

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Global Affairs Canada  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0G2

The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
United States

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia  
Box 9041  
Station PROV GOVT  
Victoria, British Columbia  
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February 10, 2016

Dear Minister Dion, Secretary Kerry and Premier Clark,

The Columbia River is one of the most important trans-boundary rivers in the world. Although the river has been heavily developed for hydropower and flood management, including by dams built pursuant to the U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty, it still functions as a single system, within a single watershed.

As citizen-based coalitions in Canada and the United States, we are writing on behalf of organizations in both countries that collectively represent millions of people. We support modernizing the 1964 U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty, to improve the health of basin ecosystems and ensure that the river and its people are more resilient to the increasing effects of climate change.

To achieve these goals, we are writing to raise two fundamental issues regarding the Treaty and its negotiation. First, we recommend the addition of “ecosystem-based function” as a third Treaty purpose, and that expert representatives appropriate for addressing ecosystem function be added to Treaty negotiating and governance structures. Restoring and/or improving ecosystem-based function means improving the health of the Columbia River system, and can include a variety of measures such as: restoration of wetlands, riparian areas and floodplains; approximation of natural hydrographs; reduced impacts of reservoir and dam operations on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; fish passage and reintroduction of anadromous species; and adaptive management to continuously improve ecosystem functions. In order to achieve maximum net ecological benefits, a determination of which measures to implement, and where, will require coordinated investigation and modeling throughout the watershed.

This brings us to our second recommendation. We recommend the development of a common U.S.-Canada analytic base to explore and assess operational scenarios and

watershed futures across the whole Columbia basin. This will provide a framework for understanding the potential for improvement of ecosystem function, and also to adequately assess tradeoffs and synergies between all water uses in the basin (ecosystems, power production, flood control, irrigation, domestic, navigation, etc.).

Negotiations toward a modern Treaty are more likely to result in the maximum net ecological benefit if all stakeholders can access and use a common analytic base. The modeling process should be transparent and informed by our combined best-available science. We believe a process that brings together all of our trans-boundary expertise to jointly develop and assess scenarios for all uses and water conditions is more likely to result in a superior Treaty and its adaptive implementation, than a process based on compartmentalized analyses.

A common analytic base would enable a host of positive opportunities in preparing for the Columbia River Treaty talks, and provide a constructive mechanism for international collaboration. Such a coordinated approach need not compromise each nation's requirement for confidentiality. Instead, this common analytic base would catalyze all our region's sovereigns and stakeholders to contribute and learn. All would be enabled to provide input, and evaluate others' input, into modeling scenarios. Ultimately, it would strengthen the scientific, technical and democratic foundations of a new Treaty.

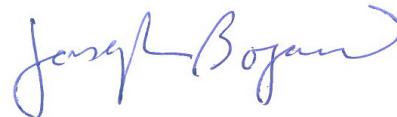
The International Columbia River Engineering Board, established by the International Joint Commission prior to the original Treaty negotiations over 50 years ago, produced common technical analysis and evaluations for both nations. We hope you will examine this precedent for a common analytic base, and update and expand it with modern tools, collaboration and transparency.

Thank you for considering our recommendations, and for all your work to modernize the Columbia River Treaty. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us. Any response to this letter can be sent to either Martin Carver and/or Joseph Bogaard. Their contact information is listed below.

Sincerely,



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**Additional signers from Canada and the United States are listed below.**

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