



THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

June 12, 2017

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E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Waters of the United States

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

The Suquamish Tribe is concerned of the economic and health impacts EPA's proposed rulemaking to rescind and revise the definition of the "waters of the United States" will have on the Suquamish community, and the impacts this action will have to the Tribe's Treaty-reserved resources. The Suquamish Tribe requests that the 2015 rule of the "waters of the United States" is retained, and any future rulemaking to change this definition under Presidential Executive Order 13778 follows the same rigorous, transparent, and peer-reviewed process that was followed in developing the 2015 rule.

The integrity of the Nation's waters is critical to the rights and resources tribes have reserved under treaties with the United States; the United States has a trust responsibility to protect these treaty-reserved rights and resources. The proposed expedited two-step process to rescind and revise the definition of the "waters of the United States" will not provide meaningful consultation with federally-recognized tribes with treaty-reserved rights and resources directly affected by this proposed rulemaking. It will further not meet the trust responsibility of the U.S. government to federally-recognized tribes.

We appreciate your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Leonard Forsman
Chairman

Cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Rep. Derek Kilmer