**RESOLUTION ON RECOVERY OF ENDANGERED SALMON, STEELHEAD AND ORCAS**

WHEREAS, Senator Patty Murray and Governor Jay Inslee have announced their determination to develop, no later than July, 2022, a comprehensive plan to recover endangered Columbia/Snake salmon and steelhead and salmon-dependent Sothern Resident orcas; and

WHEREAS, The Biden Administration has agreed, as an alternative to litigation over the inadequate and illegal salmon recovery plan released in 2020 by the Trump Administration, to work with Northwest states, sovereigns and stakeholders to chart a more sustainable path in the Columbia River Basin; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes across the region and nationally have called on our elected leaders for urgent action to recover these iconic creatures, culturally central to Northwest Tribes; and

WHEREAS the “Joint Secretarial Order on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters” (Order No. 3403, Signed on Nov. 15, 2021 by Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior, and Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture) requires the U. S. agencies to manage Federal lands and waters in a manner that seeks to protect the treaty, religious, subsistence, and cultural interests of federally recognized Indian Tribes, fulfilling the unique trust obligation to federally recognized tribes and their citizens,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the 21st Legislative District Democrats applaud the leadership of Senator Murray and Governor Inslee and recognize and honor the legal and moral claims of Northwest Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 21st Legislative District Democrats affirm that breaching four dams on the lower Snake River and replacing the services the dams provide with investments in clean energy and in irrigation and transportation infrastructure must be the twin cornerstones of any lawful and effective recovery plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the 21st Legislative District Democrats urge Senator Maria Cantwell, Representative Rick Larsen, Representative Pramila Jayapal, and other Northwest leaders to work actively and urgently with Senator Murray, Governor Inslee, Northwest Tribes and other stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive solution that works for farmers and fishermen, for Tribes and utilities and for communities in the Columbia Basin and on Washington’s coast.

Addendum: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/so-3403-joint-secretarial-order-on-fulfilling-the-trust-responsibility-to-indian-tribes-in-the-stewardship-of-federal-lands-and-waters.pdf>