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The Honorable John C. Coughenour

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE**

NO. 2:21-cv-00002-JCC  
FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

STATE OF WASHINGTON; ALEUTIAN  
PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION, INC.;  
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION;  
ASSOCIATION OF KING COUNTY  
HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS;  
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT &  
HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA;  
CHICKALOON VILLAGE TRADITIONAL  
COUNCIL; CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS  
ALLIANCE; CONFEDERATED TRIBES  
AND BANDS OF THE YAKAMA NATION;  
CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE  
CHEHALIS RESERVATION;  
CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE  
COLVILLE RESERVATION;  
CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COOS,  
LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW  
INDIANS; CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF  
OREGON; CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
SILETZ INDIANS; CONFEDERATED  
TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN  
RESERVATION; CONFEDERATED TRIBES  
OF THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION  
OF OREGON; COW CREEK BAND OF  
UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS; DOYON,  
LTD.; DUWAMISH TRIBE; HISTORIC  
SEATTLE; HISTORYLINK; HOH INDIAN  
TRIBE; JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE;  
KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS; THE  
KLAMATH TRIBES; METLAKATLA  
INDIAN COMMUNITY; MUCKLESHOOT  
INDIAN TRIBE; MUSEUM OF HISTORY  
AND INDUSTRY; NEZ PERCE TRIBE;  
NISQUALLY INDIAN TRIBE; NOOKSACK

1 INDIAN TRIBE; OCA ASIAN PACIFIC  
2 ADVOCATES – GREATER SEATTLE;  
3 STATE OF OREGON; PORT GAMBLE  
4 S’KLALLAM TRIBE; PUYALLUP TRIBE OF  
5 INDIANS; QUILEUTE TRIBE OF THE  
6 QUILEUTE RESERVATION; QUINAULT  
7 INDIAN NATION; SAMISH INDIAN  
8 NATION; SAUK-SUIATTLE INDIAN TRIBE;  
9 CITY OF SEATTLE; SHOALWATER BAY  
10 INDIAN TRIBE; SKOKOMISH INDIAN  
11 TRIBE; SNOQUALMIE INDIAN TRIBE;  
12 SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS; SQUAXIN  
13 ISLAND TRIBE; SUQUAMISH TRIBE;  
14 SWINOMISH INDIAN TRIBAL  
15 COMMUNITY; TANANA CHIEFS  
16 CONFERENCE; UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN  
17 TRIBE; WASHINGTON TRUST FOR  
18 HISTORIC PRESERVATION; AND WING  
19 LUKE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION D/B/A  
20 WING LUKE MUSEUM,

21 Plaintiffs,

22 v.

23 ROB FAIRWEATHER, in his capacity as  
24 Director of the OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
25 AND BUDGET; DAVID S. FERRIERO, in his  
26 capacity as Archivist of the NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION; ADAM BODNER, in his  
capacity as Executive Director of the PUBLIC  
BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD; KATY  
KALE, in her capacity as the Acting  
Administrator of the GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION; NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION; OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET; PUBLIC  
BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD; and  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,  
agencies of the United States,

Defendants.

## I. INTRODUCTION

1  
2 1. Without prior notice to Tribes, the State of Washington, or other stakeholders,  
3 the federal government is planning to sell the National Archives building in Seattle and scatter  
4 its invaluable, irreplaceable, original historical records to facilities in Kansas City, Missouri and  
5 Riverside, California. This action shows a callous disregard for the people who have the greatest  
6 interest in being able to access these profoundly important records, which include Tribal and  
7 treaty records, case files under the Chinese Exclusion Act, and records related to Japanese  
8 American internment during World War II. Talmadge Hocker, a Kentucky real-estate executive  
9 appointed to the Public Buildings Reform Board by President Trump in 2018, recently stated  
10 that his agency’s recommended sale of the Archives facility would allow the building to “become  
11 a part of the community, as opposed to what it is today.”<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hocker’s statement underscores  
12 the indifference with which Defendants are severing the Pacific Northwest’s connection to its  
13 own history.

