



News Release

IDAHO WATER USERS ASSOCIATION, INC

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IDAHO WATER USERS URGE STATE'S SENATORS TO OPPOSE REBECCA WODDER APPOINTMENT

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Idaho's largest water user community has urged the state's two senators to oppose the nomination of Rebecca Wodder as Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Idaho Water Users Association said today.

"We are deeply troubled that President Obama has nominated the head of a national environmental advocacy group which has made it a mission to: (1) challenge the operation and continued beneficial use of water storage and delivery projects in the State of Idaho; and (2) call for the removal of federal dams on the Snake River," IWUA Executive Director Norm Semanko wrote in a letter to Idaho Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch

Wodder serves as CEO of American Rivers, which filed a lawsuit in Federal Court regarding salmon recovery that threatens to jeopardize numerous irrigation projects in Idaho and Oregon that fuel the lifeblood of Idaho's water-based economy.

"In addition to her demonstrated unwillingness to work toward collaboration and consensus, we do not believe the Rebecca Wodder will be able to objectively or fairly assess current controversies involving fish species and the ongoing operation of water projects. Given the current state of the economy and the value of these water projects to our State and Nation, this is not a risk we are willing to accept," the IWUA executive director noted in the letter to the senators opposing the nomination.

American Rivers has also been an unapologetic advocate for breaching of the federal dams on the lower Snake River and has rejected collaborative efforts such as the Columbia Accords.

"Again, at Rebecca Wodder's direction, the group has chosen to drag the parties into court to litigate rather than allowing them to focus on implementation of the plans that have been negotiated by the regional coalition of federal, state and tribal fisheries management entities," Semanko wrote.

A copy of the letter is available on the IWUA website at: www.iwua.org.

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