



Washington State Legislature

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002
ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Governor Inslee:

Our state, along with the country and the rest of the world, is experiencing a challenge of immense size and scope that has radically altered the daily routine of life for so many.

Your task of balancing public safety with individual rights is not an easy one. However, we wonder if your Stay Home—Stay Healthy order might be a bit too narrow in what it allows Washingtonians to take part in over the next two weeks and perhaps longer. One of the four essential activities permitted under your order is: “Engaging in outdoor exercise activities, such as walking, hiking, running or biking, but only if appropriate social distancing practices are used.”

We were surprised to see recreational fishing not included on that list, and even more surprised when the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife closed the activity to the public altogether.

This is a time of deep anxiety and fear for Washingtonians, many of whom are struggling to find a way to decompress and enjoy life amidst the chaos. It’s a fact of life that very few activities are as relaxing as casting a line from the banks of a river or from a boat in the middle of a lake. It’s an escape, much like walking, hiking, running or biking.

It’s also a fact that many of our veterans recreationally fish, whether to simply clear their minds or to treat symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. As with all Washingtonians, we are concerned for their well-being during this time, and want to ensure they don’t suffer as a result of Stay Home—Stay Healthy.

We firmly believe there is a way to balance public health while also allowing folks to fish on Washington’s many rivers and lakes. We would ask you to consider adding recreational fishing to your list of allowable essential activities under Stay Home—Stay Healthy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Hoff".

Representative Larry Hoff, 18th Legislative District



Senator Ann Rivers
18th Legislative District



Representative Brandon Vick
18th Legislative District



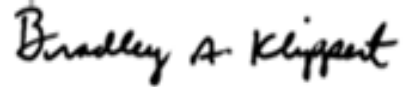
Representative Bob McCaslin
4th Legislative District



Senator Shelly Short
7th Legislative District



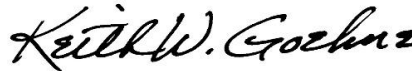
Senator Sharon Brown
8th Legislative District



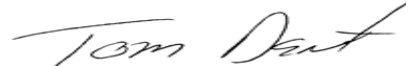
Representative Bradley Klippert
8th Legislative District



Representative Joe Schmik
9th Legislative District



Representative Keith Goehner
12th Legislative District



Representative Tom Dent
13th Legislative District



Representative Alex Ybarra
13th Legislative District



Representative Chris Correy
14th Legislative District



Representative Skyler Rude
16th Legislative District



Representative Bill Jenkin
16th Legislative District



Senator Lynda Wilson
17th Legislative District



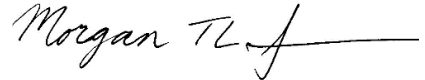
Representative Jim Walsh
19th Legislative District



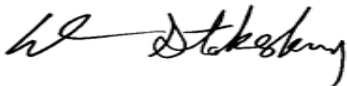
Representative Ed Orcutt
20th Legislative District



Representative Kelly Chambers
25th Legislative District



Representative Morgan Irwin
31st Legislative District



Representative Drew Stokesbury
31st Legislative District



Representative Drew MacEwen
35th Legislative District



Representative Carolyn Eslick
39th Legislative District



Representative Robert Sutherland
39th Legislative District

cc: Drew Shirk, Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, Office of Governor Jay Inslee
o/b/o The Honorable Governor Jay Inslee – **Electronic Delivery**

Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife-**Electronic Delivery**