

December 23, 2020

Dear Governors Brown, Bullock, Inslee and Little:

Thank you for your recent agreement to develop a collaborative framework to consider issues related to increasing salmon and steelhead abundance in the Columbia Basin announced in October. We support the intent of this work and hope to engage in this forum. In fact, as explained below we are asking to formally engage as soon as possible.

In February, we requested your leadership in establishing a collaborative forum to develop a long-term vision and strategic plan that would identify investments needed to recover and conserve salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife populations, ensure tribal needs are honored and sustained, and strengthen the electricity and agricultural services that communities depend upon from the river. We were pleased to see that your agreement is responsive to these concerns and acknowledges the need for stakeholder engagement as the region seeks solutions that achieve both fish and energy goals.

For both economic and environmental reasons, there is an urgent need to develop the collaborative forum described in your agreement. Litigation challenging the final Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the associated Biological Opinion seems likely and will, once again, cloud the region with uncertainty. The need for a comprehensive and durable framework that is uniformly supported is in the interest of all stakeholders in the region.

We welcome an opportunity to formally engage with your representatives as they work to establish the collaborative framework described in the agreement. We believe the relationships we have established and the insights we have gained will be of value in structuring a collaborative process. We have had informal discussions already with your representatives to understand the overall goals and processes that they are developing. We stand ready to step up and step in. We think electric utilities are an important stakeholder. We also respect and appreciate that many stakeholders and governmental entities will be involved.

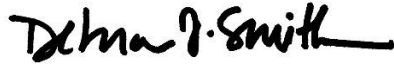
Our request is to ask you to consider including representation from electric utility ratepayers as direct participants in the collaborative forum. Debra Smith, from Washington with Joe Lukas from Montana serving as the alternate, are utility general managers with decades of experience with public power utilities in the NW, representing both urban and rural customers, that have agreed to share their time and expertise to contribute to the important work of the forum you have established.

In closing, we want to express our appreciation for your leadership in these difficult times. Almost immediately after we wrote our joint letter the Covid-19 pandemic struck and has been a significant challenge to government at all levels. We appreciate that you each have helped manage your respective states through this challenge and will need to remain focused on the pandemic while also attending to pressing matters such as salmon recovery.

Thank you for considering our input and we look forward to working with you and your representatives to establish a collaborative forum in which a comprehensive solution package can be developed. For additional information and to communicate your decision, please respond to Debra Smith at [debra.smith@seattle.gov](mailto:debra.smith@seattle.gov) or by phone at 206-475-1185.

Stay safe and Happy Holidays and all the best for a Happy (and different) New Year.

Electric Utilities



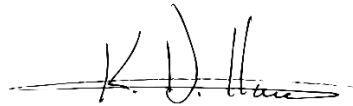
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Debra Smith, General Manager & CEO  
Seattle City Light



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Bear Prairie, General Manager  
Idaho Falls Power




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K David Hagen, General Manager  
Clear Water Utility Services



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Mark Johnson, General Manager  
Flathead Electric Cooperative



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Frank Lawson, General Manager  
Eugene Water and Electric Board



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Roger Gray, CEO  
PNGC Power



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Joe Lukas, General Manager  
Western Montana G&T



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Chad V. Jensen, CEO  
Inland Power & Light



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Chris Robinson, General Manager &  
Superintendent  
Tacoma Public Utilities



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John Harlow, General Manager  
Snohomish County Public Utility District #1