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May 15, 2018

Hon. Katrine Conroy  
Minister Responsible for the Columbia River Treaty

**Re: Columbia River Treaty negotiations**

Dear Minister Conroy,

Sierra Club BC has long been an advocate for improved environmental management of resources in this province. We support the efforts by First Nations in BC, US Tribes, and others to include improved ecosystem function as a mandate in the revised Columbia River Treaty in addition to its present mandates of flood protection and power generation.

We recognize that an important goal of First Nations and US Tribes is the return of salmon to the upper Columbia River in BC, and are supportive of this objective. We are also supportive of measures that would bring terrestrial benefits, as is possible along Arrow and Koozan reservoirs, and possibly elsewhere.

We ask that the province support these objectives in the Canada/BC negotiations with the US. It is recognised that management of salmon is a federal responsibility, but if the decision is made for the return of the salmon, BC will necessarily be involved in decisions on management of the river to accommodate the salmon.

Renegotiation of the Treaty offers the opportunity to improve the ecosystem of the whole of the Columbia River, and Sierra Club BC will offer support to the province through this process, provided the objective of improved ecosystem function is prominent in the negotiations.

Representatives of the Club greatly appreciated the recent opportunity to meet with Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, Columbia River Treaty Review, to discuss the issues involved in the renegotiation, and intend to maintain this contact.

We await news of the progress in negotiations with interest.

Yours truly,

Caitlyn Vernon  
Campaigns Director, Sierra Club BC

Ken Farquharson,  
Sierra Club BC Representative, Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative (UCBEC)

cc. Hon. Michelle Mungall, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources  
cc. Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, Columbia River Treaty Review