



CONFEDERATED TRIBES of the CHEHALIS RESERVATION

Honorable Washington State Legislators,

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation submit this letter to show support of the Chehalis Basin Board's Capital Budget request of \$73.2 million for 2019-2021.

There is critical work for all stakeholders in the Basin in the budget request. The notion that we can address catastrophic flood damage and aquatic species enhancement hinges on the Legislature fully funding both concerns simultaneously. Though it seems to be a large ask, the cost of in action or insufficient action will be far more devastating. The problems in the basin have been argued and talked about for a century. Meanwhile fish runs and aquatic species habitat have suffered in ways that are all too evident in the basin today.

Though the Chehalis Tribe continues to have concerns about the construction of a water retention facility on the main stem of the Chehalis River, we support moving forward with the process to simultaneously address catastrophic flood damage and restoration of aquatic species in the Chehalis Basin. The work of the Chehalis Basin Board, in conjunction with State, local, and Tribal governments has created a path forward for an unprecedented investment in the health and sustainable future of the complex network of species in the Chehalis Basin.

The Chehalis Basin Strategy provides for a comprehensive plan moving forward. The success which has been achieved thus far is evidence that the legislature is making a sound investment in the future of the basin. We urge you to fully fund the \$73.2 million request before you this legislative session.

Sincerely,
Harry Pickernell,
Chairman

