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4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

March 7, 2007

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

I am writing regarding the impact of federal land ownership in and around the Town of Coulee Dam in northeastern Washington state.

The Town of Coulee Dam is located along the Columbia River near Grand Coulee Dam. This community was established along with the construction of Grand Coulee Dam more than 70 years ago. Much of the area is surrounded by federal land that is managed by agencies under the Department of the Interior (DOI). There is concern that the high level of federal land ownership has hampered the long-term ability of the local government to pay for needed services for the more than 1000 residents that live there.

In order to address the concerns raised by the community, I request that the Department of the Interior conduct a thorough review of the impacts of DOI-administered property on the Town of Coulee Dam. In particular, it would be useful to have an inventory of the federal land adjacent to the Town and within the Town limits that includes the authority by which the property is managed, as well as the stated objective of federal management of that property. As part of this review, I further request that DOI identify any federal land parcels that would be appropriate for potential conveyance to, or exchange with, the Town of Coulee Dam.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I appreciate your work on public lands issues and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doc Hastings", written in a cursive style.

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress