



Nez Perce

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 305 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540 • (208) 843-2253

July 13, 2022

Allison Ludtke, Policy Advisor
Zack Strong, Senior Staff Attorney
Animal Welfare Institute
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Nez Perce Tribe's Support for Proposed Legislation Establishing a Federal Beaver Conflict Mitigation Demonstration Program

Dear Ms. Ludtke and Mr. Strong,

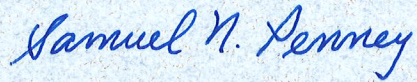
On behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe ("Tribe"), thank you for the opportunity to review Animal Welfare Institute's proposed legislation providing that the Secretary of Interior, acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, establish a federal pilot program to help tribes, states, agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, and other entities invest in effective, nonlethal solutions to minimize property damage caused by beavers. The five-year pilot program would provide \$1 million in funding per year to mitigate beaver conflicts in communities across the nation.

Since time immemorial, the Nez Perce people, or Nimiipuu, have occupied and used for subsistence, cultural, ceremonial, and commercial purposes over 13 million acres in what is today the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. To preserve our way of life, the Tribe entered into a treaty with the United States in 1855 in which the Tribe reserved, and the United States secured, its right to fish, hunt, gather, pasture, and travel at usual and accustomed places on open and unclaimed lands. These activities continue to play a major role in the culture, religion, subsistence, and commerce of the Tribe.

As a co-manager of its treaty-reserved resources, the Tribe also devotes substantial efforts in restoring and managing these lands and waters. These efforts include high consideration for beavers in design and construction of projects to improve quality and quantity of habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants. Finding and implementing nonlethal solutions to conflicts with beaver can help ecosystems within and surrounding our communities build resiliency to changes in climate, particularly providing cold water and replenishing water sources.

The Tribe fully supports the legislation and applauds the Animal Welfare Institute for spearheading this effort. The federal beaver conflict mitigation program will provide essential funding for developing and evaluating nonlethal measures to reduce conflicts and property damage caused by beavers.

Sincerely,



Samuel N. Penney
Chairman