March 5, 1998

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Lt. Col. Donald Curtis
District Commander
Walla Walla District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
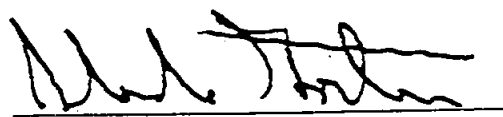201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Lt. Col. Curtis,

Thank you for your prompt response to our request to discuss our concerns, and those of our constituents, with you in person on February 26th. We would now like to follow up on a number of issues raised in the meeting.
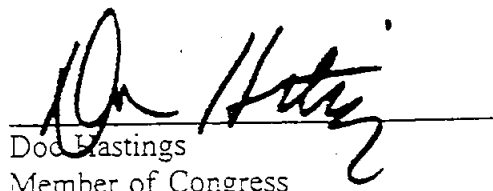
First, we agree that you should contact the Walla Walla County Commissioners regarding the potential lease of the Wallula Habitat Area. Local officials and the public should be involved in these decisions as much as possible. You also expressed your willingness to cancel this proposed lease if access for hunting and other uses were significantly altered from present patterns. We were greatly encouraged by this statement. We encourage you to restate this intention in writing, and believe that it would calm many of the public's fears regarding this proposed lease. We have also attached a copy of our letter to the Walla Walla County Commissioners which summarizes the results of our discussion and invites their participation in this process.

Second, we continue to be concerned about your plans to disturb the shoreline where the Kennewick Man remains were discovered. Although we agree that any significant erosion would be a threat to the site, we are not persuaded that the danger of disturbance through erosion justifies the more significant shoreline alteration that the Corps proposes. We are also troubled by recent reports that your shoreline "stabilization" efforts could cost up to $600,000 and we request a clarification of the potential costs of this action. Congress wants to carefully review your proposal before any contract is awarded.
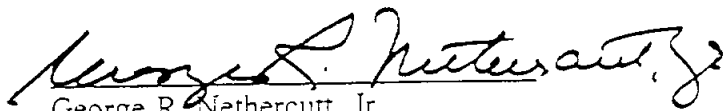
Again, thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Slade Gorton
United States Senator

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

George R. Nethercutt, Jr.
Member of Congress

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