

Dear Mayor Andersson:

I write to you as the founder and owner of the Patagonia clothing company. Patagonia, as a global brand, has had a significant presence in Sweden since the 1980s. Personally, I have visited your region several times and recognize the economic value to local businesses and citizens of the wild places, free flowing rivers and excellent fishing.

It has come to my attention that you, as the Mayor of Ostersund, support the building of another dam in Sweden at Langforsen on Langan in Jamtland. I and my company have been fighting deadbeat dams for the last 20 years. We are proud sponsors of the award-winning film ***DamNation***. The film powerfully documents the fact that we are now tearing down one deadbeat dam per day in the US. I declare that I fully support any of your citizens and activist organizations that oppose the construction of this dam at Langforsen. As I understand it Sweden has over 1700 dams which provide less than 1.2% of the total electricity generated in your country. I write because I cannot understand why you support the building of another harmful dam.

The trend in the rest of the world is to take down dams. In Chile, the government just halted the building of dams on the Baker River and the Pascua River. In the US we are seeing progress toward our goal of removing massive dams on the Lower Snake River.

As an avid fisherman and outdoorsman I cannot justify visiting Ostersund and Jamtland if dams continue to be built rather than removed. Because of my business values and my lifetime of environmentalism it troubles me to find myself still fighting to preserve wild and natural places. I hope you will recognize the importance to your citizens and to the visitors to your region the value of keeping your wild places wild. Instead of supporting this dam you should work your hardest to restore Langan to its former beauty. It is the trend for the future in other parts of the world.

With Regards,
Yvon Chouinard

Patagonia
259 West Santa Clara Street
Ventura CA 93001
USA