

July 27, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002.

Re: Goldendale Pumped Storage Project Violates Yakama Nation's Sovereign Rights

Dear Honorable Governor Inslee:

We Treaty Tribal Leaders stand with the Yakama Nation in their fight to protect their cultural and natural resources. The pumped storage project proposed at Juniper Point, *Pushpum* in Goldendale, is a violation of Yakama's Treaty rights and would destroy an irreplaceable sacred site.

Our medicines, foods, lands, and waters are sacred to us. For too long, these sacred places where we gather our foods and hold our ceremonies, have been threatened by development without consultation with, or consent from, our sovereign tribes. This is unacceptable.

Our ancestors signed Treaties with the United States, often under threat of violence and death, in exchange for our ancestral lands and sacred places. Through these treaties, we retain the rights to practice and live in our traditional ways in these places. Yet, the promises made by the government have been broken time and time again. Development and industry have threatened our ways of life for hundreds of years and continues to do so today. Our salmon populations are near extinction. Our ancient villages and ceremonial sites have been flooded. Our ways of life are under constant threat from development and climate change. We must protect our sacred places for our future generations.

We call on the state and federal governments to do better. Uphold the Treaties and respect the rights of our Sovereign Nations. Deny the permits for the Goldendale pumped storage project on Yakama Nation's sacred lands.

Sincerely,

Leonard Forsman
Tribal Council Chairman
Suquamish Tribe

Steve Edwards
Tribal Senate Chairman
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Nino Maltos
Tribal Council Chairman
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe

Douglas Woodruff, Jr.
Tribal Council Chairman
Quileute Tribe

Frances G. Charles
Business Committee Chairwoman
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Kris Peters
Tribal Council Chairman
Squaxin Island Tribe

Guy Capoeman
Tribal Council President
Quinault Indian Nation

Rosemary LaClair
Tribal Council Chair
Nooksack Tribe

Willie Frank, III
Tribal Council Chairman
Nisqually Indian Tribe

Cc:

Director Laura Watson, Department of Ecology
Chief of Staff Jamila Thomas
Governor General Counsel Katheryn Leathers
Executive Policy Director Nick Streuli
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs Director Craig Bill
Washington Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Dan Newhouse

W. Ron Allen
Tribal Council Chairman
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Teri Gobin
Board of Directors Chairwoman
Tulalip Tribes

Timothy J. "TJ" Greene, Sr.
Tribal Council Chairman
Makah Tribe

Charles "Guy" Miller
Tribal Council Chairman
Skokomish Indian Tribe

Bill Sterud
Tribal Council Chairman
Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Jaison Elkins
Tribal Council Chairman
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

William Jones Jr.
Tribal Council Chairman
Lummi Nation

Jeromy Sullivan
Tribal Council Chair
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe