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January 2, 2019

Washington State House of Representatives  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Honorable Washington State Legislators,

The Lewis Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on December 19, 2018 and it was consensus of the Board to fully support the Office of Chehalis Basin 2019-21 Capital Budget request of \$73.2 million for the Chehalis Basin Strategy. The two-pronged approach of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, to reduce flood damage and restore aquatic species populations, aligns well with the District's mission "To provide technical, educational and financial assistance for the conservation, protection and development of natural resources within Lewis County." We have already seen benefits to Lewis County landowners and natural resource assets through Chehalis Basin Strategy funded livestock pads, flood warning systems, habitat restoration, and fish passage improvements. By fully funding the Chehalis Basin Strategy, the District and other stakeholders will be able to build upon the momentum of this previous work, implement projects that are currently being planned/designed, and build our local economy through the on-the-ground implementation of multi-stakeholder Capital projects. The comprehensive nature of the Chehalis Basin Strategy is a testament to the many years of hard work by basin stakeholders to collaborate and make tough decisions on how to address flood hazards and declining aquatic species populations. The Board concurs that full funding for this next biennium is critical to keep up momentum in the basin and for our communities to see further progress on multi-year projects.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Amrine, District Manager

cc: Andrea McNamara Doyle, Director Office of Chehalis Basin  
Conservation - Development - Self-Government