

*American Rivers ♦ Association of Northwest Steelheaders ♦ Columbia Riverkeeper  
Conservation Voters for Idaho ♦ Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Earthjustice ♦ Earth Ministry  
Idaho Conservation League ♦ Idaho Rivers United ♦ League of Conservation Voters  
National Wildlife Federation ♦ Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
NW Energy Coalition ♦ Pacific Rivers ♦ Save Our wild Salmon Coalition ♦ Sierra Club  
Trout Unlimited ♦ Washington Environmental Council  
Washington Conservation Voters ♦ Wild Orca ♦ Wild Salmon Center*

June 9, 2021

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

You and your Administration have been outspoken champions for conservation, communities, and environmental justice. We applaud your leadership on these issues and look forward to partnering with you to fulfill your vision.

In this spirit, the undersigned organizations write to you in solidarity with the nearly 60 Tribes of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) to support ATNI's Resolution #2021-23 (copy attached). This Resolution calls for salmon and orca restoration, ecosystem restoration, and Tribal justice in the Pacific Northwest. Until your Administration, the United States government has failed to fulfill its promises to Northwest Tribes, including the treaty, executive order and inherent rights that are all part of the federal trust responsibility to these Tribes. After decades of repeated failures, it is time to take decisive action.

The Tribes' embrace of Congressman Simpson's framework for restoring Snake River salmon is essential to addressing this crisis. It recognizes that half measures and work-arounds are not sufficient and there is only one path to restoring abundant and harvestable runs of salmon throughout the Snake River basin: bypassing the four Lower Snake River dams. Any solution must address the full complement of fish species of importance to the Tribes and ensure that fish passage is also achieved into the upper Columbia and Snake River basins and throughout the Puget Sound. These actions are also necessary for the survival of Southern Resident orcas. Finally, we also share the Tribes' support for investments in affordable and reliable renewable energy, upgrades to regional transportation, irrigated agriculture, and local communities.

As the ATNI Resolution explains:

- The path forward requires a significant commitment of resources, on a timeframe that is as urgent as the threat of extinction is real. We ask that your administration insist that this funding be part of any infrastructure legislation that Congress considers.
- We also support the Tribes' call for your Administration to withdraw any federal court defense of the prior Administration's flawed 2020 Columbia River System EIS, BiOp, and ROD.
- The ATNI call for a Northwest Tribal Salmon and Orca Summit that includes leadership from your administration and Congress is the best way to meet the challenge of salmon and orca restoration with the urgency the situation demands. We believe that there can be no path forward on these issues without the leadership of the Tribes, your administration, and Congress. It is past time for meaningful action.

The ATNI's powerful Resolution describes how Pacific Northwest Tribes are united by salmon. As they stand shoulder-to-shoulder—resolved to ensure that promises ignored for well over a century are finally kept—our organizations stand in full support of the long overdue justice they seek. Many of us have stood with the Tribes in court, in years of advocacy before Congress, and on the ground in implementing projects to slow the decline of salmon, species and people who depend upon them. We continue to stand with them now, as we all continue to call for action now for a better future for salmon, for orcas, for Tribes, and for our region.

Mr. President, the desperate challenges salmon, the Snake River, and the Tribes face that are described so well in the ATNI Resolution are, unfortunately, the perfect embodiment of the conservation, community and economic challenges you have pledged your administration to address. As you know, delay is the ally of extinction and injustice. We are counting on you to act quickly and decisively to move us from the painful legacy of the past, to a future of prosperity and abundance, for our entire region.

Sincerely,

Tom Kiernan  
***American Rivers***

Chris Wood  
***Trout Unlimited***

Collin O'Mara  
***National Wildlife Federation***

Madeleine Foote  
***League of Conservation Voters***

Bill Arthur  
***Sierra Club***

Todd True  
***Earthjustice***

Robert Dewey  
***Defenders of Wildlife***

Alyssa Macy  
***Washington Environmental Council/Washington Conservation Voters***

Sara LaBorde  
***Wild Salmon Center***

Liz Hamilton  
***Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association***

Justin Hayes  
***Idaho Conservation League***

Rialin Flores  
***Conservation Voters for Idaho***

Brett VandenHeuvel  
***Columbia Riverkeeper***

Nancy Hirsh  
***NW Energy Coalition***

Dr. Deborah Giles  
***Wild Orca***

Nic Nelson  
***Idaho Rivers United***

Greg Haller  
***Pacific Rivers***

LeeAnne Beres  
***Earth Ministry***

Chris Hager  
***Association of Northwest Steelheaders***

Joseph Bogaard  
***Save Our wild Salmon Coalition***