

21 September 2023

Marla Koberstein  
Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
300 Desmond Dr. SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Sent via electronic submission

RE: L.I.G.H.T. Foundation Support for Proposed Designations under WA 173-201A

Dear Ms. Koberstein,

The L.I.G.H.T. Foundation (LF) is an independent, Indigenous-led, conservation 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established on the Colville Indian Reservation in the traditional territory of the Nespelem Tribe. We support the restoration and cultivation of native plant species of Pacific Northwest Tribes and the culturally respectful conservation of habitats and ecosystems which are climate resilient and adaptive.

Waterways throughout present-day Washington State are often heralded for their natural beauty, biodiversity, and important ecological functions. LF supports the proposal to designate three Washington waterbodies as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) under Washington's antidegradation rules implementing the Clean Water Act.

The designation of the Cascade, Green, and Napeequa rivers as Tier III(B) ORWs will help preserve their cultural, spiritual, chemical, physical, and biological integrity by increasing protections against discharges of pollutants. Maintaining and protecting water quality in these Washington waterbodies is essential to the preservation of the near-pristine or unique ecosystems they support.

The protection of these waterways contribute to the often-held Indigenous perspective and value that water is life and water is first.

Thank you for this opportunity to review and provide comment on this important proposed designation. LF appreciates your consideration and is committed to working with all government entities, partners, and allies to ensure that our traditional homelands remain resilient and strong in the face of climate change for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Joaquin J. Marchand, M.B.A.  
Executive Director

[L.I.G.H.T. Foundation](#)