



**City of Seattle**  
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

February 11, 2021

The Honorable John Horgan  
P.O. Box 9041 STV PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC V8W9E1 Canada

Dear Premier Horgan,

As we start the new year, I want to congratulate you on the New Democratic Party's victory in October and your second term as premier. As you appointed your new cabinet members late last year and set out the mandates for their ministries' work, you likely considered the important legacies you wish to provide the people of British Columbia during your second term. Here in the United States, we are starting the year with a new president and a dramatic shift in leadership at the federal level that will undoubtedly renew our country's commitment to environmental protection and partnerships with neighboring countries. Along with this, development and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine puts us on a positive path forward out of the current crisis. These events present an opportune time for us to recommit and recharge our efforts to protect the Silverdaisy Area of the Upper Skagit Watershed as directed by the High Ross Treaty and Agreement.

You recently received a letter signed by 108 U.S. stakeholders including conservation, recreation, and wildlife groups as well as elected officials and local businesses opposed to logging and mining in the Upper Skagit Watershed in British Columbia. Despite the global pandemic and the economic hardship facing our residents and businesses, the City of Seattle remains fully committed to working with you and your cabinet to advance our mutual obligation to protect the Silverdaisy Area that continues to receive significant attention and support from a large and diverse group of stakeholders, including local, state, and federal elected officials as well as US Tribes and First Nations.

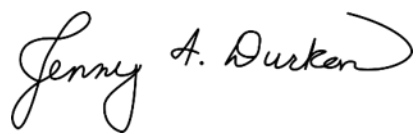
Since we last communicated, Seattle City Light's new Chief Environmental Officer, Tom DeBoer, has been participating in scheduled calls with your staff, Pierrette Maranda, communicating with the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) and other stakeholders, and monitoring the media to track the progress on this issue. I am pleased to see the substantial advancements in protection of the Silverdaisy Area that have recently been made. The area now appears to be protected from logging activities, including associated roadbuilding, through the

recent Old Growth Strategic Review and establishment of a Section 16 Map Land Reserve. I appreciate how difficult this must have been to achieve and want to commend and thank you and the members of your cabinet involved in making this happen.

While we have discussed our shared commitment to permanent protection of the Silverdaisy Area, I remain deeply concerned that the communication from the BC government to interested parties appears to be lacking and SEEC's attempts to engage Imperial Metals to discuss the retirement of their mining tenures have been fruitless. With the High Ross Treaty having served as a model for transboundary collaboration for over 35 years, I still believe we can find a common path forward that does not involve the use of provisions outlined in the Agreement to address a significant dispute over our shared obligations for protection of the watershed. To that end, I have directed my staff to re-engage with your office to schedule another call as soon as possible. I want us to identify ways we can work together to take more proactive and assertive action to motivate Imperial Metals to work with SEEC to retire their tenures. My hope is that we can secure such a commitment by the end of 2021, so that the Donut Hole can finally be incorporated into the surrounding BC park system as intended.

Thank you again for your continued partnership through the Treaty and the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Durkan  
Mayor of Seattle

Cc: Jay Inslee, Governor, Washington State  
Leo Bodensteiner, US Co-Chair, SEEC  
Thomas Curley, Canada Co-Chair, SEEC  
Debra Smith, General Manager/CEO, Seattle City Light  
George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, British Columbia

Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, British Columbia