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June 9, 2006

Mr. Nick Licata
Council President
Seattle City Council
P.O. Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Dear Mr. Licata:

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) wrote to you on April 10 about our concerns over the proposed settlement agreement between the City of Seattle (City) and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (Tribe). Our comments focused on the exclusion of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) legislatively-mandated authority to manage state game from that document.

On Monday, June 12, 2006 you will vote on this agreement. PEER strongly recommend that the Council vote against the agreement as it stands and that the City requires modification of the hunting portion of the document to address the concerns outlined in our letter and the letter from the Director of WDFW dated May 15, 2006.

Oversight of MIT's hunting practices is essential for the health of the game population in the City's watershed. The Tribe has a long history of game law violations, including poaching, hunting and fishing out season, exceeding take limits and questionable hunting practices such as killing pregnant does. This information was obtained from WDFW records under a Public Records Act request. The records covering the past decade details dozens of incidents, citizen complaints and mounting frustration within the agency over

the Tribes inability to regulate their members' hunting practices. A summary of recently violations is posted at our website (www.peer.org)

For example, currently the Tribe is allowing fishing for wild steelhead on the Green River, a decision that seems flagrantly incompatible with the state's effort to save wild steelhead by closing the river to fishing by the public.

This information is provided to you to convey our deep concern about the flawed nature of the proposed settlement agreement and its ability to protect the wildlife population in the watershed. We encourage you to look to the 1995 agreement between the MIT and the City of Tacoma on the Green/Duwamish River System. That agreement provides a model that allows for Tribal hunting and oversight that protects the game population and could easily be adaptable to the City's situation.

Sincerely,

Sue Gunn, Ph.D.
Washington State Director

cc: Members of Seattle's City Council
Jeff Koenig, WDFW Director
Bob Everitt, WDFW Regional Director