

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Timothy Petty
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Petty:

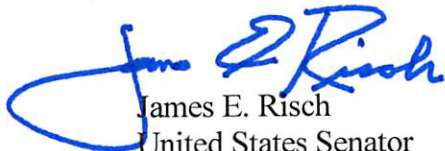
We write in support of the Lewiston Orchards Project (LOP) water exchange efforts. With its partners, the Lower Clearwater Exchange Project (LCEP) has worked to resolve issues surrounding the LOP in an effective and collaborative manner. The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC), LCEP partners, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and delegation staff meet regularly at the local level and have reiterated a commitment to complete the project.

We appreciate your agency's ongoing efforts to assist in completing this project. Most recently, the second well was completed. It is now the intention of the LCEP to move forward in a single multi-well construction phase, which may require between one and two additional wells. We intend to work with you, LCEP partners, and other stakeholders to facilitate the ultimate success and completion of this project.

Preparing for this phase over the next two and a half years, as a matter of project planning, environmental assessment and funding allocation, is a high priority. We urge you to treat it as such and utilize whatever avenues possible to continue moving forward proactively on this project. We look forward to working with you, LCEP, and other stakeholders in order to be ready to move into the completion phase with maximum efficiency in order to continue to support the water security of the region and collaborative solutions to species recovery.

We appreciate your continued support for this project and look forward to hearing from you as this project moves towards completion.

Sincerely,


James E. Risch
United States Senator


Mike Crapo
United States Senator


Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress

Cc: Ms. Lorri J. Gray, Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Regional Office
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation