

Dear Mr. Barry Thom,

This is a letter of notification that I plan on attending the hearing in August. I a direct descendant of Hishka a Makah Chief, and 5th generation of the Makah Treaty of 1855. I come from a long line of Whalers and Wa'atch chiefs. I am the eldest born of one of the last chiefs of Wa'atch. My father has been fighting for this Treaty Right since before I was born. It is my duty as a young Makah leader to attend this hearing and speak before the people to protect and fight for this treaty right. I owe it to my future children and grandchildren to fight for this right. To secure this for the future generations. We are the only tribe in this country to have secured this right. My father sits on the Whaling Commission, and I intend to be apart of this as much as I am able to be. I will not only be representing the Makah Tribe, but also my fanily and the Makah youth as well. My great grandfather would swim the Wa'atch river to practice holding his breath because it was his job to tie the mouth of the whale shut after they harpooned it. I run that same river that he swam in, and everytime I go on my run I am filled with pride, strength, and discipline. It is treaty trust responsibility for the Federal Government to uphold the Makah Treaty of 1855. To not, is a violation of federal law.

Whaling is a significant identity that comes along with being a Makah. We have always been Whalers, Fisherman second. It is how we have made our livelihood, as sussenece, trade, and living. We never harvested more than we needed, and have maintained a balanced relationship with what we harvest from the Ocean. It is not any individual, group, nation to tell the Makah how to live our lives, and what is culturally significant or not. We just like every single Tribe in the U.S. have been forced to assimilate to Western Culture, and society. It is Western Society that has brought drugs, alcohol, disease, and mental illness to our community. Going back to our way of life is a way to heal our people and those lost in darkness. To be able to go out and hunt a whale, takes more than a year to prepare for. You must be mentally and physically disciplined.



**This is a chance to re-discipline our people, and to heal from the historical trauma inflicted upon us by the U.S. Government. We are not Japan, who has giant ships with a metal harpoon gun that is build for mass commercial harvesting of whales. we have a 36ft cedar canoe that sits 8 men. Not a full maned ship with +20 men. We do not just jump into a canoe, drunk and high and kill a whale. That image is 'fake news' sold by organizations such as the Sea Shepherd crew and animal conservationist. This is a false telling of the protocol a Makah is to follow in order to hunt a whale. The Makah legend of how we caught our first Whale was from the Thunderbird is the one who taught us how to hunt whales in a time when our people where not catching any fish. Just like today, salmon are becoming fewer and fewer in population. The Hatcheries barely maintain our fishing quote with each passing year. Not only to mention our fishermen and women having to compete with non-native commercial fishermen. If we are unable to feed our people with Salmon, then we must focus on another source of food. And use this opportunity to take a 5 year hiatus from Salmon fishing to try to build up population.**

**- Innu A. M. (Signature)**

From: Imma McCarty



97232-120299



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