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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 1st Special Session

By Senators Swecker, Morton, Ranker, Haugen, Rockefeller, Pridemore,  
and White

1            TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION, THE  
2            COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
3            OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

4            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
5            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
6            represent and petition as follows:

7            WHEREAS, The federally owned or licensed dams on the Columbia and  
8            Snake Rivers in this state provide vital economic, energy, navigation,  
9            and flood control benefits to the people of Washington; and

10            WHEREAS, A cool, wet spring, and the largest snowpack since 1997  
11            have led to a very high spring runoff; and

12            WHEREAS, The federal government has increased river flows through  
13            the Columbia and Snake river dams in order to maintain space in  
14            upstream reservoirs to capture further runoff; and

15            WHEREAS, The increased releases due to the rising runoff have  
16            elevated dissolved gas levels in river waters, reaching levels in  
17            excess of 135 percent and current state water quality standards; and

18            WHEREAS, High levels of total dissolved gas injure and kill fish by

1 causing gas bubble disease, which impacts wild, hatchery, and private  
2 commercially raised fish in affected waters;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
4 federal government consider, develop, and implement appropriate  
5 alternatives that provide the necessary reservoir capacity to capture  
6 expected runoff while also avoiding, minimizing, and, if necessary,  
7 mitigating for impacts to the state's fish resources and private  
8 commercial fish growing operations.

9 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
10 transmitted to the Administrator of the Bonneville Power  
11 Administration, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, and the  
12 Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

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