

June 13, 2022

U.S. Representative Mike Simpson
Idaho District 02
Attn: Julia Horman
2084 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

COPY

Re: Mackay Dam and Reservoir
Repair and Rehabilitation

IDWR File: 34-2225
NATDAM: ID00181

Dear Ms. Horman,

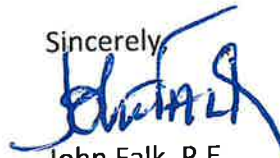
Please accept this letter from the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Safety of Dams program offering support for all effort and funding mechanisms that will help improve the physical condition of the existing dam and will extend the continued benefits that this 100-year-old facility provides to residents of the Big Lost River valley and the state of Idaho.

We understand you are aware of funding opportunities that may be available to assist the Big Lost River Irrigation District reduce the risk to the downstream population through the judicious implementation of a preferred design alternative for enlarging the flow capacity of the emergency overflow spillway and rehabilitating the existing gate tower that controls the outlet gates and release of water from the reservoir into the Big Lost River.

IDWR Dam Safety considers MacKay to be among the top ten hydraulic structures in the state of Idaho most in need of repair given the urgency presented by the dam's location relative to the community of Mackay immediately downstream. In addition, further mitigating the risk that a potential failure of the dam would impose on U.S. Department of Energy facilities is another important reason to pursue remediation of MacKay Dam without delay. The existing reservoir provides irrigation water for agriculture on which much of the economy of the Big Lost River valley depends. The dam also helps ameliorate flood damage that would negatively impact downstream property absent its existence, and the 45,000 acre-feet of impounded water annually provides recreational opportunities for tourists and residents alike.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that may arise regarding Mackay Dam. I am available to provide any information about the dam, its long history, and the importance that its continued viability presents to the region.

Sincerely,



John Falk, P.E.

Dam Safety Program Manager