From:	Hurtado, Mystique (GOIA)
To:	Hurtado, Mystique (GOIA)
Cc:	Bill, Craig (GOIA)
Subject:	Statement from Gov. Jay Inslee on the passing of Billy Frank, Jr.
Date:	Monday, May 05, 2014 11:59:20 AM
Importance:	High

Subject: Statement from Gov. Jay Inslee on the passing of Billy Frank, Jr.

"Washington lost a true legend with the passing of Billy Frank, Jr. today.

"He was a selfless leader who dedicated his life to the long fight for the rights of our state's native people. Billy was a champion of tribal rights, of the salmon, and the environment. He did that even when it meant putting himself in physical danger or facing jail.

"I'm thankful Billy was here to see the 2014 Legislature pass a bill helping to overturn convictions from treaty protests. Billy was right on this issue and the state owed this gesture of justice to him and others who jeopardized their liberty to fight for treaty rights.

"Billy never wavered in his conviction and passion. He stressed to me the spiritual and cultural relationship that indigenous people have with salmon.

"His work is the foundation of an enduring legacy that will never be forgotten in Washington state.

"He once said, 'The Creator put that salmon there for it to survive.' I thank the Creator for putting Billy here to make sure we never forget what he fought for.

"Trudi and I send our condolences to Billy's family, friends, tribal members and everyone across the state and the country who mourns the passing of this great man."

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