

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Rear Admiral Gary Mayes
Commander
Navy Region Northwest
1100 Hunley Road
Silverdale, WA 98315

Dear Admiral Mayes,

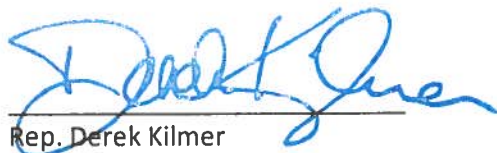
For over 70 years, the U.S. Navy has conducted training in the Pacific Northwest. Throughout this time, the Navy has been an important neighbor to communities in Washington state and one of the region's largest employers. We value the Navy's presence in our region and we appreciate the ongoing efforts to increase transparency and be open and responsive to the public's concerns in order to be a respectful neighbor. It is for this reason that we request your assistance in extending the current comment period by 30 days for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Naval Special Operations Training in Western Washington State.

Throughout the past few years, the Navy has commenced and finalized many projects in the interests of our national security to enhance its training, secure its facilities, and support its mission. We understand that this latest proposed activity is designed to both improve the skills of Navy special operations personnel and increase their ability to meet readiness requirements. As the proposed activities include the use of military, public, and private properties over a wide geographic area, there is a significant number of our constituents who may be affected by this proposal. We've heard from our constituents that they would benefit from an extension to the comment period to allow sufficient time to provide feedback.

Given the level of public interest in the Navy's efforts in our region, and the complexity and varied types of training activities addressed by this proposal, it is important that members of the surrounding community have sufficient time engage with the Navy on this issue. In the end, providing sufficient engagement with the public on the Draft EA will better equip the Navy to prepare the Final EA and decision document. We therefore request that you extend the public comment period by 30 days on the Draft EA for Naval Special Operations Training in Western Washington State and provide additional opportunities for public engagement and education regarding the proposed action before the revised comment period closes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Rep. Derek Kilmer


Sen. Maria Cantwell


Sen. Patty Murray


Rep. Rick Larsen