



MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201



IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 7, 2022

Representative Derek Kilmer
2059 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Email:

Re: Support for the Transfer of Lands to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in Trust and Reservation Status

Dear Representative Kilmer:

As the Chairman of the Makah Tribe, I respectfully urge Congress to transfer to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, in trust and reservation status, the lands outside of Olympic National Park boundaries that the Interior Department acquired to carry out the removal of the two Elwha River dams. For generations, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe advocated for the removal of the dams that decimated the once legendary salmon runs on the Elwha River. Along with all of the other Tribes of Western Washington, Makah rejoiced with the Lower Elwha Klallam when the lower dam was breached in 2011 and when the removal of the upper dam was completed in 2014.

Like the Makah, the Lower Elwha Klallam are salmon people. We share fishing grounds in and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca on the northern coast of the Olympic Peninsula. Although our rights to fish were reserved under separate treaties, Makah works alongside the Lower Elwha Klallam as tribal partners in the co-management of salmon fisheries with the State of Washington. This partnership has provided Makah with a front row seat to the dam removal project and the restoration of the Elwha River ecosystem and its fisheries.

After decades of advocating for the removal of the dams and working tirelessly to restore the Elwha River ecosystem and its fisheries since removal, there is no entity more deserving of the lands acquired by the National Park Service for the removal of the Elwha Dam than the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. The Makah Tribe wholeheartedly supports the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and urges the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Greene, Sr., Chairman
Makah Tribe