



June 29, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you today in support of modernizing the Columbia River Treaty (Treaty) between the United States and Canada. The Columbia River and its tributaries have been central to the culture and economy of the Pacific Northwest and the future of the river's international governance will have significant ramifications for the entire region.

The Treaty between the U.S. and Canada has provided considerable value to our states over the past 50 years. But much has changed since its inauguration in 1964, and we believe the Treaty must be updated so that future generations of Americans and Canadians will continue to share in its benefits.

Our states were participants in the regional process that developed the "U.S. Entity Recommendation on the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024", which was presented to your administration in December of 2013. We support the balanced approach for modernizing the Treaty and support the negotiation process to modify or amend the Treaty.

Our states request being informed when the Department of State and the Interagency Policy Committee reach a formal decision about renegotiating the treaty. We are also interested in how the Department of State plans to coordinate with the states and regional sovereigns on the several issues that will be negotiated. We stand ready to coordinate with the U.S. Entity and Department of State and provide additional support and information in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington



Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
State of Idaho



Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon



Governor Steve Bullock
State of Montana

CC: The Honorable John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State
Members of the Idaho Congressional Delegation
Members of the Montana Congressional Delegation
Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation
Members of the Washington Congressional Delegation