



December 1, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Hon. Lisa Herbold  
Hon. Andrew Lewis  
Hon. Tammy Morales  
Hon. Teresa Mosqueda  
Hon. Sara Nelson (elect)  
Hon. Alex Pedersen  
Hon. Kshama Sawant  
Hon. Dan Strauss  
Seattle City Council

Re: Councilwoman Debora Juarez for City Council President

Dear Members of the Seattle City Council:

It is time for the city that bears the name of Chief Seattle to draw wisdom from and be led by an Indigenous public servant. We urge you to make history by supporting City Councilwoman Debora Juarez for election as President of the Seattle City Council. She is a citizen of the Blackfeet Nation and was raised on the Puyallup Indian Reservation.

The year 2022 will mark 35 years of public service by Councilwoman Juarez on behalf of the people of Washington State, King County, Seattle, and Indigenous territory. She began her career as a King County public defender for indigent criminal defendants and legal aid lawyer who fought for Indigenous Treaty fishing rights. Councilwoman Juarez served as counsel to two Washington State Governors before being appointed to serve King County as our state's first Indigenous Superior Court Judge. She of course now serves in her second term on the Seattle City Council, where she has added a Native Communities Committee to City's portfolio. We are proud of her longstanding commitment to public service and stewardship.

Councilwoman Juarez leads with patience and humility. She deliberately receives and accepts the wisdom that is given to her—by her ancestors, elders, relatives, constituents, staff, and colleagues. Councilwoman Juarez uses that grace and wisdom to bring people together; she bridges political and ideological differences in order to advance the common good.

Because Seattle and our Tribes' governments and economies are connected—by our water, air, land, and people—Seattle's successes and challenges are our Tribes' successes and challenges, and vice versa. Amid climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, our governments and peoples' futures have never been more inter-dependent.

We are gratified that President Biden appointed and the U.S. Senate confirmed Deb Haaland as the first Indigenous U.S. Department Secretary in our country's history and Lauren King as the first Indigenous U.S. District Court Judge in our state's history. We urge you to also make history by electing Councilwoman Juarez to serve as Seattle's first Indigenous Council President.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Chairman W. Ron Allen  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

/s/

Chairwoman Frances Charles  
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

/s/

Chairman Steve Edwards  
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

/s/

Chairman Timothy "TJ" Greene  
Makah Tribe

/s/

Chairman Willie Frank III  
Nisqually Tribe of Indians

/s/

Chairman William Jones, Jr.  
Lummi Nation

/s/

Chairman Kris Peters  
Squaxin Island Tribe

/s/

Chairman Harry Pickernell, Sr.  
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

/s/

Chairman Jeromy Sullivan  
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

/s/

Chairman Tom Wooten  
Samish Indian Nation

Cc: Seattle Mayor-Elect Bruce Harrell