

June 11, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear President Obama and Prime Minister Harper:

We write to you to add our voices to those of our colleagues who communicated with you last year in reminding you of action that needs to be taken to modernize the Columbia River Treaty.

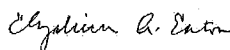
On September 23, 2014, you received a letter signed by 21 religious and indigenous leaders representing all tribes and First Nations with management authorities and responsibilities in the Columbia River Basin. That letter transmitted the Declaration on Ethics and Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty, and the Columbia River Pastoral Letter upon which the Declaration is based. These leaders requested that you adopt the Declaration as a foundation for negotiations between Canada and the United States.

We endorse their request and ask that you both act now to modernize the Treaty.

The Declaration sets forth eight principles for modernizing the Columbia River Treaty that include respecting indigenous rights, protecting and restoring healthy ecosystems with abundant fish and wildlife populations, and providing fish passage to all historical locations. In this time of climate change, the United States and Canada must work together to promote stewardship of shared waters.

Rarely do the convergence of trust responsibility, indigenous rights, and ecosystem benefits converge in such a dramatic and urgent way. Please move forward with negotiations to modernize the Columbia River Treaty, and thereby provide a just and ecologically sound model for resolving international conflicts over water.

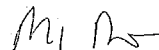
Sincerely,



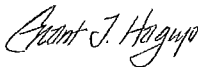
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



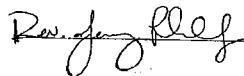
†Anglican Archbishop John Privett
Metropolitan, Ecclesiastical
Province of British Columbia
and Yukon Anglican Church of Canada



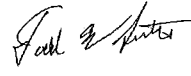
The Rev. Mike Denton
Conference Minister
Pacific Northwest Conference
United Church of Christ



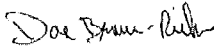
The Rev. Dr. Grant J. Hagiya, Bishop
Greater Northwest Episcopal Area
United Methodist Church



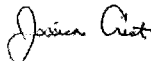
The Rev. Jenny Phillips
Minister for Environmental
Stewardship and Advocacy
Pacific NW Conference of
United Methodist Church



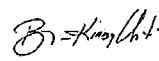
The Rev. Todd Scranton
Grace United Methodist Church
Missoula, MT



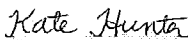
Bishop David Brauer-Rieke
Oregon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



Bishop Jessica Crist
Montana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



Bishop Kirby Unti
Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America



Kate Hunter
Clerk of the North Pacific Yearly
Meeting Peace and
Social Concerns Committee
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



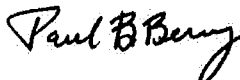
Jan Musgrove Elfers
Interim Executive Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon



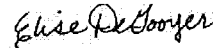
Jenny Holmes
Director of Environmental Ministries
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon



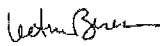
Steven A. Kolmes PhD
Director, Environmental Studies Program
Rev. John Molter, C.S.C.,
Chair in Science
University of Portland



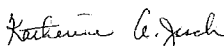
The Rev. Paul Benz
Co-director, Faith Action Network



Elise DeGooyer
Co-director, Faith Action Network



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



The Rev. Katherine Jesch
Affiliated with
First Unitarian Church of Portland