



May 9, 2018

The Honorable John Horgan
Premier, British Columbia
East Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan:

As elected officials from across the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, we applaud the Province's efforts to protect communities from hazards to public safety and clean water posed by expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans-Mountain Pipeline. We are grateful for the leadership and courage of Indigenous leaders in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest who have fought this and other fossil fuel infrastructure proposals.

The risk of devastating oil spills extends to Orca, salmon, and other species in the Salish Sea on both sides of the U.S.-Canada Border. The proposed expansion of Kinder Morgan would triple pipeline capacity, resulting in a 7-fold increase in oil tanker traffic through the Salish Sea and increased oil transport by pipeline into Washington State. This is truly a transboundary issue.

Communities in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia have faced a wave of similar oil and coal infrastructure proposals with common challenges in recent years. Too often, local, Tribal, and state governments are expected to shoulder the risks to health and safety, and the costs for infrastructure upgrades and emergency response, while having limited authority to regulate fossil fuel transport. Too often, the federal government fails to fulfill its legal and moral obligations to conduct meaningful consultation with Tribes and First Nations. Too often, economic interests are pitted against protection of our health and environment in a false choice.

In the face of these challenges, state, Tribal, and local governments are increasingly joining their voices to call out the true costs and risks of these proposals to our communities. Many of us are members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA), a coalition of more than 150 elected leaders for city, county, Tribal, and state governments in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. SELA members have weighed in against oil and coal terminal proposals along the Columbia River, the Salish Sea, and Fraser River, and many of these proposals have been abandoned. We have advocated for increased state protections against oil spills and called on our federal government to uphold Tribal Treaty rights.

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We support your leadership in standing up for the health and safety of British Columbia residents. We share an interest – across borders and waters – in economic development that reflects the value we place on public safety, clean water, Treaty rights, and the commitments that many of us have made on climate change. We look forward to working together for a cleaner, more sustainable region for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

[SIGN ONS]

Maureen Thomas, Chief, Tsleil-Waututh Nation