



February 11, 2020

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We support and are asking you to support a budget proviso for \$900,000 to assist with the next phase of work to restore the natural river channel in the Lower Satsop. After years of disagreement, discussion, and inaction, we now have a community of landowners, regulatory agencies, tribes, and fish advocates united in agreement on solutions and next steps.

When completed, this plan will restore habitat for fish, reduce flood damage to prime farmland that has occurred over the past 65 years due to poor decisions, and diminish the unchecked catastrophic erosion outside the river migration corridor.

This past summer an early “proof of concept” phase of the project was begun and completed with the help of many stakeholders. This work started the restoration of the Lower Satsop River to help the river return to its historic river migration zone. Over \$3 million has already been invested.

This coming summer we hope to start and complete Phase II – a comprehensive set of engineered wood structures to help the river move back into its historic channel. Phase II has already secured 65 percent of the funding needed, including local “distressed county” money from Grays Harbor County.

This project will protect a key public water system that supports the Satsop Business Park, owned and operated by the Port of Grays Harbor, and the hundreds of jobs that park provides for the region. This work will protect critical road infrastructure leading to the business park. Finally, local farms affected by flooding on the Satsop provide feed for over 5,000 cows, most of which are in King, Thurston, and Lewis counties. The impacts of this restoration project will be felt across a multi-county region.

The plan is ready for the next step, the stakeholders are willing, and permits are primed and waiting to be finalized. We hope the project will gain this additional, critical funding to get started and finished this summer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Deerkop

Vice Chair, Grays Harbor Voluntary Stewardship Program