



KATE BROWN
Governor

July 19, 2017

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for your service on the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board. I am pleased to share with you my priorities for Oregon and applaud your work in the Hanford cleanup.

At the national level, early indications from the new administration suggest environmental protections are not a high priority. In Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, however, our commitment to the environment and to protecting our air and water remains steadfast.

Your advocacy and your commitment to this cleanup, is critical. As my appointees to this Board, you demonstrate to the federal government and its regulators that Oregon takes this cleanup effort seriously and that the Columbia River must remain protected now and into the future.

In my May 9, 2017 joint letter with Washington Governor Jay Inslee to President Donald Trump, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, advocating for Hanford cleanup funding, we pointed out that the “longer it takes to clean up the facilities and structures that store...waste, the farther and farther they get past their useful lives – causing degradation and more risk of failing.”

It may be more important now than ever before that Oregon and the Cleanup Board remain engaged – to ask probing questions; to challenge the U.S. Department of Energy and its regulators to do better; and to refuse to give in “quick fixes” or a lesser-quality cleanup.

Oregon has a long history of productive and collaborative involvement with the Hanford cleanup. The Cleanup Board, and its staff at the Oregon Department of Energy, have well-earned reputations for being strong and reasoned voices for a quality cleanup.

Maintaining institutional knowledge of Hanford is a difficult challenge. There’s no blueprint for maintaining commitment and involvement over time. In fact, many of the people that will be engaged in Hanford issues have yet to be born. I applaud you for your efforts in engaging Oregonians, and for your understanding that communication strategies and techniques must evolve just as our communities and technologies continue to change. Be bold. Try new things. Help keep Oregonians engaged in the cleanup for however long it takes.



Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board
July 19, 2017
Page 2

As the work gets more difficult, the visible “successes” at Hanford are fewer and less frequent. Celebrate the accomplishments that do occur. They are the product of a collective involvement, including yours.

Thank you again for your time and for your service to Oregon and to the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brown" with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Kate Brown

KB: ejh