



Board of County Commissioners

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bocc@lewiscountywa.gov

January 29, 2020

Rep. Steve Tharinger, House Capital Budget Chair
steve.tharinger@leg.wa.gov
JLOB 314
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: HB 1154

Dear Rep. Tharinger:

We are writing to express our full support of HB 1154, which provides crucial funding to restore habitat and reduce the risk of flood damage in the Chehalis Basin.

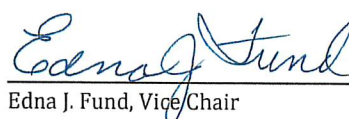
We firmly believe in the mission of the Office of the Chehalis Basin (OCB) – to “protect, preserve and enhance the environment for current and future generations” – and we feel HB 1154, which would provide \$700 million over seven bienniums, is critical to preserving life, protecting property and conserving habitat in Lewis County.

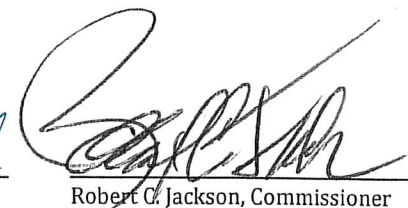
After the devastating floods of 1996 and 2007 – which closed Interstate 5 and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and lost revenue – we formed the Chehalis Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD). In addition to serving as the FCZD supervisors, all three of us devote countless hours addressing flooding in other capacities: Commissioner Fund serves on the Flood Authority and OCB, Commissioner Jackson serves on the Chehalis Basin Partnership and Commissioner Stamper serves as chair of the Cowlitz River Flood Control Zone District.

Flooding is one of Lewis County's toughest issues – one we take very seriously. With HB 1154, we will be able to change the stereotype of our county from “disastrous flooding area” to “a great place to live and grow.”

Thank you for joining us in support of HB 1154.


Gary Stamper, Chair


Edna J. Fund, Vice Chair


Robert C. Jackson, Commissioner

Erik Martin
County Manager

Edna J. Fund
First District

Bobby Jackson
Second District

Gary Stamper
Third District

Rieva Lester
Clerk of the Board



January 29, 2020

Rep. Steve Tharinger, House Capital Budget Chair
steve.tharinger@leg.wa.gov
JLOB 314
PO Box 40600
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Rep. Tharinger:

The City Council of the City of Centralia would like to express it's full support for HB 1154, which provides for critical flood mitigation and restoration work in the Chehalis Basin.

The City of Centralia has been an active participant, along with other partners in the basin, in the decades long struggle against the devastating effects of catastrophic floods. Centralia was one of the hardest hit communities in both the 1996 and 2007 floods. The City Council has embraced and supported the efforts of the Flood Authority by being an active stakeholder and adopting their vision and mission for basin wide restoration.

It is readily apparent to us that without active intervention into the underlying causes of the catastrophic flooding and the declines in critical fisheries, the problems associated with both will only worsen. We are very concerned about the overall health of the Chehalis River and applaud the efforts of those backing HB 1154 and the critical funding it would bring to the basin.

Thank you on behalf of our Centralia residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Luond". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Luond, Mayor
City of Centralia

CITY OF CHEHALIS

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www.ci.chehalis.wa.us



January 31, 2020

The Honorable Rep. Steve Tharinger
House Capital Budget Chair
steve.tharinger@leg.wa.gov
JLOB 314
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Support for HB 1154, Funding for Chehalis Basin Flood Mitigation and Habitat Restoration

Dear Representative Tharinger,

The City of Chehalis would like to express its full support for House Bill 1154, which provides funding that is critical to the effort to restore habitat and reduce the risk of flood damage in the Chehalis Basin.

After the devastating floods of 1996 and 2007, which closed Interstate 5 and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and lost revenue in the region and throughout the State, the City of Chehalis and many others came together with a renewed commitment to find and implement a solution to prevent the horrific impacts that flooding has on people and the environment. Through that effort, much progress has been made and there is a common vision as represented by the Office of the Chehalis Basin with its mission "to protect, preserve and enhance the environment for current and future generations." HB 1154, which would provide \$700 million over seven bienniums, is the critical step towards funding the work needed to advance significant flood mitigation efforts and vital habitat restoration work.

On behalf of the City of Chehalis City Council and the Chehalis community, I urge you to support full funding of HB 1154 and help us all move closer to the goal of preserving life, protecting property, and conserving habitat in the Chehalis Basin for this generation and the ones to come.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Dawes
Mayor

Where Heart and History Shape Our Future