

CHARLES H. MARTIN  
MEMBER  
3D DISTRICT OREGON

EARL R. GOODWIN  
SECRETARY

HOME ADDRESS:  
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COMMITTEES:  
RIVERS AND HARBORS  
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION  
ROADS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C.

June 21, 1933

My dear Mr. President:

May I not ask, and in the most urgent terms at my command, that you exercise the needful authority under the national recovery administration to bring about at the earliest possible date the construction of a dam for navigation and power in the Columbia river between Oregon and Washington below the mouth of the Snake river?

It would be gratifying if you might accept this communication as an application for the allocation of the funds necessary for the above purpose and that you indicate your approval to the committee appointed by you to carry out the intent of the national recovery act.

Since a number of sites are available for initial construction of a dam looking toward ultimate complete development of the Columbia River for all of its uses, I would suggest that the selection of a site below the mouth of the Snake be assigned to the United States engineer corps, which is in an entirely disinterested position and has at its command the great amount of data gathered in connection with the report recently submitted under authority of act of congress.

You have seen this report. You are familiar with the digest of it. You are aware that the United States engineers designated the Columbia as the greatest hydroelectric resource in the United States.

The people of my district and of Oregon have reposed implicit confidence in your good offices concerning the construction of a dam below the mouth of the Snake river since your statement in Portland in September, 1932, that the Columbia must be the object of the next large hydroelectric development undertaken by the United States.

The order permitting construction to begin will afford quick employment of materials and thus increase employment, will aid transportation and agencies of supply, will afford cheap power contributive in turn to varied industries, to municipalities and to farms.

Our farmers and shippers are deeply in need of the cheapened and improved transportation to be had through the dam as an aid to navigation upon the Columbia.

The City of Portland and the interior of Washington, Idaho and Oregon vitally require this aid to navigation and to industry. It is a project most unusual in its self-liquidating character. No other public work in our territory would so relieve the hardship under which the farmers of Washington, Oregon and Idaho are suffering from present exorbitant freight rates.

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Mr. President, I consider this request the most important and far-reaching that I can make of you and the administration of which I have the honor to be a part. Your immediate response will be hailed with the most cordial gratification.

Respectfully yours,

Charles H. Martin,  
Maj. Gen. U.S. Army (ret'd.)

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