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May 17, 1999

Hanford Remedial Action EIS  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
MSIN HO-12  
Richland, WA 99325

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
MAY 20 1999  
DOE-RL/DIS

To Whom It May Concern,

I want you to know that I support the U.S. Department of Energy's draft proposal to protect and manage the Hanford Reach, and the adjacent Wahluke Slope as a wildlife refuge. However, if this plan ultimately allows the interests of irrigated agribusiness to convert any portion of this wildlife habitat into irrigated farming, then it is not acceptable to me. Too much has been lost and/or contaminated in this region, and to continue the cycle of destruction that has turned the Columbia river into a series of inland slackwater ponds is irresponsible if not immoral. The Department of Energy has an opportunity to assure a more positive human future by preserving the last free-flowing portion of a great river, the salmon it supports, the cultures dependent upon the salmon, and the hope for ecological balance on the surrounding desert steppe.

Sincerely,

Laddie Ray Melvin  
1034 W. Kiernan Ave  
Spokane, WA 99205.