



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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Statement of Paul Lumley, Executive Director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Regarding the Nomination of Bruce Buckmaster to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Before the Senate Rules Committee, Salem, Oregon
May 19, 2015

Good afternoon, Chair Rosenbaum, and members of the Committee. My name is Paul Lumley. I am a citizen of the Yakama Nation and Executive Director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and our leadership from the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Perce tribes support the nomination of Bruce Buckmaster to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

For the past three decades, our member tribes have had the pleasure of working with Bruce Buckmaster in his capacity as a businessman and later on to address various issues impacting the Columbia River and Columbia River fisheries. Throughout this period, Bruce demonstrated the ability to work with diverse interests to reach collaborative solutions to complex issues. For example, Bruce Buckmaster served on the Umatilla Tribes' Citizen's Economic and Fish Recovery Forum from 2001-2003, a forum committed to finding common ground when the Columbia Basin was mired in turmoil following the water and power crisis of 2001.

Our tribes appreciate that Mr. Buckmaster clearly recognizes the importance of tribal treaty fishing rights. It is now frequently acknowledged, after decades of fighting, that nobody would be fishing on the Columbia if it weren't for the tribes' assertion of their treaty fishing rights on behalf of the resource. Bruce Buckmaster was one of the first to publicly acknowledge this.

The tribes appreciate his willingness to thoroughly understand tribal programs that are actively rebuilding salmon populations throughout the Columbia River and its tributaries.

Bruce understands the benefits all citizens share from efforts like the Nez Perce Tribe's Snake River fall chinook program and the Umatilla Tribe's spring chinook reintroduction program on the Umatilla River. These tribally led programs put fish back on the spawning grounds and support fisheries throughout the region. He understands that the only way that our region can have successful fisheries is by rebuilding abundance; a viewpoint that the tribes have shared for decades.

Our tribes were impressed by Bruce Buckmaster's active participation on the Pinniped Interaction Task Force, a diverse group that convened to assess the on-going sea lion predation threat facing the Columbia Basin's salmon populations. We value his service and continued dedication to addressing the sea lion situation as well as the other challenges facing Columbia Basin salmon populations, such as cormorant predation.

Mr. Buckmaster's experience in working with commercial fishing industry, as the former owner of a business supporting the state hatchery system, and as an avid fly fisherman brings a balance that will serve the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission well. We look forward to working with Mr. Buckmaster and the skills he will bring to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

On behalf of our tribes and the resources we share with all Oregonians, we commend Governor Brown for her nomination of Bruce Buckmaster. We urge this Committee recommend to the full Oregon State Senate his nomination to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission be confirmed.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.