



San Juan County Council

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District 1, Bill Watson
District 2, Rick Hughes
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June 23, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: 1784(ORWOOO) P
San Juan Islands National Monument Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Bernhardt:

Recently you made three appointments to the Monument Advisory Committee for that we thank you. The MAC will finally meet on August 27th. It will be the only time they will have input before a Record of Decision is signed.

However, we are very disappointed that in spite of having qualified nominees, you neglected to appoint a tribal representative or a local government representative as required in the proclamation, charter, and DOI's own rules for advisory committee appointments.

Stated in CFR: *Title 43-subsection 1784.6-1(2)(c) The Secretary shall appoint the members of each resource advisory council. The Secretary shall appoint at least 1 elected official of general purpose government serving the people of the area to each council.*

And in 1784.6-1(2)(c)(3)(i): *Hold State, county or local elected office; (ii) Are employed by a State agency responsible for management of natural resources, land, or water; (iii) Represent Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the council is organized; (iv) Are employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences; or (v) Represent the affected public-at-large.*

The MAC has been unable to meet in two-and-one-half years because of a lack of a quorum due to appointments not being made in a timely manner. Prior to its September 2019 meeting the last meeting was in January 2017. This lack of appointments means thirteen of your most important management partners (one elected and twelve consulting tribes) have not had input on the various drafts and will not be a part of this effort going forward. We ask that you consider appointment of representatives of these categories quickly.

Best regards,

San Juan County Council
Washington



Rick Hughes, Chair
District No. 2



Bill Watson, Vice Chair
District No. 1



Jamie Stephens, Member
District No. 3