14 2. In their haste to dispose of the property, Defendants failed to realize that the  
15 Archives facility is legally exempt from being sold under the statute at issue, the Federal Assets  
16 Sale and Transfer Act. Moreover, Defendants failed to follow the statute’s mandatory procedural  
17 requirements or to consult with Tribes and others for whom loss of access to the records will be  
18 devastating. Selling the property is unlawful under the Act and must be enjoined before these  
19 millions of un-digitized, original records lose their home in Seattle.

20 3. This is an action under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 706, to halt  
21 the federal government’s unlawful and procedurally deficient sale of the National Archives at  
22 Seattle facility.

23 4. The Federal Archives and Records Center, located at 6125 Sand Point Way NE,  
24 Seattle, Washington, 98115, houses the National Archives at Seattle. The facility contains the  
25 DNA of our region. It provides public access to permanent records created by Federal agencies

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26 <sup>1</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-12-06/national-archives-seattle-sale>.

1 and courts in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. It houses a significant body of tribal and  
 2 treaty records relating to the federally recognized tribes and native corporations throughout the  
 3 Pacific Northwest and Alaska, including Treaty records and other records from Bureau of Indian  
 4 Affairs offices and Indian agencies and schools in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. It  
 5 also maintains more than 50,000 original files related to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, as  
 6 well as original records related to the internment of Japanese-Americans in World War II.

7 5. The records at the National Archives at Seattle are essential and irreplaceable to  
 8 this region. History and conservation of it define our past, present, and future. One user described  
 9 her time at the Archives in a way that is deeply personal but yet relatable to what so many others  
 10 have felt:

11 I had no clue what a powerful experience it would be to hold some of the original  
 12 Klamath Tribal roll sheets in my hands. To see names I had only heard of written  
 13 out or even an “X” for those who did not read or write English was a powerful  
 14 experience. Even more overwhelming for me was seeing my Grandmother  
 15 Marilyn Hall’s handwritten Tribal Council notes from her time as Tribal  
 16 Secretary. The whole time I reviewed the records, all I wanted to do was share  
 17 the experience with my family members, knowing how much it would mean to  
 18 them.

19 Gabriann Hall, a member of the Klamath Tribes, Historian, and Teacher.

20 6. A tribal attorney and frequent user of the National Archives at Seattle describes  
 21 her experience as follows:

22 The word “archives,” from the view of law firms, businesses and courts, tends to  
 23 conjure an image of a records storage facility for “dead files.” I view the National  
 24 Archives at Seattle as a vibrant, special collection *library* . . . . A visit to the  
 25 National Archives in Washington D.C. inspires awe in every visitor, as the  
 26 permanent home of the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the  
 United States, and Bill of Rights. A visit to the National Archives at Seattle, for  
 native people whose ancestral historical and cultural records are housed there,  
 fills a deep cultural yearning to know, honor and understand the lives and  
 sacrifices of their ancestors. This unique and precious collection includes  
 irreplaceable records that came from this area, that are by and about the native  
 people of this area descendants – held in trust for them and protected by the  
 United States.

Tallis King George, tribal attorney for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

1           7.       Records at the National Archives at Seattle also hold an important place for  
2 Chinese and Japanese American communities. As one advocate explained:

3           Most Chinese Americans left few records of their lives and history prior to 1950,  
4 but the Archive’s record of the exclusion files document families, marriages,  
5 lifestyles, occupations, businesses, land ownership, religion, food, medicine,  
travels to and from China, networking, organizations, and other information that  
otherwise cannot be obtained.

