

Please personalize your letter by including your own comments.

While we urge you to be firm in requesting the immediate breaching of the 4 Lower Snake River dams, we also encourage you to be polite and respectful.

“Politeness if Powerful” ~ Peggy Oki, cetaceans.org / Origami Whales Project.

Please send your letter to be received by February 14th, 2025 to:

Love Letters for Orcas
c/o D. T. Osh
1821 Schooner Lane
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
USA

Dear Governor Bob Ferguson,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to take immediate action to support the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams in 2025. This decisive step is critical to saving Chinook salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW), both of which are critically endangered and on the brink of extinction.

Six years after female SRKW Tahlequah carried her dead calf for 17 days and 1,000 miles, she has tragically made headlines again, carrying another dead calf born in December 2024. Her second heartbreaking display of grief highlights the ongoing plight of this unique and fragile ecotype.

The Southern Resident Killer Whales face immense threats, with the scarcity of their primary prey, Chinook salmon, being one of the most urgent. Over the past 14 months, six SRKWs have been declared missing or deceased. As I write, one-fifth of this population is reported to be in poor body condition, placing them at two to three times higher risk of mortality. With only 73 individuals remaining, the situation is dire.

A 2022 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) makes it clear that breaching the dams is the only effective path to restoring wild Chinook salmon runs, which are essential for the survival of the SRKW.

The Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Senators have the authority to move forward with dam breaching, and preparations have been in place since 2002. The time for action is now. Furthermore, the Biden administration's recent acknowledgment of the harm these dams have caused to Tribal communities adds urgency to address this longstanding issue.

Washington has a proud history of leading efforts to recover salmon and orcas in the Pacific Northwest, and now, more than ever, we need Washington to continue doing so.

I urge you to prioritize dam service replacement projects, advance near-term salmon recovery initiatives, uphold federal commitments to Tribes, and fully support the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative.

Your leadership is crucial to ensuring that orcas, salmon, treaty rights, and thriving Northwest communities, economies, and ecosystems are preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your commitment to these vital issues.

Sincerely,
[Insert your name and address]