

LES AUCOIN
1st District, Oregon



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

February 16, 1980

Dear Friend:

Congress will shortly resume consideration of the Northwest regional power legislation. As I indicated in my testimony on the proposal last summer, a paramount concern with it needs to be adequate protection for the beleaguered salmon runs of the Columbia. The Senate has moved to address this problem in its version of the bill, but I believe a tougher approach is needed.

Earlier this week, I sent to the Chairman of the committees currently reviewing the legislation an amendment that will help to mitigate the devastating effects of the region's power generating system on the salmon. I am writing to inform you about this proposal.

My amendment would do the following:

- o provide a formal procedure for fishery agencies and Indian tribes to submit annual recommendations for mitigation measures to the regional power planning council;
- o mandate that these fisheries recommendations be included in the regional power plan provided for in Section 4 according to certain criteria. One of the criteria is to assure sufficient stocks of fish to permit harvest on an "optimum sustainable yield" basis;
- o identify "fisheries" as a major subject area of the regional power plan, giving it equal status with energy.
- o mandate that the Bonneville Power Administrator include in his budget funds for fisheries coordination, research and development.
- o require all hydroelectric projects in the region licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to comply with the protection measures included in the plan.