To redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at Highway-155, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, as the “Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Washington Power Plant”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Newhouse introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _______________________

A BILL

To redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at Highway-155, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, as the “Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Washington Power Plant”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Both Nathaniel “Nat” Washington, Sr. and his son, Nat Jr., direct descendants of the family of President George Washington, were pioneers for the development of hydropower and strong proponents of
hydropower’s many benefits for Washington state 
and the Pacific Northwest.

(2) In 1908, Nat Washington, Sr. left his home 
in Virginia and established a homestead along the 
Columbia River in the area of Grand Coulee, Washington. In 1916, he was elected Grant County pros-
ceutor.

(3) As the first president of the Columbia River 
Dam, Irrigation, and Power District, Nat Wash-
ington, Sr. played a key role in developing the con-
cept of, and securing the approval for, the construc-
tion of the Grand Coulee Dam.

(4) In 1926, Nat Washington, Sr. fell victim to 
the power of the Columbia River when he was swept 
away in the current, losing his life while attempting 
to save his brother James from drowning.

(5) Nat Washington, Jr. followed in his father’s 
footsteps by serving as Grant County prosecutor 
after earning his law degree at the University of 
Washington, where he was previously elected student 
body president as an undergraduate.

(6) Nat Washington, Jr. served in the Wash-
ington State Legislature for 30 years and was in-
strumental in the development of several hydropower 
projects across the region, as well as the Columbia
Basin Project, which utilizes the Grand Coulee Dam to supply water for irrigation to 10,000 farms on 671,000 acres of farmland in the Columbia Basin.

(7) When the Third Power Plant was completed in 1980, Grand Coulee Dam became the largest hydropower generating facility in the world. With a 6,809 megawatt generating capacity, supplying an average of 21 billion kilowatt hours of electricity to 11 States and Canada each year, Grand Coulee is the largest power station in the nation.

(8) The vision, advocacy, and public service of Nat Washington, Sr. and his son, Nat Jr., fundamentally transformed the Columbia Basin, Washington state, and the entire Pacific Northwest by securing hydropower - a clean, affordable, and reliable source of energy - as the foundation of the region’s power system.

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF FACILITY.

The facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at Highway-155, Coulee Dam, WA 99116, known as the Third Power Plant, shall be known and designated as the “Nathaniel ‘Nat’ Washington Power Plant”.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper or other record of the United States to the facility
referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Nathaniel “Nat” Washington Power Plant.