

Both Citizens of the Ebey's Reserve ("COER") and the Washington State Attorney General have filed lawsuits against the U.S. Navy under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA").

Please join COER in thanking Attorney General Robert Ferguson and his outstanding staff, for taking a hard look at the Navy's EIS and Record of Decision expanding EA18-G "Growler" operations at NAS Whidbey, and for unequivocally saying to the Navy that this decision is unreasonably harmful, unsustainable, and contrary to federal law. In filing their NEPA suit, the Attorney General largely validates what COER has been saying for most of the past decade: the Navy decision to base all Growler electronic attack aircraft on Whidbey Island with training over civilian populations, near schools and the hospital, over Ebey's Reserve, the Olympic National Forest and Park, and Deception Pass State Park, must be reversed. (Click *here* to read the AG's press release.)

Please send your thank you letter to: Attorney General Robert Ferguson—in your own words or using the text below.

*Dear Attorney General Robert Ferguson,*

Thank you for your leadership in defending Washington's environment, wildlife, and the communities of Northwest Washington and the Salish Sea.

By asserting that the Navy's environmental review process for the expansion unlawfully failed to measure the impacts to public health and wildlife in communities on and around Whidbey Island, you and your office validates the thousands of comments written to the Navy, and asserts that no entity is exempt from following the law.

We also appreciate your recognition of how the impacts of the Growler jet training involves frequent, loud take-offs and landings near important habitats for birds, including bald eagles and threatened seabirds called marbled murrelets. The protection of endangered species from extinction in our state is important to all of us.

Additionally, we appreciate your defense of historic buildings and properties like Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve, created by Congress in 1978, that will experience increased noise levels caused by the Navy's expansion.

We appreciate your decision to file suit against the Navy and to your staff for your commitment to Washington's environment and to the health and welfare of its citizens.

Sincerely,

You may also wish to send a copy of your thank letter to Attorney General Robert Ferguson to: Other Elected Officials.

**Senator Maria Cantwell**

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**Senator Patty Murray,**

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