



**Klamath Water Users Association**  
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April 23, 2003

The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

The Klamath Water Users Association would like to thank you for your efforts to improve the Endangered Species Act and offers its support for H.R. 1662, the "Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2003".

KWUA is a non-profit corporation that has represented Klamath Irrigation Project farmers and ranchers since 1953. KWUA members include rural irrigation districts and other public agencies, as well as private concerns who operate on both sides of the California-Oregon border. Local water users play an important role in Klamath Basin wildlife conservation activities, including efforts to provide environmental water to two national wildlife refuges. We are also actively engaged in environmental restoration activities undertaken in other forums.

We support your efforts to fix the way in which the Endangered Species Act (ESA) uses science and involves the public in its decision making process. As you know, the closed public process and lack of peer review were key reasons why the 2001 Klamath Project operations plan led to curtailment of Project supplies. The resulting impacts to the local community were immediate and far-reaching. Hundreds of thousands of acres of valuable farmland were left without water, which, in addition to harming those property owners and managers, also imparted an economic "ripple" effect through the broader community. The wildlife benefits provided by those farms – particularly the food provided for area waterfowl – were also lost with the water.

H.R. 1662 provides much-needed common sense reforms to the ESA. Please contact our office at (541)-883-6100 if we can be of additional assistance with the passage of H.R. 1662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Keppen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Keppen  
Executive Director