[Your name]

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[Date]

President Joseph Biden

Office of the President

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Re: Please Breach the Four Lower Snake River Dams in Southeastern Washington

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing about a decades long situation in the Pacific Northwest that is beyond crisis stage. Only you can fix it fast enough. Four dams on the lower Snake River have been killing salmon and steelhead populations for 50 years. Without dam breaching, the fish will not survive.

We in the region have been unable to resolve this problem, largely due to politics.

Salmon are a keystone species. They are essential to the Pacific Northwest ecosystem survival, including its river basins, its ocean and its forests. Each of these is a vast carbon sink that is indispensable to reducing climate change.

An in-depth Nez Perce study shows that by 2025, 77% of the lower Snake River wild spring chinook runs will be quasi-extinct. This is the point at which it is presumed the fish cannot recover. Steelhead runs are close behind in the quasi-extinction race.

The fish have run out of time. They need action now.

You have the authority to breach the dams and you have the chance right now to make that decision in pending litigation in Portland. In *NWF v. NMFS*, the federal government is the main defendant. The issue is the survival of Snake River salmon and steelhead.

In that case plaintiffs filed suit against the federal government nearly 30 years ago. Six times the court has ruled that by operating the dams, the federal agencies are jeopardizing Snake River salmon and steelhead. This means that for decades the federal government *has been* *reducing appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of Snake River salmon and steelhead*. See 50 C.F.R. § 402.02.

You can end the litigation and the Snake River salmon and steelhead decline. The federal government currently is in settlement negotiations with plaintiffs. This provides you with an excellent opportunity to agree to dam breaching to begin this year, and settle the action.

Breaching the dams will restore 140 miles of the crucial riparian lower Snake corridor from the Tri-Cities in Washington to Lewiston, Idaho. That means barren reservoirs and riprap navigation channels will be replaced with native vegetation and wildlife. This large riparian area available post-breaching—over 14,000 acres—will be a big boost to your administration’s 30 x 30 Executive Order to protect 30% of public lands and fresh water by 2030.

Please act to breach the lower Snake River dams this year and support a healthier, more biodiverse environment for future generations.

Thank you.

(Sign here)

[Print name here]