



Columbia Riverkeeper
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May 5, 2022

Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Sent via email to: Jessica_Keys@merkley.senate.gov

RE: Remove Snake River Dams. Prevent Extinction.

Dear Senator Merkley,

In 2022, over 1,000 people from Oregon and around the country have signed the following letter:

“Pacific Northwest Salmon and Southern Resident Orcas are facing extinction, and we are calling on you to act with the urgency this moment demands. We are counting on your leadership to save these iconic species from extinction.

It’s time to remove the four Lower Snake River dams and replace the services they provide.

The science is clear: the four Lower Snake River dams make the river too hot for salmon, and dam removal is our last best chance to prevent the extinction of salmon and orcas while honoring Tribal rights and leadership.

I appreciate your promises and leadership so far. But, as salmon and orca populations sink towards extinction, we need swift, effective action before it is too late. **Please enact a plan for Lower Snake River Dam removal before the end of 2022.**”

Many signers added heartfelt comments about the importance and urgency of removing Snake River dams; their comments are attached. Keith from Imnaha, Oregon, wrote: “I live on the Imnaha River, a tributary of the Snake. Every year the salmon passing my house to spawn are fewer and fewer. Every year the summers are hotter. . . . If you care about having lox and bagels into the future, I suggest you do more than talk about it.” Accordingly, we ask you to help enact a plan for Lower Snake River Dam removal before the end of 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Miles Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Miles Johnson, Senior Attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper
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