



Immediate Release

July 11, 2024

Contact:

Anthony Peña, Government Relations Manager, PNWA
503-234-8551 (direct) | 360-991-5414 (cell)
anthony.pena@pnwa.net

Mary Wiley, Communications Manager, PNWA
503-234-8550 (direct) | 503-284-1303 (cell)

PNWA Reacts to Columbia River Treaty Announcement

Portland, Oregon - Today, the Biden Administration announced a tentative deal (Agreement in Principle) with the Canadian Government on the Columbia River Treaty. This 60-year-old agreement between the United States and Canada has governed river flows, flood control, hydropower generation, and more on the shared Columbia River. The U.S. and Canadian negotiating entities have been meeting in earnest for over six years to modernize this important agreement.

PNWA is grateful for the work of the U.S. negotiating team led by the U.S. State Department. Efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration were critical in ensuring a fair agreement was reached, considering the needs of our diverse river users. Navigation stakeholders appreciate the certainty this agreement brings to river operations and the over \$31.5B of U.S. and Canadian cargo that flows across the Columbia River bar each year. It is vital that our river system remains reliable, predictable, and safe - it is the lifeblood of our region.

PNWA's Executive Director, Neil Maunu, lauded this accomplishment, and remains cautiously optimistic that a fully ratified treaty will meet the needs for PNWA's vast membership base and for river navigation, "PNWA is extremely grateful to our federal partners, particularly the Northwest Congressional delegation, for their hard work in ensuring the needs of river transportation and navigation are met. There will be many long days ahead to ensure the details of a modernized treaty and operations plan meet the requirements of our industry. We are excited that safe river navigation, transportation, flood control, and hydropower will remain an efficient and reliable centerpiece to our region and its economy."



PNWA will continue working with our partners at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure the proposed agreement meets the needs of our membership and stakeholders. Securing annual funding to compensate Canada for Flood Risk Management (FRM) expenses while maintaining federal navigation operations and maintenance funding will be an important and ongoing responsibility.

###

PNWA is a non-profit trade association that advocates for federal policies and funding in support of regional economic and environmental sustainability. PNWA represents over 150 public ports, navigation, transportation, trade, tourism, agriculture, forest products, energy and local government interests in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Learn more at www.pnwa.net.