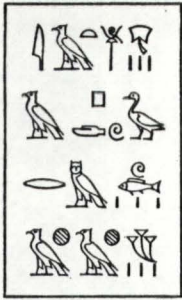


Leege



IDAHO CHAPTER
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

P.O. Box 398
Kamiah, ID 83536

March 21, 1977

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SUITE 5176
3900 WISCONSIN AVE. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

The Honorable Jimmy E. Carter
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear President Carter:

We are writing to thank you for your recent decision to eliminate funding for 19 water projects in your budget request for Fiscal Year 1978. If complete and critical reviews had been made of dam proposals in years past, it is likely that more of our streams would be free-flowing and of greater benefit to Americans today.

We applaud your courage in standing up to "pork barrel" projects that have been "rubber stamped" by prior administrations.

Perhaps a critical evaluation, such as you propose, of the Teton Dam project would have prevented that tragedy from occurring.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas A. Leege
President - Idaho Chapter
The Wildlife Society

bcc: Mike Zagata
Senator Church
Senator McClure
Rep. Symms
Rep. Hansen
Cecil Andrus
Frank Moore

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 19, 1977

Mr. Thomas A. Leege
President - Idaho Chapter
The Wildlife Society
P. O. Box 398
Kamiah, Idaho 83536

Dear Mr. Leege:

Thank you for your letter on the Administration's proposal to review a number of Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers projects.

Certainly, after the misfortune of the Teton Dam, there is no dispute that project reviews should be made but the manner, timing and carelessness in which the Administration is going about their program is misleading and irresponsible to the American public.

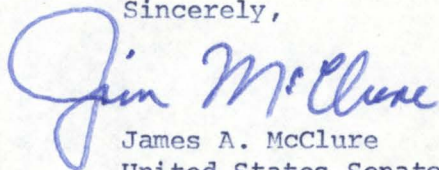
It is doubly ironic that at this time of water shortages and when the Administration is lobbying for a \$4 billion public works program, that they suggest closing public works projects that already provide jobs in the private sector and are designed to better provide for our energy and water needs. It must be remembered that of all the government programs offered today, it is only the Bureau of Reclamation programs that are repaid by the beneficiaries. Water projects of this nature are the only federal projects that must pass a cost/benefit ratio standard before being authorized. No other federal projects undergo the scrutiny and justification that these projects do before Congress considers funding them at each appropriation period. On the other hand, Carter's \$4 billion public works package has no restraining or braking device. We get it all or nothing! Last year's \$2 billion public works make-do jobs program still hasn't been fully implemented. Yet this misleading "quick stimulus" to the economy will never have a review or cost/benefit study done and has little if any long lasting benefit. It is this kind of public work spending that we don't need, don't want and can't afford. Thus when the Administration talks about cutting the budget, I find that their judgement is poor and their intentions, however good, are misdirected.

Ultimately, Congress has the responsibility to review, authorize and appropriate water projects and is more than willing to work with the suggestions of the Administration if they are presented reasonably. But the Courts have decided in past instances that the Administration can't hold back funding if Congress has appropriated it and in a recent Senate vote on the matter, Congress again reminded the President that they have the power to make the final decision on funding.

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I strongly believe that projects should have on going reviews but in the correct manner. I also agree with cutting government spending. But I won't fall for the Administration's ploy of teasing the American public into thinking that the Administration is cutting spending on projects that are essentially repaid, have long term benefits and aid employment when they are still proposing a \$4 billion spending program on make-work jobs that will only increase our problem of runaway inflation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim McClure". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

James A. McClure
United States Senator

McC:vs



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

April 13, 1977

Recently there has been much interest in the review of water projects. The following information is being supplied in response to that interest and in response to your correspondence with President Carter.

As you are aware, the President's Fiscal Year 1978 budget revisions did not include construction funds for 19 water projects. Eight projects for which no funds were requested are under the jurisdiction of this Department's Bureau of Reclamation. Each individual project will be given a detailed review and reevaluation from both an economic and environmental standpoint. At the end of the review period (April 15, 1977), the Administration will either request that funding be continued, request modifications, or request deauthorization by the Congress.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

CECIL D. ANDRUS
SECRETARY