



Washington State Senate

Olympia Address:
403 Legislative Building
PO Box 40420
Olympia, WA 98504-0420

Senator John Braun
20th Legislative District

Phone: (360) 786-7638
Toll-Free: 1-800-562-6000
John.Braun@leg.wa.gov

June 6, 2018

Director Andrea McNamara Doyle
Office of Chehalis Basin
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Director McNamara Doyle,

My staff helped arrange Thursday's meeting with the Office of Chehalis Basin Board and legislators from the Chehalis Basin. I am sorry that my work schedule requires me to be out of town so I cannot attend. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your board members at another time.

First, I want you to know that the work you are doing is very important, and the progress you are making is impressive. It is impressive that stakeholders with diverse interests are working collaboratively toward addressing two problems, fish recovery and flood protection, that have evaded effective solutions for decades.

I am fully supportive of your efforts, and the other legislators from our area – Democrat and Republican – have also been full supporters. The Chehalis Basin process has had the backing of a unified bipartisan group of local legislators whose districts represent different parts of the basin. We are fortunate right now to have several of our local members in key budget positions, especially related to the capital budget. This bipartisan support has resulted in full funding of the requests made by the Governor's work group and now the Office of Chehalis Basin for three biennium.

Without a plan, this funding will not go on forever. The Chehalis Basin is a very small portion of the state of Washington. There are many, many demands for funding for projects in other parts of the state, and the state's revenue never comes close to matching the demand for spending. Both Republican and Democrat legislators have made it clear that they expect to see a finalized fish and flood plan from you. I think it's important to stress that delay is the enemy of both fish recovery and flood protection in our area. It is our enemy because of this: if we cannot produce a comprehensive fish and flood plan within the next year or two at the latest, the patience of the other legislators will run out, and even a united effort by local legislators will not succeed in continuing to fund your requests. I believe that we can, with a

continued united local legislative team, fund a long-term plan of action for fish recovery and flood protection – what we cannot continue to fund indefinitely is the pre-planning work.

You have been successful in the basin with diverse interests by making both fish and flood together the focus of your work. The same is true in the legislature. You saw that the legislature unanimously passed the legislation creating the Office of Chehalis Basin because you are charged with both “aggressively pursuing” aquatic species enhancement *and* flood damage recovery. If either part of this goal stalls, the entire effort will stall. We will lose the bipartisan support we have maintained within and outside the basin.

I am committed to do what I can to support the success of both parts of the goal. Please let me know whenever I can be of help to you in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Braun", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator John Braun
20th Legislative District