February 19, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40007  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

We are writing to express appreciation for your leadership in support of new and more effective policies to confront the urgent plight of Southern Resident orcas and Chinook salmon upon which they depend. These two species are emblematic of our state and revered by both tribal and non-tribal people across the Northwest and nation.

The status of the orca and salmon is also telling us our work is far from done. We supported funding for the Lower Snake River Stakeholder Process in the last legislative session and appreciate your office’s hard work on this important initiative. The decisions that we make concerning the lower Snake River and its endangered salmon populations represent an important piece of a larger regional strategy to protect both of these species from extinction. It also gives us an opportunity to address the needs of our communities.

While scientists tell us that restoring the lower Snake is necessary to protect its salmon populations, we recognize the topic is contentious. That’s precisely why we supported funding for the stakeholder process. Hard decisions lie ahead and the best outcomes for our salmon, our orca and our communities will come from honest dialogue, true collaboration, and commitment to shared interests.

The legislature funded the stakeholder process with $750,000 over a two-year period. Though difficult, this necessary discussion offers tremendous potential and opportunity for fishing and farming communities, as well as orca and salmon. We support the work by your office this year to advance this conversation. We encourage your continued leadership after the release of the final report.

This is a unique chance to work with stakeholders and to engage regional policymakers to develop solutions that will recover endangered salmon and orca, while protecting all of our communities in the process.

Again, thank you for your strong leadership. Let us know how we can assist you.
Sincerely,

Rep. Mike Chapman  
24th Legislative District

Sen. Jesse Salomon  
32nd Legislative District

Rep. Steve Tharinger  
24th Legislative District

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon  
34th Legislative District

Sen. Kevin Van De Wege  
24th Legislative District

Rep. Debra Lekanoff  
40th Legislative District

Rep. Roger Goodman  
45th Legislative District

Sen. Patty Kuderer  
48th Legislative District

Rep. Laurie Dolan  
22nd Legislative District

Sen. Mona Das  
47th Legislative District

Rep. Christine Kilduff  
28th Legislative District

Rep. Eileen Cody  
34th Legislative District

Rep. Mia Gregerson  
33rd Legislative District

Rep. Amy Walen  
48th Legislative District

Rep. Gerry Pollet  
46th Legislative District

Rep. Strom Peterson  
21st Legislative District

Sen. Derek Stanford  
1st Legislative District

Rep. My-Linh Thai  
41st Legislative District

Rep. Cindy Ryu  
32nd Legislative District

Sen. Joe Nguyen  
34th Legislative District

Rep. Javier Valdez  
46th Legislative District

Sen. Sam Hunt  
22nd Legislative District
Rep. Vandana Slatter
48th Legislative District

Sen. Liz Lovelett
40th Legislative District

Sen. Annette Cleveland
49th Legislative District

Rep. Monica Stonier
49th Legislative District

Rep. John Lovick
44th Legislative District

Rep. Nicole Macri
43rd Legislative District

Sen. Mona Das
47th Legislative District

Sen. Jamie Pedersen
43rd Legislative District

Sen. Christine Rolfes
23rd Legislative District

Rep. Jesse Johnson
30th Legislative District

Rep. Alex Ramel
40th Legislative District

Sen. Bob Hasegawa
11th Legislative District

Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self
21st Legislative District

Rep. Shelley Kloba
1st Legislative District

Rep. Davina Duerr
1st Legislative District

Sen. Karen Keiser
33rd Legislative District

Rep. Sherry Appleton
23rd Legislative District

Sen. Claire Wilson
30th Legislative District