

Washington Governor Vetoes Bad Eminent Domain Legislation

After hearing from many CRCC members who opposed Section 6 of SB 5108, **Washington Governor Christine Gregoire vetoed that problematic section yesterday afternoon.**



This section included a provision that would have prevented the acquisition of agricultural land for mitigation through eminent domain, which would have jeopardized the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project. The project was authorized with the requirement that mitigation lands be acquired.

The lands needed for the channel project went through an extensive screening process over the past 18 years. Each landowner was contacted and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made every effort to identify willing sellers as well as lands appropriate to provide the necessary habitat benefits to mitigate for unavoidable project effects. Eminent domain is used only as a last resort, but SB 5108 would have prevented this option.

Thank you to everyone who communicated with Governor Gregoire regarding this important issue! Your letters allowed the Governor to see first hand the strong support for the channel project and the problems with the legislation.

Thank you to Governor Gregoire for this veto! As a result, Columbia River channel deepening remains on track for completion in 2009.

Columbia River Channel Coalition
6208 N. Ensign Street Portland, Oregon 97217

(503) 285-6343 phone
(503) 285-6350 fax

Dave Hunt, Executive Director
Dave@ChannelCoalition.com

Lisa Pomasl, Deputy Director
Lisa@ChannelCoalition.com

CRCC@ChannelCoalition.com
www.ChannelCoalition.com