

***American Rivers ♦ American Whitewater ♦ Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Backbone Campaign ♦ Center for Environmental Law and Policy
Coastal Trollers Association ♦ Columbia Riverkeeper ♦ Conservation Northwest
Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Earthjustice ♦ Earth Ministry
Endangered Species Coalition ♦ National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
Northwest Guides and Anglers ♦ Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
NW Energy Coalition ♦ Oceana Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition ♦ Sierra Club ♦ The Lands Council
Washington Environmental Council ♦ Whale Dolphin Conservation
Whale Scout ♦ Wild Steelhead Coalition***

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Murray and Representatives Smith and Jayapal,

The 27 undersigned conservation organizations and business associations are writing to express our deep gratitude for your February 20 letter to House and Senate leadership communicating your opposition to HR 3144. We thank you for your support for a full and fair environmental review of salmon and steelhead restoration alternatives for the threatened and endangered populations in the Columbia-Snake River Basin.

Wild salmon and steelhead – and the healthy, resilient rivers upon which they depend – are an essential part of the ecological, economic and cultural fabric of Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. They are critical to the survival of many fish and wildlife populations, including endangered Southern Resident Orcas, and they play an irreplaceable role for tribal and non-tribal communities on the coast and inland.

If passed, HR 3144 would roll back important salmon restoration progress, bypass bedrock environmental laws, severely constrict public and stakeholder participation, halt current collaboration and study, undercut the federal judiciary,

and derail the court-ordered environmental review. A tremendous amount of work, time, and taxpayer resources have been devoted to salmon restoration in the Columbia Basin over the past two decades to so little effect. The current court-ordered NEPA review process is a long overdue opportunity for the people of our state and region to reconsider the costs, benefits and tradeoffs of different salmon and steelhead recovery alternatives.

We stand ready to work together with you, other policymakers, regional sovereigns, and other stakeholders on durable, lawful, shared solutions. We are grateful for your leadership and strong commitment to finding a solution that will restore abundant, harvestable and self-sustaining populations of salmon and steelhead in a manner that enriches and strengthens our communities.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important set of issues. Please reach out if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition
Seattle, WA

Bill Arthur, Director of the Northwest Salmon Campaign
Sierra Club
Seattle, WA

Tom France, Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation
Missoula, MT

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Rich Simms, Founder/Board member
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Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment

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Tillamook, OR

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