From: huelsbdr@plu.edu
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 2:35:35 PM

I believe the requested waiver of the MMPA should be granted.

None of the proposed alternatives will harm the population of gray whales. It is my understanding that the population is now so high that it may be necessary to implement management efforts for the benefit of the whales.

If the Makah resume practicing their right to hunt whales, it is unlikely to have a negative impact on whales elsewhere in the world. If anyone proposing to hunt whales, conducts the kind of review represented by the document under review, we can be certain that populations will not be threatened. The US Government can not impose regulatory authority outside of the United States, but the world can use the Makah gray whale case as a standard.

If the request is not granted, it will harm the US Government's relationship with the Makah Tribe and probably with most, if not all other Native American Tribes in the United States, and with First Nation Peoples around the world. Most non-Native Americans do not realize how important treaties and treaty rights are to Native Americans.

I personally support the least restrictive alternative. There is nothing in the Makah Treaty that imposes the kinds of restrictions proposed in the Makah Tribe's request. Having said that, I am not about to second guess the wisdom of tribal leaders in structuring their request.

The Makah Tribe's request for a waiver of the MMPA should be approved.

David R. Huelsbeck, Ph.D.