Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Senator:

I am very eager to obtain favorable action on my bill S. 2320, amending the authorization of Chief Joseph Dam to incorporate reclamation benefits. Hearings on the legislation were held May 7 and, to the best of my knowledge, no one appeared in opposition. The bill has complete bi-partisan support -- both in our Congressional Delegation and in the field.

Here is what the bill does:

1. Provides reasonable allocation of costs to irrigation.

2. Provides for a small reservation of the dam's power output for pumping purposes. (Testimony reveals that less than two percent of the power output will be needed. All of this will be secondary power).

3. Authorizes the establishment of a rate for pumping power comparable to that authorized at Grand Coulee Dam.

4. Permits the Secretary of Interior to prepare project reports on the ten to fifteen separate parcels of irrigable land in the vicinity of Chief Joseph Dam -- totalling about 50,000 acres.

5. Stipulates that these reports must be submitted to the Congress individually and each must be specifically authorized by the Congress before an appropriation can be made.
In short, the bill merely opens the door for submission of feasibility reports on the separate blocks of land involved. The bill does make Chief Joseph Dam a multiple purpose structure by adding irrigation as one of its benefits. In my judgment, the bill is absolutely essential and since it is merely in the nature of an enabling act, I can see no reason for failing to pass it at this session.

I sincerely hope you will concur and that S. 2320 can be reported favorably at your next meeting.

Thanks for your many past courtesies and kindest regards.

Sincerely,

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, U.S.S.

P.S. This same letter has been sent to the Chairman and all members of the Committee.