



July 10, 2026

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray,

On behalf of the Columbia Basin Development League and the undersigned agricultural producers, irrigation districts, conservation districts, agricultural businesses, and community partners across Eastern Washington, we respectfully request your support for including language in the Senate Farm Bill that designates the Columbia Basin Project within USDA's Western Waters Region Critical Conservation Area, consistent with the amendment adopted in the House-passed Farm Bill.

The Columbia Basin Project is one of the nation's most productive agricultural regions, supporting family farms, rural communities, and Washington's economy while helping feed the nation. Expanding the Critical Conservation Area would ensure the Columbia Basin Project is eligible to compete for targeted USDA conservation investments through existing programs, including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

This designation has already proven its value. Through the Western Waters Region Critical Conservation Area funding pool, USDA-NRCS has invested more than \$46 million in the southern delivery systems of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program, helping replace declining groundwater supplies with Columbia Basin Project surface water while conserving a rapidly declining aquifer.

Expanding the designation to include the entire Columbia Basin Project will create greater opportunities to leverage federal investments to complete the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program, modernize aging irrigation infrastructure, improve water reliability, conserve groundwater, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and strengthen the long-term productivity and sustainability of Washington agriculture.

We greatly appreciate your longstanding leadership in advancing the Columbia Basin Project and supporting the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program. Your commitment to securing federal investments for Eastern Washington has helped strengthen our agricultural economy, improve water reliability, and conserve critical natural resources.

As the Senate considers the Farm Bill, we respectfully ask that you continue this leadership by supporting the inclusion of the Columbia Basin Project within the Western Waters Region Critical Conservation Area. This provision will help ensure Eastern Washington remains competitive for existing USDA conservation investments that benefit producers, communities, and natural resources across the region.

Thank you for your continued service to Washington State and your support of the Columbia Basin Project. We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Stakeholders Supporting the Columbia Basin Project

1. Adams County Commissioner, Mike Garza
2. Adams County Development Council, Kyle Niehenke
3. Agri/Com Appraisals, Jim McCullough
4. AgWest Farm Credit
5. B&P Farms Inc, Bradley Heider
6. Baumann Century Farm, Brian D Baumann
7. Candy Mountain Farms LLC
8. Columbia Basin Development League, Alice Parker
9. City of Harrington, WA, Joseph Armand
10. Cochrane Sons Farm, Kelly Cochrane
11. Columbia Bank, Scott Galbreath
12. Columbia Basin Conservation District, Deanna Elliott
13. Columbia Basin Conservation District, Kristina Ribellia
14. CT Myers Farms, Inc.- M3 Farms, Inc, Clint Myers
15. Diamond J Farms Inc, Andrew Juris
16. Earthbourne Resources, Inc., Chris Lyle
17. ECBID, Craig Simpson
18. Escure Farms II, Inc., Patrick J. Escure
19. Farmer, Nancy Alison
20. Farmer, Roger Dormaier
21. Farmer, Vicki Gordon
22. Farmer, Judith Gorman
23. Farmer, Gavin Johnson
24. Farmer, Kasey Lewis
25. Farmer, Lynn Olsen
26. Farmer, Jeff Schibel
27. Farmer, Randy Schlee
28. Farmer, David L Swannack
29. Friehe Farms, Berend Friehe
30. Friehe Farms, Derek Friehe
31. Goetz Family LLC, Les Goetz

