

February 24, 2020

Dear Governors Brown, Bullock, Inslee and Little:

The debate over the management and impacts of the Columbia Basin's federal dams has reached an inflection point.

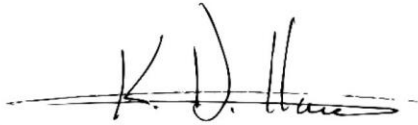
With the pending release of the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), there is an opportunity to use the EIS as a springboard to collaboratively develop a long-term vision and strategic plan that will identify investments needed to recover and conserve salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife populations, ensure tribal needs are honored and sustained, and strengthen the electricity and agricultural services that communities depend upon from the river.

The region needs your leadership and that of the Northwest congressional delegation to foster a new dialogue with all sovereigns and constituents to develop this vision and strategic plan.

Over the last several months, we – a group of regional leaders from the conservation community, transportation and energy sectors – have agreed upon truths that we hope will form the foundation of a solution to this multifaceted and urgent challenge. What is most clear to all of us, and especially to those whose wellbeing and livelihoods are inextricably tied to the Columbia and Snake Rivers, is the following:

- Tribal identity, wellbeing and economies are reliant on access to abundant cultural resources historically provided by the Columbia and Snake Rivers.
- Many Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs remain at risk of extinction and other fish and wildlife are threatened. The wellbeing of salmon is critical to our entire Pacific Northwest ecosystem, from the inland forests to ocean species.
- Many communities, be it fishing communities on the coast or in central Idaho, depend on healthy and abundant salmon and steelhead.
- The region benefits from access to low-carbon, affordable and reliable electricity.
- To ensure a healthy and thriving farming community and economies, there must be sustainable infrastructure to deliver supplies inland and transport commodities down river.

While the pending EIS has the potential to be divisive, we are open to utilizing its release as an opportunity to forge a path forward and have a different dialogue. With your patience and support, we would like to continue and grow solutions-oriented conversations around enhancing the many values of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We are committed to working together to find sustainable solutions for fish and wildlife, tribal treaty and trust resources, electricity, food production, transportation and recreation. Durable resolution of these issues will provide long-term value and certainty for the Northwest regional economy and its communities.



K David Hagen, General Manager
Clearwater Power Company



Mark Johnson, General Manager
Flathead Electric Cooperative



Chad V. Jensen, CEO
Inland Power & Light



Nancy Hirsh, Executive Director
NW Energy Coalition



Roger Gray, President & CEO
PNGC Power



Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition



Bill Arthur, Chair, Snake/Columbia River Salmon
Campaign
Sierra Club



Frank Lawson, General Manager
Eugene Water & Electric Board



Bear Prairie, General Manager
Idaho Falls Power



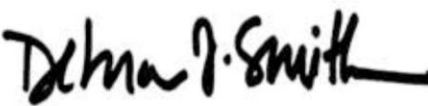
Giulia Good Stefani, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council



Wendy Gerlitz, Policy Director
NW Energy Coalition



David Doeringsfeld, General Manager
Port of Lewiston



Debra J. Smith, General Manger & CEO
Seattle City Light



John Haarlow, General Manager
Snohomish County Public Utility District #1