

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 17, 2002

The Honorable Christy Todd Whitman  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman:

Last month leaders who developed Washington's new Forests and Fish Agreement met with members of your staff to discuss this historic agreement. This agreement was reached in 1999 after more than two years of dedicated work by the three state agencies, most treaty Tribes in Washington State, the counties, large and small private timberland owners, EPA, National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We believe that the Forests and Fish Agreement improves forest practice on non-federal lands to meet the requirements of federal environmental laws and now exists as a model for how the federal government should interact with state and local government and private landowners. This agreement is designed to bring the state's forest practices in compliance with the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Since 1999, our delegation has worked closely with all the participants in the Forests and Fish Agreement and has secured federal appropriations to match state funds required to implement the Agreement.

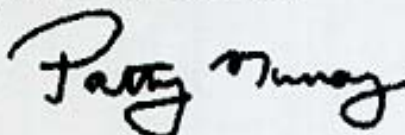
To this end, we are seeking your agency's support for efforts in Region 10 to complete the Forests and Fish Agreement. The last step in finalizing the agreement is to provide federal assurances under the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act as initially contemplated in the Forest and Fish Report (FFR). In letters to both Tom Fitzsimmons, Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, and Bill Wilkerson, Executive Director of the Washington Forest Protection Association, Region 10 Director John Iani has indicated support for meeting EPA's commitments under FFR (see attachments).

Again, we are asking for your continued commitment to implementing the Forests and Fish Agreement as the federal government proceeds to complete the assurances it has offered the state and private timberland owners. We hope you will support John Iani in his efforts and you will strongly consider assigning a senior person within U.S. EPA as a liaison on issues relative to the completion of the federal assurances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

  
Jennifer Dunn

Best regards,

  
Senator Patty Murray

*Maria Cantwell*  
Senator Maria Cantwell

*Jim McDermott*  
Jim McDermott

*George R. Nethercutt, Jr.*  
George R. Nethercutt

*Brian Baird*  
Brian Baird

*Jay Inslee*  
Jay Inslee

*Doc Hastings*  
Doc Hastings

*Norm Dicks*  
Norm Dicks

*Adam Smith*  
Adam Smith

*Richard Larsen*  
Richard Larsen