32. Grant County Port District # 8, Pat Millard
33. Green View Farms Inc, Marci Green
34. J & D Weber Farm. Alice Weber
35. J & E Schafer Farms Inc., D & M Janke Family Farm Ilc., Marlon Schafer, Manager
36. Kagele Family Farms LLC, Clark and Charlene Kagele
37. Kagele-Kiesz Family Farm, Brady Kiesz
38. Kagele-Kiesz Family Farm, Randy and Michele Kiesz
39. Kagele-Kiesz Farms, Cameron Kiesz
40. Kiesz Farms Inc., Randy Kiesz
41. Landau Associates, Inc., Ben Lee
42. Landlord, Robin Parry
43. Lincoln County Commissioners
44. Lyle Prairie Inc., Kevin Lyle
45. M & M Financial Group, Lance Marshall
46. M&L Carstensen Farms, Mike B Carstensen
47. Marlin Hutterian, Steven Gross
48. Moses Lake City Council, Victor Lombardi
49. Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, Samuel Castro and Beth Yonko
50. Pierret Inc., Claude Pierret
51. Port of Moses Lake, Dan Roach
52. RDO Equipment Co., Kent Smith
53. Rosenoff Homestead LLC, Ron Jirava
54. Save Family Farming
55. Schorzman Farms JV, Brian Schorzman
56. South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, John O'Callaghan, Secretary/Manager
57. State of Washington House of Representatives, Mary Dye
58. The McGregor Company, Leslie Druffel
59. The Simplot Company, Ken Dey
60. Tucannon AG Partnership, John Andrews
61. WA State Representative Tom Dent
62. WA State Senator Mark Schoesler
63. WA State Senator Judy Warnick, Legislative District 13
64. Warden Hutterian Brethren, Paul Wollman
65. Washington Association of Wheat Growers, James Nollmeyer and Michelle Hennings
66. Washington Farm Bureau, Caleb Gwerder
67. Washington State House of Representatives, Alex Ybarra
68. Washington State House of Representatives, Tom Dent
69. Washington State Legislature, Mark Klicker
70. Washington State Potato Commission, Geordy Bryant Greene
71. Washington State Tree Fruit Association
72. Washington Winegrowers Association, Sara Higgins
73. Westside Farms, Inc., Stacey Rasmussen
74. Wheat Growers, Barbara Jolly
75. Washington State Water Resources Association

- 76. Yakima County Cattlemens Association
- 77. Yakima Klickitat Farm Association



July 10, 2026

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell,

On behalf of the Columbia Basin Development League and the undersigned agricultural producers, irrigation districts, conservation districts, agricultural businesses, and community partners across Eastern Washington, we respectfully request your support for including language in the Senate Farm Bill that designates the Columbia Basin Project within USDA's Western Waters Region Critical Conservation Area, consistent with the amendment adopted in the House-passed Farm Bill.

The Columbia Basin Project is one of the nation's most productive agricultural regions, supporting family farms, rural communities, and Washington's economy while helping feed the nation. Expanding the Critical Conservation Area would ensure the Columbia Basin Project is eligible to compete for targeted USDA conservation investments through existing programs, including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

This designation has already proven its value. Through the Western Waters Region Critical Conservation Area funding pool, USDA-NRCS has invested more than \$46 million in the southern delivery systems of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program, helping replace declining groundwater supplies with Columbia Basin Project surface water while conserving a rapidly declining aquifer.

Expanding the designation to include the entire Columbia Basin Project will create greater opportunities to leverage federal investments to complete the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program, modernize aging irrigation infrastructure, improve water reliability, conserve groundwater, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and strengthen the long-term productivity and sustainability of Washington agriculture.

We greatly appreciate your longstanding leadership in advancing the Columbia Basin Project and supporting the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program. Your commitment to securing federal investments for Eastern Washington has helped strengthen our agricultural economy, improve water reliability, and conserve critical natural resources.

As the Senate considers the Farm Bill, we respectfully ask that you continue this leadership by supporting the inclusion of the Columbia Basin Project within the Western Waters Region Critical Conservation Area. This provision will help ensure Eastern Washington remains competitive for existing USDA conservation investments that benefit producers, communities, and natural resources across the region.

