Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2019

Dear Friends,

As co-chairs of the Congressional Puget Sound Recovery Caucus, it's our pleasure to welcome you to the fifth annual Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Whether this is your first time attending or you are a veteran of Days on the Hill, your voice is critical to helping save our Sound.

Thanks to your committed advocacy to protect our Puget Sound, federal agencies have formed a Puget Sound Federal Task Force that works to align federal recovery work with state and local priorities. Congress has also authorized major habitat recovery projects, including the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem restoration Project and the Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project.

These are significant accomplishments, but there is still work to be done to ensure the Sound's recovery. Stormwater remains the largest source of pollution in Puget Sound, and habitat loss hampers our efforts to recover endangered salmon population. And again this year, the White House and the EPA have budgeted nothing to protect Puget Sound.

That's why our fight for Puget Sound is so important. Nobody will make a better case for sustained federal investment than all of you. Whether you're sharing your firsthand experience working in one of the thousands of jobs that depend on a clean and healthy Sound, or you're a Tribal member demanding the government uphold its trust and treaty obligations, or you simply want to ensure the Sound's iconic species like salmon and Orca are preserved for future generations—your voice matters. Your involvement underscores how Puget Sound recovery is guided by bottom-up, collaborative approach among state agencies, municipalities, Tribes, industry, nonprofits, and federal partners.

For those of us lucky enough to call Western Washington home, Puget Sound is our identity. It's why millions of Americans flock to our region. And it's a big reason the region's economy is growing so quickly. So, thank you for being here, for sharing your stories, and for speaking up for our region's economy and identity.

Sincerely,

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

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