

2019 Paddle to Lummi Legislative endorsements

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
BUDGET COMMITTEE

July 2019

Dear Paddlers and Friends,

I am pleased to offer my heartfelt appreciation and recognition to everyone participating in the 2019 Paddle to Lummi Canoe Journey. While I regret that I am unable to attend, I wish to all paddlers a safe journey as you celebrate the Coast Salish land, water, and people.

I join my Congressional colleagues and local leaders in honoring the many tribes and cultures of the Coast Salish people. This canoe journey, first established in 1989, is a beautiful and unique experience for paddlers and local residents to honor the heritage and traditions of the past. This event also is an opportunity to educate future generations about the diverse cultures of the Coast Salish people. I would also like to specifically thank Lummi Nation for hosting, and the Lhaq'temish Foundation for managing this year's canoe journey.

This year's journey, *Sqweshenet Tse Schelangen (Honoring Our Way of Life)*, will have over 111 canoe families paddling the journey and over 18,000 local residents expected to welcome the paddlers at the canoe landing. The Coast Salish people first inhabited these lands and waters, and I am glad that every year we are able to celebrate their rich history and continued stewardship.

Once again, I want to wish everyone a safe journey and thank all of those who were involved in hosting this distinguished event.

Sincerely,



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Washington State Senate

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Senator Doug Ericksen
42nd Legislative District

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July 9, 2019

I am honored to join in celebration of the rich heritage of the Lummi Tribe on the lands and waters of Puget Sound. The tribal canoe journey from the Pacific to the Lummi Reservation pays tribute to the traditions, trade and transport of the Coast Salish Indian nations. This journey honors the Coast Salish way of life. I am proud to join my fellow elected officials, tribal members and area residents in recognition of the important contributions of the Coast Salish to the culture of the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Ericksen". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

Senator Doug Ericksen
42nd Legislative District

JAY INSLEE
Governor



Greetings from the Governor

July 24 – 28, 2019

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to all of those attending the 2019 Paddle to Lummi Tribal Canoe Journey.

The Lummi People, the original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast and southern British Columbia, have celebrated life on the shores and waters of the Puget Sound for thousands of years.

I am honored to welcome more than 111 canoe families landing from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, as well as the visiting Indigenous guests from other states and nations. The 2019 Canoe Journey is a continuation of a cultural tradition from time immemorial.

Together we will celebrate, honor, and preserve the unique cultural heritage of the Coast Salish people. Upon these waters and land, the Coast Salish world of the Pacific Northwest is woven together. This is a magnificent opportunity for all people to experience and preserve the ancestry and traditions of the Coast Salish way of life.

The Canoe Journey honors the rich traditions of the Coast Salish tribes, who travel the waters to meet and gather for trade, ceremony, and celebration. The Canoe Journey holds special significance as it truly honors and nourishes the unique relationships and connections with the land, water, and one another.

Thank you for coming and please accept my best wishes for a memorable event.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor



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RICK LARSEN
2ND DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4702

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ARMED SERVICES

July 18, 2019

Dear Friends:

Thank you for the privilege of helping celebrate the 2019 Paddle to Lummi Tribal Canoe Journey. The tribal canoe journey provides an opportunity for First Peoples from all over the world to come together and forge relationships while honoring your ancestry and traditions. The Lummi Nation have upheld the Coast Salish way of life for generations and are integral to the Pacific Northwest culture. The five-day journey is a reminder of a common obligation to honor one's ancestors and work to preserve the natural environment.

I send my best wishes for safe passage and a joyful celebration to those who are participating in this year's Paddle to Lummi Tribal Canoe Journey. Congratulations to the Lummi Tribe for hosting this year's event. I will continue working to ensure Indian Country receives a fair share and support tribal members' efforts to build local economies and preserve sites of cultural and historical significance. I thank you again for allowing me to celebrate the First People's traditions and cultures.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
40th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
DEBRA LEKANOFF

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL
RESOURCES
CAPITAL BUDGET

July 18, 2019

Honorable Chairman Jeremiah Jay Julius,

I am honored to join in celebrating Lummi Nation in the Paddle to Lummi. The 40th Legislative District stands with the 42nd Legislative District and your Nation in welcoming Coast Salish Nations from far distances to be part of cultural traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation since time immemorial.