Thank you for your continued service to Washington State and your support of the Columbia Basin Project. We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Stakeholders Supporting the Columbia Basin Project

1. Adams County Commissioner, Mike Garza
2. Adams County Development Council, Kyle Niehenke
3. Agri/Com Appraisals, Jim McCullough
4. AgWest Farm Credit
5. B&P Farms Inc, Bradley Heider
6. Baumann Century Farm, Brian D Baumann
7. Candy Mountain Farms LLC
8. Columbia Basin Development League, Alice Parker
9. City of Harrington, WA, Joseph Armand
10. Cochrane Sons Farm, Kelly Cochrane
11. Columbia Bank, Scott Galbreath
12. Columbia Basin Conservation District, Deanna Elliott
13. Columbia Basin Conservation District, Kristina Ribellia
14. CT Myers Farms, Inc.- M3 Farms, Inc, Clint Myers
15. Diamond J Farms Inc, Andrew Juris
16. Earthbourne Resources, Inc., Chris Lyle
17. ECBID, Craig Simpson
18. Escure Farms II, Inc., Patrick J. Escure
19. Farmer, Nancy Alison
20. Farmer, Roger Dormaier
21. Farmer, Vicki Gordon
22. Farmer, Judith Gorman
23. Farmer, Gavin Johnson
24. Farmer, Kasey Lewis
25. Farmer, Lynn Olsen
26. Farmer, Jeff Schibel
27. Farmer, Randy Schlee
28. Farmer, David L Swannack
29. Friehe Farms, Berend Friehe
30. Friehe Farms, Derek Friehe
31. Goetz Family LLC, Les Goetz

32. Grant County Port District # 8, Pat Millard
33. Green View Farms Inc, Marci Green
34. J & D Weber Farm. Alice Weber
35. J & E Schafer Farms Inc., D & M Janke Family Farm llc., Marlon Schafer, Manager
36. Kagele Family Farms LLC, Clark and Charlene Kagele
37. Kagele-Kiesz Family Farm, Brady Kiesz
38. Kagele-Kiesz Family Farm, Randy and Michele Kiesz
39. Kagele-Kiesz Farms, Cameron Kiesz
40. Kiesz Farms Inc., Randy Kiesz
41. Landau Associates, Inc., Ben Lee
42. Landlord, Robin Parry
43. Lincoln County Commissioners
44. Lyle Prairie Inc., Kevin Lyle
45. M & M Financial Group, Lance Marshall
46. M&L Carstensen Farms, Mike B Carstensen
47. Marlin Hutterian, Steven Gross
48. Moses Lake City Council, Victor Lombardi
49. Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, Samuel Castro and Beth Yonko
50. Pierret Inc., Claude Pierret
51. Port of Moses Lake, Dan Roach
52. RDO Equipment Co., Kent Smith
53. Rosenoff Homestead LLC, Ron Jirava
54. Save Family Farming
55. Schorzman Farms JV, Brian Schorzman
56. South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, John O'Callaghan, Secretary/Manager
57. State of Washington House of Representatives, Mary Dye
58. The McGregor Company, Leslie Druffel
59. The Simplot Company, Ken Dey
60. Tucannon AG Partnership, John Andrews
61. WA State Representative Tom Dent
62. WA State Senator Mark Schoesler
63. WA State Senator Judy Warnick, Legislative District 13
64. Warden Hutterian Brethren, Paul Wollman
65. Washington Association of Wheat Growers, James Nollmeyer and Michelle Hennings
66. Washington Farm Bureau, Caleb Gwerder
67. Washington State House of Representatives, Alex Ybarra
68. Washington State House of Representatives, Tom Dent
69. Washington State Legislature, Mark Klicker
70. Washington State Potato Commission, Geordy Bryant Greene
71. Washington State Tree Fruit Association
72. Washington Winegrowers Association, Sara Higgins
73. Westside Farms, Inc., Stacey Rasmussen
74. Wheat Growers, Barbara Jolly
75. Washington State Water Resources Association

- 76. Yakima County Cattlemens Association
- 77. Yakima Klickitat Farm Association