.

The OGWRP is an important support of rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

Specifically, funds would be used for East Columbia Basin Irrigation District to complete designs on some pump and pipeline systems within OGWRP and begin design on additional systems required to implement the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s preferred alternative for the Program. The request also includes funds to automate East Low Canal gravity-delivery head gates to adjust for fluctuations resulting from conveyance of new pump plant diversions.

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Sincerely,

Tom Myrum
Executive Director
April 15, 2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Newhouse:

The City of Warden fully supports the Community Project Funding request submitted by the Columbia Basin Development League for a federal investment of $18,525,000 in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP), a rescue effort to preserve ground water resources for rural domestic and municipal uses within the federally owned Columbia Basin Project while maintaining the irrigated agricultural economy of an entire region. Up to 87,000 acres of highly productive irrigated land—that drives thousands of jobs in the region—would be transferred from a depleting aquifer to a sustainable source of surface water.

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Sincerely,

Tony Massa

Mayor  
City of Warden