

*For Immediate Release - July 28, 2022*

## **Tribal leaders call on Gov. Inslee to deny permits for Goldendale pumped storage project**

### ***Tribes stand together to support Yakama Nation sacred site***

**YAKAMA RESERVATION, TOPPENISH, Wash.**— Today, 17 tribal leaders from across Washington State sent a letter to Governor Inslee urging him to reject the permits for the Goldendale Pumped Storage Project.

The Goldendale Pumped Storage Project proposed at Juniper Point, or *Pushpum*, in Goldendale, Wash. is a violation of Yakama Nation's inherent sovereignty and Treaty-reserved rights through direct and permanent destruction of an irreplaceable sacred site.

The Yakama Nation's Treaty-reserved right to exercise gathering, fishing, ceremony and passing of traditions in the area of the proposed project has existed since time immemorial. Yakama Nation opposes the development of the project to avoid irreparable damage to Yakama Nation's natural and cultural resources.

"Our medicines, foods, lands, and waters are sacred to us" said Yakama Tribal Council Chairman, Delano Saluskin. "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."

Yakama Nation values the support of all tribes who stand in alliance with them to protect their natural and cultural resources. "We stand united with the Yakama Nation to protect their sacred sites," said Tulalip Tribe's Chairwoman Teri Gobin. "All tribes in Washington State must stand together to protect our resources."

The full text of the letter follows:

### **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.

Leonard Forsman  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Suquamish Tribe**

W. Ron Allen  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Jamestown S'klallam Tribe**

Steve Edwards  
Tribal Senate Chairman  
**Swinomish Indian Tribal Community**

Teri Gobin  
Board of Directors Chairwoman  
**Tulalip Tribes**

Nino Maltos  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe**

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

Douglas Woodruff, Jr.  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Quileute Tribe**

Charles "Guy" Miller  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Skokomish Indian Tribe**

Frances G. Charles  
Business Committee Chairwoman  
**Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe**

Bill Sterud  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Puyallup Tribe of Indians**

Kris Peters  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Squaxin Island Tribe**

Jaison Elkins  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Muckleshoot Indian Tribe**

Guy Capoeman  
Tribal Council President  
**Quinalt Indian Nation**

William Jones Jr.  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Lummi Nation**

Rosemary LaClair  
Tribal Council Chair  
**Nooksack Tribe**

Jeromy Sullivan  
Tribal Council Chair  
**Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe**

Willie Frank, III  
Tribal Council Chairman  
**Nisqually Indian Tribe**

# # #

*Contact:*  
*Andrea Tulee, Public Information Officer*  
*(509) 865-5121*  
[Andrea\\_Tulee@Yakama.com](mailto:Andrea_Tulee@Yakama.com)