From: Mureall
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
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There is no need, at this point in time, for the Makah tribe to continue to whale. The destruction of life simply for the purpose of embracing one's culture is obscene. This is not a concept Americans, both indigenous and naturalized, should be embracing.

It must be asked if cultural heritage has the right to trump a categorical imperative? Or do outmoded traditions, found to be inconsistent with modern knowledge and morality, deserve to be abandoned and outlawed?

Culture is not a static concept. Societies are fluid, forming and reforming their constructs as times and conditions change. This is simple cultural evolution.

There have been many traditions throughout history and in all societies that have been lauded as moral and culturally just only to be considered, by current standards, to be morally repugnant and deserving of reformation through civil rights and/or animal rights laws.

Makah whaling is no different than many outmoded traditions that deserve to be given a place in history rather than an active role in current society. To do otherwise threatens protective sanctions that have been established for ecological/environmental benefits worldwide.

While the Makah tribe deserves to retain their cultural identity, they must also be willing to evolve that culture to embrace the changing world in which they live. Reenactment of the Makah's cultural traditions through non-violent methods is entirely obtainable and should be mandated.

To do anything other than outlaw the Makah killing of whales is to set an alarming precedent of moral and political hypocrisy of which our country should be ashamed.

Respectfully,
Mureall Hebert