

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, House Transportation &
Infrastructure Committee
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member, House Transportation &
Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

On September 16, 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted a final Chief's Report for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP). The PSNERP Chief's Report recommends construction authorization for three Tier 1 Projects, as well as conditional authority for an additional nine Tier 2 Projects pending further feasibility study. Taken together, these projects are critical to help protect and restore Puget Sound's shorelines. As you continue to discuss reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), we ask you to include the PSNERP Chief's Report as part of any final WRDA legislation.

Designated an "Estuary of Significance" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Puget Sound is the largest estuary by water volume in the United States. As one of the largest habitat restoration efforts in the history of the United States, this wide-reaching project is integral to the implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda, the recovery and protection of several fish and mammal species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and the fulfillment of tribal treaty rights. This project was developed with collaborative input from agencies and stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels, and will help facilitate restoration of river deltas, beaches, open coastal inlets, and barrier embayments within the region.

We appreciate the Army Corps' commitment to completing the PSNERP Chief's Report in a timely manner, and again reiterate the importance of the project to the entire Puget Sound region. We strongly request the final report for the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project be included in any final WRDA package.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

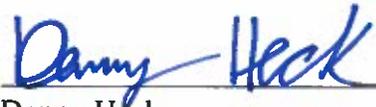
Sincerely,



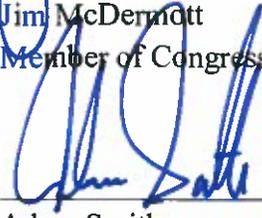
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



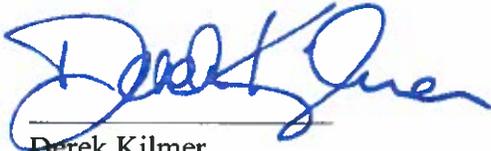
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress