May 24, 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.
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,

Sherry Appleton
Washington State Representative (23rd LD)

Russell Axelrod
Mayor, West Linn, OR

Timothy Ballew
Councilmember, Whatcom County, WA

April Barker
Councilmember, Bellingham, WA

Bruce Bassett
Councilmember, Mercer Island, WA

Arlene Burns
Mayor, Mosier, OR

Reuven Carlisle
Washington State Senator (36th LD)

Joan Cathey
Councilmember, Tumwater, WA
Bob Champion
Bob Champion
Councilmember, Mukilteo, WA

Brian Cladoosby
Brian Cladoosby
Chairman
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Dow Constantine
Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Chair of SELA

Jim Cooper
Jim Cooper
Councilmember, Olympia, WA

Jeannie Darnielle
Jeannie Darnielle
Washington State Senator (27th LD)

Maralyn Chase
Maralyn Chase
Washington State Senator (32nd LD)

Eileen Cody
Eileen Cody
Washington State Representative (34th LD)

Christine Cook
Christine Cook
Council Vice President, Mukilteo, WA

Peter Cornelison
Peter Cornelison
Councilor, Hood River, OR

Laurie Dolan
Laurie Dolan
Washington State Representative (22nd LD)
Todd Donovan  
Councilmember, Whatcom County, WA

Laura Dupont  
Councillor, Port Coquitlam, BC

Fred Felleman  
Commissioner, Port of Seattle, WA

Joe Fitzgibbon  
Washington State Representative (34th LD)

Leonard Forsman  
Chairman, Suquamish Tribe

Adrienne Fraley-Monillas  
Councilmember, City of Edmonds, WA

David Frockt  
Washington State Senator (34th LD)

Mark Gamba  
Mayor, City of Milwaukie, OR
Clark Gilman  
Councilmember, City of Olympia, WA

Jennifer Gregerson  
Mayor, City of Mukilteo, WA

Mia Gregerson  
Washington State Representative (33rd LD)

Will Hall  
Mayor, City of Shoreline, WA

Bart Hansen  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Vancouver, WA

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Deputy Mayor, City of Kenmore, WA

Laurie Jinkins  
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Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor, City of New Westminster, BC
Nathaniel Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Olympia, WA

Alissa Keny-Guyer  
Oregon State Representative (46th LD)

Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Councilmember, King County, WA

Patty Kuderer  
Washington State Senator (48th LD)

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Michael Lilliquist  
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Liz Lovelett  
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Nicole Macri  
Washington State Representative (43rd LD)

Sue Malek  
Montana State Senator (46th LD)
Kate McBride  
Council President, City of Hood River, OR

Doris McConnell  
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA

John McCoy  
Washington State Senator (38th LD)

Kol Medina  
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Ryan Mello  
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Sharon Nelson  
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Commissioner, Port of Bellingham, WA

Derek Stanford
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Steve Tharinger
Washington State Representative (24th LD)

Sharon Tomiko-Santos
Washington State Representative (37th LD)

Javier Valdez
Washington State Representative (46th LD)

Benson Wong
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E.J. Zita
Commissioner, Port of Olympia, WA

Mike O’Brien
Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA

cc: Maureen Thomas, Chief, Tsleil-Waututh Nation