This journey of more than 111 Canoe Families is a powerful moment to honor the ways in which all our lives are woven not only with each other, but also with the mighty orca, salmon, forests, and seas. We will honor the Spirit of Place and Our Way of Life, Sqweshenet Tse Schelangen. Together, we will strengthen the bonds of friendship between all Nations. We will root ourselves in the teachings of previous generations to honor the present and nourish the growth of generations to come.

As the only Native American woman in the Washington State Legislature, this journey to honor our traditions carries a special place in my heart. In the opening days of the 2019 State Legislature, I was blessed to have you stand with fellow Coast Salish Leaders of Washington State and Coast Salish First Nation Chiefs of British Columbia for a ceremony in the House Chamber. For the first time, the music of Coast Salish Drums and Songs were embedded into the floors and walls of the People's House, and intertwined in the historical voices carried in the legislative chambers. Moreover, each word of song echoed in those marble chambers with the spirits of generations passed. I am proud to carry the echoes of those spirits into each and every piece of legislation that I write, and every meeting that I take on behalf of the people of the 40th Legislative District.

My gratitude and heart goes the Lummi Nation. I stand with you, committed to sharing the Story of the Coast Salish Nation. It is our responsibility, as state and tribal leaders to support the shared voices of the Salish Sea and support our youth, elders, and everyone in-between. Thank you for fostering hope, healing, and happiness. I look forward to joining with you to honor the relationships to land, water, and one another that have been strong for generations, and will be even stronger for generations to come.

Thank you,

Debra Lekanoff

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
42nd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SHARON SHEWMAKE

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
AGRICULTURE, & NATURAL
RESOURCES
VICE CHAIR
ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION

July 10, 2019

It is my honor to welcome those of you who have traveled from other communities and other nations to these shores, which I have the privilege of representing in the Washington State House of Representatives.

As the First Peoples of these lands and waters, you are critical pillars of our communities. Your traditions and your cultures have defined this place since time immemorial.

I thank you for your invitation to participate and value the opportunity to experience and honor the Coast Salish way of life this year at Paddle to Lummi 2019, "Sqweshenet Tse Schelangen," "Honoring Our Way of Life."

This journey celebrates hope, hospitality, and healing, and is culturally enriching to all who participate from our community.

In the spirit of continued friendship, I look forward to this and many future Canoe Journeys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Shewmake".

Sharon Shewmake
State Representative, 42nd Legislative District



Washington State Senate

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40th Legislative District

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July 16, 2019

Statement Commending the Inter-Tribal Canoe Journey

To celebrate the 2019 Paddle to Lummi Tribal Canoe Journey and honor the First Inhabitants of these lands and these waters, I am excited to have the opportunity to express my utmost respect and admiration of the Coast Salish of the Pacific Northwest. Their rich culture and heritage are invaluable to our region as are their undeniable contributions to our collective community. I appreciate the traditions and values of the Coast Salish, which have been interwoven throughout this region.

Their story is our story and I am humbled and proud to call them friends and partners. As this event takes place over the next couple of weeks, with over 100 canoes, 60+ Tribal Nations, and more than 10,000 people participating each day, let us reflect on the Coast Salish's resilient history and look to the future with optimism and hope for continued corporation.

Good luck on your journey of gratitude, fortitude, and honor.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Lovelett".

Senator Liz Lovelett
40th District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
42nd LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
LUANNE VAN WERVEN

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



COLLEGE & WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
RANKING MEMBER
TRANSPORTATION
INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

July 12, 2019

I write to honor the families who will take part in the 2019 Canoe Journey. We warmly welcome the guests of the Lummi Nation who have travelled so far to participate in this important cultural event. It is inspiring that this globally recognized event is returning to the Pacific Northwest for the first time in 12 years.

The discipline required in this arduous endeavor is to be commended. Strength, purpose, and a sense of belonging from this voyage will serve tribal youth well.

I am proud to join in the celebration of this historical event and the importance it brings to the Lummi Nation and the community at large. Over these days, I wish you the best as you honor your way of life and celebrate your rich heritage.

Respectfully,

Luanne Van Werven

Luanne Van Werven
State Representative, 42nd District