



Secretary of State

Kim Wyman

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Dear Tribal Leaders, Elders, and Tribal Members,

As many of you know, in January of this year the Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB) established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) made a public announcement on the proposed closure and sale of the National Archives facility in Seattle. It is our understanding the decision was made without any local stakeholder awareness or participation.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Seattle contains roughly 58,000 cubic feet of important federal historical archival records from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The current plan of NARA/PBRB is for the federal documents to be transferred down to Riverside, CA, however, the final destination appears to still be under discussion. While we understand the significant revenue that could be generated by the sale of the Seattle property, the cost to our Washington heritage is beyond a price tag. The Office of the Secretary of State is gathering a coalition to create different solutions than sending our history to California.

As you are aware, included in the national archival documents proposed for relocation are original Indian treaty rights, tribal reservations, salmon recovery proposals and other documents too numerous to list yet crucial to your ancestry and the history of our state. The relocation of these records will have a large and negative impact on your ability to research and connect with your past, and will be a devastating blow to all who seek to preserve our native heritage.

NARA has expressed the decision to close and sale the Sandpoint facility was not theirs but that of the PBRB. I have sent a letter to our Congressional delegation about my strong opposition to this move. In bipartisan support, they sent a letter of their opposition to the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I also made a presentation to the Washington State Heritage Caucus, who joined in our concerns. We are urging our concerned partners to stand with us in opposing this relocation and as we work together on solutions to keep our historic archival documents in Washington state.

You can gain more information of the proposed closure on our website at: sos.wa.gov. Our goal is to keep these vital documents in Washington state to serve as a reminder of our past as we plan for the future.

If you have additional concerns, I also encourage you to reach out to your Congressional delegates. Their contact information is included on the following page.

Sincerely,

Kim Wyman
Washington Secretary of State

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