



June 1, 2021

Chairman Peter DeFazio
Committee on Transportation
And Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairwoman Grace Napolitano
Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
585 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Chairwoman Napolitano:

As I testified earlier this year, the Puyallup Tribe strong supports H.R. 1915, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021. This measure is important to addressing the aging water infrastructure needs across America, but this measure is particularly important to Indian country.

Indian country faces a \$2.6 billion backlog in water infrastructure needs. This has significant impacts on the health of Indian people, in particular increased cancer rates, specifically gastric cancers, but also other health concerns including obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, as well. The poor water infrastructure across America also impacts the environment, in particular water quality. This has a deleterious impact on tribal trust fisheries and other natural resources, and thereby impacts our ability to exercise our treaty protected right to hunt, fish and gather in our usual and accustomed areas.

Once again, the Puyallup Tribe thanks you for the opportunity to testify on this issue and for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Sterud".

Bill Sterud, Chairman