To Chair Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

The Coastal Trollers Association represents commercial salmon fishermen and related businesses in Washington state. Our fleet is highly dependent on Columbia Basin salmon. According to recent Pacific Salmon Commission documents, Columbia Basin stocks comprise over 60 percent of the Washington ocean chinook harvest (sport, commercial and tribal). For this reason we are very concerned about salmon conservation and recovery efforts in the Columbia Basin.

We are writing to inform you of our strong opposition to HR 3144. This bill intentionally circumvents the public process guiding operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System as they relate to the Endangered Species Act and recovery of salmon and steelhead resources our members depend upon. HR 3144 also seeks to block the recent rulings and orders from the U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon regarding salmon saving measures at federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. It is in effect a legislative straight jacket on modifications to dam operations that have been demonstrated to aid in salmon recovery.

HR 3144 requires any further study of dam operations, including those that may lead to operational procedures that reduce the impacts on migrating salmon, be authorized by Congress. This removes the best scientific judgement of regional biologists and engineers and replaces it with a political process taking place in Washington DC.

HR 3144 removes the option to operate the dams with additional fish saving spill. The additional spill is a court ordered remedy that has been highly effective in increasing the number of returning adults - such as the fall chinook runs of 2014 and 2015. We support the use of spill to increase salmon runs and are concerned that HR 3144 would eliminate court ordered spill.

We close by urging you to oppose HR 3144. Columbia Basin salmon are critical to the health of the coastal economy. Our members are committed to participate in processes that effect salmon, and we will gladly answer any question the Committee has about our industry and harvest of salmon.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brown

President, Coastal Trollers Association

1 Pacific Salmon Commission, Joint Chinook Technical Committee, TCCHINOOK (15)-1 V2.