



Columbia Grain™
CULTIVATING GROWTH™

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia Grain International Supports Saving the Dams Along the Lower Snake River

Columbia Grain International supports its farmer network across the PNW region and believes the dams are critical for West Coast export and import market success.

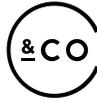
Portland, OR (JUNE 2021) — [Columbia Grain International](#) has been cultivating high quality crops from its network of local farmers to nourish the world safely since 1978. CGI and its vast producer base rely on the Columbia Snake River System, as it is, to ensure people around the world get the nutritious foods they need to feed their families. The Northwest Infrastructure Proposal, with a cost of upwards of \$30 billion, calls to remove four dams on the Lower Snake River, part of the Columbia River System, which are critical to the operation of the agriculture industry. This river system is ranked #1 in the U.S. for wheat exports, #2 in U.S. corn and soy exports, and is critical to other west coast export markets. It generated over 50 million tons of international trade in 2016, at least \$21 billion in cargo value, and 40,000 local jobs are dependent on this trade.

Columbia Grain International contends that this proposal will adversely affect the 13 barge facilities along this river system, endangering economic viability of at least two of the Portland-based export facilities, which rely heavily on barges and don't have the ability to expand rail capacity. As a direct result, removal of the Lower Snake River Dams will cause transportation methods to shift to truck and rail. This reduction in barging will potentially cause rail costs for grain shipments to Portland to more than double, particularly during the fall when corn and soybean shipments from the Midwest are also heavy.

"If the dams are breached, our farmers will be paying more and making less at the end of the day," said President and CEO of Columbia Grain International, Jeff Van Pevnage. "The Columbia Snake River System has successfully served our communities for over 40 years, providing our regions with clean power, jobs, efficient transportation, irrigation, flood control, and more. It is critical now more than ever to keep this region stable and competitive in a time of global economic and social uncertainties. We are committed to cultivating the continued growth of our farmers and our PNW communities."

CGI supports maintaining a healthy salmon population, the key driver for the proposal itself, but does not believe removing the dams is the correct course of action as it will have severe, detrimental effects to the agriculture industry including increased infrastructure costs, transportation costs, as well as a huge compromise in efficiency and capacity.

To learn more about this issue and stance, visit [@SavetheLowerSnakeRiverDams](#) on Facebook or visit the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association [website](#).



About Columbia Grain International

Since 1978, Columbia Grain International™ (CGI) has been *Cultivating Growth™* as a global leader in the origination, processing, logistics, and distribution of high-quality bulk grains, pulses, edible beans, oilseeds and organics for U.S. domestic and worldwide export markets. Headquartered in Portland, OR, CGI's reliable supply chain spans the western region of the US, ensuring abundant ingredients for all of its partners, thanks to their trusted relationships with their farmers throughout the fertile croplands of Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota, well known for its high-quality wheat, feed grains, canola and pulses. CGI is an owner of Montana Specialty Mills, who operates an organic and non-GMO oilseed crushing facility in Great Falls, Montana, a mustard seed facility in Conrad, Montana, and most recently Montana Craft Malt — providing specialty malt barley from Montana farmers to the craft brewing world. Today, they are vertically integrated, operating assets including grain elevators, processing plants and agronomy centers to support their farmers, which stretch the northern tier of the United States. With multiple touchpoints across the food supply chain, CGI provides trusted solutions and cultivates high-quality ingredients from their local farmers for a farm to table philosophy that nourishes the world, safely.

For more information, visit [Columbia Grain International](#) online, For media inquiries, contact Christina Madrid at Christie & Co, www.christieand.co, by phone (818) 621-1897 and/or email christina@christieand.co.

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