

***American Rivers ♦ American Whitewater
Association of Northwest Steelheaders ♦ Coastal Trollers Association
Columbia Riverkeeper ♦ Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Earthjustice
Earth Ministry ♦ Endangered Species Coalition ♦ Environment Washington
Idaho Rivers United ♦ Idaho Wildlife Federation
Institute of Fisheries Resources ♦ National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association ♦ Ocean ♦ Orca Salmon Alliance
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations ♦ Pacific Rivers
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance ♦ Save Our wild Salmon Coalition
Seattle Aquarium ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Snake River Salmon Solutions
Sound Action ♦ The Lands Council ♦ Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Washington Wild ♦ Washington Wildlife Federation
WaterWatch of Oregon ♦ Wild Steelhead Coalition ♦ Whale Scout***

September 25, 2018

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

On behalf of our millions of members, many of whom reside in Washington State, the undersigned 34 conservation, fishing and hunting, faith, river, clean energy and orca advocacy organizations and business associations are writing to thank you. We recognize your tremendous leadership to block efforts by Representative McMorris Rodgers and others in Congress to insert dangerous anti-salmon recovery language in the Energy and Water Appropriations package recently approved by House and Senate negotiators.

As your September 10 statement reflects, the proposed rider (Section 506) would have allowed politics to improperly interfere with proceedings that today are guided by a District Court in Portland. The proposed legislative rider would have reduced "spill" levels at federal dams in the Columbia Basin that are strongly supported by the best available science and that were court-ordered to help ameliorate the present risk of salmon and steelhead extinction. Spill can substantially improve the survival of juvenile fish and is a critical tool for protecting Southern Resident orcas who depend on Columbia Basin salmon.

The Committee Report language that was included with the Energy and Water spending bill, though it may be undesirable, is meaningless. It repeats inaccurate anti-science rhetoric that has been used by House members that supported the rider.

We are also very grateful for your public statement earlier this year expressing your concerns about and opposition to HR 3144—a bill that would overturn multiple federal court orders, undermine bedrock federal environmental laws, ignore

science, and harm imperiled salmon. As you are aware, salmon form the backbone of the Pacific Northwest's ecology, and the benefits they deliver to Washington State and the region's businesses and communities are irreplaceable.

We commend your commitment and the outstanding work by you and your staff to defend Columbia Basin salmon and the related court-ordered comprehensive review processes. Your leadership was vital to preventing this harmful legislation from being included in the final Energy and Water spending legislation – safeguarding science and the law from politics and partisanship. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to protect our region's irreplaceable and treasured salmon and steelhead runs.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bogaard, executive director
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition
Seattle, WA

Bill Arthur, Director of the Northwest Salmon Program
Sierra Club
Seattle

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater
Seattle, WA

LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Seattle, WA

Cindy Hansen, Steering Committee Member
Orca Salmon Alliance
Friday Harbor, WA

Noah Oppenheim, executive director
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Institute of Fisheries Resources
San Francisco, CA

Elliott Moffett, President
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
Pullman, WA

Todd True, Attorney
Earthjustice
Seattle, WA

Tom France, Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation
Missoula, MT

Liz Hamilton, executive director
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Oregon City, OR

Ben Enticknap, Senior Scientist
Oceana
Portland, OR

Quinn Read, Northwest Regional Director
Defenders of Wildlife
Portland, OR

Robert W. Davidson, President & CEO
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle, WA

Giulia Good Stefani, Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council
Mosier, OR

Wendy McDermott, Director of Puget Sound and Columbia Basin Programs
American Rivers
Bellingham, WA

Chiara Rose
Endangered Species Coalition
Seattle, WA

Bert Bowler, executive director
Snake River Salmon Solutions
Boise, ID

Kevin Lewis, executive director
Idaho Rivers United
Boise, ID

Don Hyde, President, Columbia River Chapter
Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Vancouver, WA

Rich Simms, Founder/Board member
Wild Steelhead Coalition
Seattle, WA

Brian Brooks, Executive Director
Idaho Wildlife Federation
Boise, ID

Tom Uniack, executive director
Washington Wild
Seattle, WA

John DeVoe, executive director
WaterWatch of Oregon
Portland, OR

Greg Haller, executive director
Pacific Rivers
Portland, OR

Mike Petersen, executive director
The Lands Council
Spokane, WA

Amy Carey, executive director
Sound Action
Vashon, WA

Joel Kawahara, Boardmember
Coastal Trollers Association
Quilcene, WA

Lauren Goldberg, Legal & Program Director
Columbia Riverkeeper
Hood River, OR

Jen Syrowitz, executive director
Washington Wildlife Federation
Bellevue, WA

Alyssa Barton, Policy Analyst & Executive Coordinator
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
Seattle, WA

Bruce Speight, executive director
Environment Washington
Seattle, WA

Whitney Neugebauer
Whale Scout
Bothell, WA