

Eshoo Calls for Congressional Investigation of VP's Role in Fishing Disaster

June 28, 2007

Eshoo Calls for Congressional Investigation of VP's Role in Fishing Disaster

June 28, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, is calling for a Congressional investigation into Vice President Cheney's role in the diversion of water from the Klamath River Basin. The diversion preceded the largest commercial salmon fishing disaster in U.S. history and devastated commercial and recreational fishing in San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties.

Eshoo and 36 Members of Congress from California and Oregon made the request for hearings Wednesday to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall, D-W.V., after the Washington Post reported that Vice President Cheney pressured mid-level bureaucrats in the Department of the Interior to divert water from the Klamath River Basin to benefit Republican political prospects among Oregon farmers.

"This smells as bad as 80,000 dead salmon," Eshoo said. "Those who depend on salmon for their livelihood, including many of my constituents, deserve to know exactly what the Vice President did to implement a water policy that circumvented the Endangered Species Act and devastated commercial, sport and tribal fishing in California and Oregon."

The diversion orchestrated by the Vice President led to the death of 80,000 salmon in 2002 and still contributes to low returns of salmon to the Klamath. In 2006, low returns to the Klamath forced the closure of most commercial and recreational salmon fishing along the Pacific Coast, devastating fishermen at Pillar Point Harbor in San Mateo County. Eshoo and her colleagues pressed Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez to declare a fishing disaster for the West Coast, and last month secured \$60 million to help the fishing industry recover.

"The Vice President is not above the law or immune from Congressional oversight," said Eshoo, a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. "It's time for the Vice President to come clean with the American people."

Letter to Chairman Rahall.

##

[Return to Top](#)

