



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

July 8, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002.

Re: Goldendale Pumped Storage Project Violates Yakama Nation's Sovereign Rights

Governor Inslee:


I write on behalf of the Yakama Nation to continue our fight to protect the ancestral homelands, cultural and natural resources of our people. The pumped storage project proposed at Juniper Point, *Pushpum* in Goldendale, is a violation of Yakama's Treaty rights and would destroy an irreplaceable sacred site.

Our medicines, foods, lands, and waters are sacred to us. For too long, these sacred places where we gather our foods and hold our ceremonies, have been threatened by development without consultation with, or consent from, our sovereign tribes. This is unacceptable.

Our ancestors signed Treaties with the United States, often under threat of violence and death, in exchange for our ancestral lands and sacred places. Through the treaties, we retain the rights to practice and live in our traditional ways in these places. Yet, the promises made by the government have been broken time and time again. Development and industry have threatened our ways of life for hundreds of years and continues to do so today. Our salmon populations are near extinction. Our ancient villages and ceremonial sites have been flooded. Our ways of life are under constant threat from development and climate change. We must protect our sacred places for our future generations.

We call on the state and federal governments to do better. Uphold the Treaties and respect the rights of our Sovereign Nations. Deny the permits for the Goldendale pumped storage project on Yakama Nation's sacred lands.

Sincerely,


Delano Saluskin, Chairman
Yakama Nation Tribal Council