

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2073

To prohibit the use of Federal funds to allow or study the breach or alteration of the Lower Snake River dams, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2025

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. BENTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the use of Federal funds to allow or study the breach or alteration of the Lower Snake River dams, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Defending our Dams
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—No
8 Federal funds may be used to allow, lead to, or study the

1 breach or functional alteration of, including study of
2 power, flood control, or navigation replacement of, or pro-
3 vide dam removal technical assistance for, the Lower
4 Snake River dams.

5 (b) PROHIBITION ON SPILLAGE OPERATIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army,
7 acting through the Chief of Engineers, may not
8 carry out any spillage operations on any of the
9 Lower Snake River dams unless such operations are
10 approved by the Secretary and the Administrator of
11 the Bonneville Power Administration.

12 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether
13 to approve spillage operations under paragraph (1),
14 the Secretary and the Administrator shall consider
15 all Columbia River System operations.

16 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Lower
17 Snake River dams” means the following dams in the State
18 of Washington, authorized by section 2 of the Act of
19 March 2, 1945 (chapter 19, 59 Stat. 21):

20 (1) Ice Harbor Dam.

21 (2) Lower Monumental Dam.

22 (3) Little Goose Dam.

23 (4) Lower Granite Dam.

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