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December 7, 1991

I am writing to you to express my concerns about, and opposition to, the proposed multiple-dam project on the unique & splendidly wild and scenic BIO BIO RIVER in Chile.

I have been following this dam project in earnest for quite awhile, and have kept myself abreast of the situation, and it's ongoing developments. I've read numerous articles on the project, and all agree that construction of even a single dam, not to mention the six now proposed, is a bad idea, and not in the best interest of Chile, nor the native Pehuenche people in the affected area.

It would be wrong to cause the relocation of the Pehuenche people and the extinction of their cultural way of life. The dam will have a devastating effect on the delicate balance of nature in the area, quite possibly threatening animal species and plant life in the region.

Also this is a very unstable seismic area, and for that alone, is the wrong place to build a dam. Future seismic activity with a dam in place could cause widespread destruction.

These proposed dams are needless. It would cause a truly permanent waste of an extremely unique and diverse river ecology. Chile's future energy demands can be met with the energy supplies already scheduled to come on-line, as well as with more cost-effective energy efficiency and improved energy conservation measures.

No developments should be allowed in the BIO BIO RIVER region without the informed consent of the native people who rely on it. Thorough accurate environmental, cultural, and energy impact studies need to be conducted, analyzed, and then conveyed to all concerned parties. After all, this is realistically an international issue.

The BIO BIO RIVER is truly a world class whitewater gem that should not only be saved, but enjoy permanent international protection.

For the reasons stated above I urgently encourage you to totally and permanently abandon all planned, and any future dam proposals on the BIO BIO RIVER.

Sincerely,

Michael Gibbons