



August 4, 2020

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
1410 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kilmer,

As your constituents and people of faith in the 6th Congressional District, we are writing in appreciation of your statement on June 5, calling for a collaborative approach regarding the future of the Lower Snake River. We urge you to build on this powerful statement by exercising strong leadership on behalf of our shared call to uphold tribal treaty rights, support communities, and restore abundant salmon and orca populations.

Thank you for naming salmon and orcas as valuable both intrinsically and economically. We share your belief that we have a moral obligation to recover these iconic species, as well as to support the natural and human communities that depend on them. We also agree that a science-based and consensus-driven approach will help the region come together around innovative solutions.

As you well know, the situation is urgent. The salmon and orcas that God entrusted to our care are nearing extinction and our communities in the district and across the Northwest are facing dire consequences. Restoration efforts have proven costly and insufficient, and federal, state, and tribal science continues to show that a free-flowing Snake River will give the salmon their best chance at recovery.

We need the region – its sovereigns, policymakers, stakeholders, and residents – engaging in dialogue to develop real, comprehensive, and inclusive solutions. Together, we can craft a path forward that supports salmon and orca recovery, fulfills obligations to Native tribes, revitalizes fishing and farming communities, and maintains an affordable and reliable energy system.

Interconnectedness is a value recognized across religious traditions. Yet we see how our connections are weakened as the economy and culture of the 6th District suffer from the effects of slack water reservoirs in southeast Washington. We need to restore right relationship amongst stakeholders on both sides of the Cascades.

The Christian tradition says that faith without works is dead (James 2:26). Please put your own faith into action to lead the region in a new approach that centers collaboration toward win-win solutions.

We urge you to advocate for our district, partner with sovereigns, engage stakeholders, and work with fellow policymakers on a regionally led solution to restoring the Lower Snake River. You have our support in speaking up for investments and actions that not only recover salmon and help feed hungry orcas, but also ensure a reliable and affordable energy system and a strong and prosperous economy in the 6th District and across the Northwest.

Thank you for your leadership, especially in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

LeeAnne Beres
Executive Director, Earth Ministry

And the below signed 6th District faith leaders:

Bishop Richard Jaech
Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA
Tacoma

Rev. Mary Brown
United Methodist
Bainbridge Island

Rev. Seth Novak
Agnus Dei Lutheran Church
Gig Harbor

Rev. Holly Hallman
First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Ludlow

Rev. Tyler Kirkpatrick
Central Kitsap Presbyterian Church
Poulsbo

Rev. Carol McLaughlin
First Presbyterian Church of Quilcene
Gig Harbor

Rev. Gail Wheatley
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Port Angeles
Port Angeles

Leslie Marshall
Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church
Bainbridge Island

Herbert Hethcote
Cedars Unitarian Universalist Church
Bainbridge Island

Julie Shyrock
Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge
Bainbridge Island

Kathryn Lafond
Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge
Bainbridge Island

Marcia Lagerloef
Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge
Bainbridge Island

Amy Aspell
Centers for Spiritual Living
Bainbridge Island

Michael Siptroth
Jewish
Belfair

Karen Casey

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton
Bremerton

Fisse Davis

Indigenous Spirituality
Carlsborg

Wes Pruitt

Gig Harbor United Methodist Church
Gig Harbor

Dorothy Walker

Peninsula Lutheran Church
Gig Harbor

Abbie Carrasco

Baptist
Gig Harbor

Jim Holland

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
Gig Harbor

Deeann Simpson

United Methodist
Indianola

Dr. Brian Naasz

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church
Olalla

Donald Haueisen

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
Olalla

Coleman Byrnes

North Olympic Sangha
Port Angeles

David Mattern

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Port Angeles
Port Angeles

Elizabeth Christian

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles
Port Angeles

Yerda Yearsley

Baha'i
Port Ludlow

Fred Dunlap

First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Ludlow

Alice Gray

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton
Port Orchard

Julia Cochrane

Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Port Townsend

Rick Rupp

Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Debra Ellers

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Maria Mendes

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Ruth Whitney
First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Townsend

Elisabeth Heiner
First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Townsend

Ruth Asare
First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Townsend

Robert Slater
First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Townsend

David Whitney
First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
Port Townsend

Frank Handler
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, West
Seattle
Port Townsend

Michael Maddox
Keypoint Bible Church
Poulsbo

Marguerite Thomas
Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge
Poulsbo

Elizabeth Schilling
Buddhist
Sequim

Alice Steijn
Quaker
Sequim

Paul Hansen
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Port Angeles
Sequim

Rick Samyn
Pastoral Assistant for Social Justice,
St. Leo Catholic Church
Tacoma

Kari Elling
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Tacoma
Tacoma

Kyle Bradshaw
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Tacoma
Tacoma

Rachel Haxtema
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Tacoma
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Carl Anderson
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Tacoma
Tacoma

Carol Kindt
Humanist
Tacoma

William Golding
Buddhist
Tacoma

Dr. Kevin O'Brien

Christian
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Felicity Devlin

Episcopalian
Tacoma

Kirsti Ruud

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
Tacoma

Tom Hulst

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
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John Avery

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
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Linda Hulst

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
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Martha Ward

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Neil Rader

United Church in University Place
Tacoma

Pamela Hobert

Bainbridge Island

Krestine Reed

Carlsborg

Kathleen Bentley

Forks

Lisa Dekker

Port Angeles

Nina Sarmiento

Port Angeles

Julie Palumbo

Port Orchard

Amy Grondin

Port Townsend

Grace Wright

Port Townsend

Brian Grad

Sequim

John Terrill

Tacoma