6 Connie So, President of OCA Asian Pacific Advocates, Greater Seattle Chapter.

7           8.       And as another Seattle-area historian and genealogist expounded:

8           I can attest to the preciousness and vital nature of the Sand Point National  
9 Archives and its staff to our region. The connections made there, and the  
10 opportunities to share and transfer knowledge preserved in the facility’s records,  
is immense and cannot be replaced. Records of specific importance are those  
11 involving the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; as well as the records on the forced  
removal of Washington residents of Japanese ancestry during WWII 1941-1945  
12 which include anti-Asian organizing by Washington state business owners 1910-  
1950, records of the War Relocation Authority and documents relating to early  
13 Japanese community, business and industry records including logging, railroad,  
hotels, domestic and fishery, in addition to community organizations and  
14 history . . . . The damage [that removal of those records out of Washington State  
and the Pacific Northwest] will cause to the Chinese and Japanese American  
communities in the Pacific Northwest cannot be overstated.

15 Bif Brigman, member of the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee.

16           9.       On January 24, 2020, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved a  
17 recommendation of a little known federal agency, the Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB),  
18 to sell the Seattle Archives Facility. This facility houses the National Archives at Seattle and is  
19 currently occupied and operated by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)  
20 and is owned by the General Services Administration (GSA).

21           10.       The PBRB report recommending the sale of the Seattle Archives Facility (the  
22 PBRB Report) indicates that the federal records and archival materials at the Seattle facility,  
23 including the materials at the National Archives at Seattle, will be removed from the Pacific  
24 Northwest and relocated to NARA facilities in Kansas City, Missouri and Riverside, California.

1 In announcing the Seattle facility's closure, NARA recognized that its closure "will have a  
2 negative impact on researchers, Federal agencies, and other customers that use our facility."<sup>2</sup>

3 11. Describing the National Archives at Seattle closure as merely a "negative impact"  
4 dramatically understates the value of our history and the Archives. For instance, in 1986, after a  
5 decades' long effort, the Klamath Tribes succeeded in persuading Congress to restore the Tribes'  
6 federal recognition. The information contained in the National Archives at Seattle was critically  
7 important to the Tribes' successful effort at restoration. Donald C. Gentry, Tribal Chairman of  
8 the Klamath Tribes, explained the profound effect that removal of these records at the Seattle  
9 Archives would have:

10 Since restoration, the Tribes have been rebuilding their government, their  
11 institutions, and their infrastructure. In doing so, the Tribes relied significantly  
12 and repeatedly on access to the National Archives at Seattle for documents,  
13 photos, artifacts, audio recordings, and other items of cultural and historical  
14 importance related to the Tribes' treaty-making, its history of federal-tribal  
15 relations, and its reservation, as well as information collected from Tribal elders  
16 and ancestors concerning Tribal culture, tradition and languages. Further, that  
information has continued to be relevant in reconstructing critical components of  
institutional, cultural, and traditional infrastructure and knowledge necessary for  
the Tribes' post-restoration efforts. The Tribal leadership, administration, and  
membership all rely on ready access to the National Archives at Seattle for such  
information, access that will disappear if the facility and its resources are moved.

17 The amount of information in the Seattle Archives is overwhelming and we have  
18 significant research left to do still. That information is pertinent to continuing our  
19 research on and legal protection of our Tribal rights. As one key example, the  
20 Tribes have been involved in a forty-plus years long effort to protect, affirm, and  
21 quantify its Treaty-reserved water rights. That matter has involved repeated  
22 litigation in federal court (including two arguments up to the Ninth Circuit Court  
23 of Appeals) and a decades-long state water rights adjudication (the Klamath Basin  
24 Adjudication). These Treaty-reserved water rights are central to our ability to  
25 hunt, fish, trap and gather on the lands of the terminated Klamath Reservation,  
since the water rights support the habitat upon which fish, plant and wildlife  
species depend. Our staff and attorneys in these cases have spent weeks in the  
Archives researching historical documents related to land ownership and  
associated water rights. It remains critically important to the Tribes' ongoing  
efforts in the Klamath Basin Adjudication to continue to have access to those  
archival records. Moving the records would be prejudicial to the Tribes' ability  
to carry out such research for the future of the adjudication.

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26 <sup>2</sup> NARA Press Release, Seattle Facility Approved for Closure (Jan. 27, 2020), <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2020/nr20-37>.

1 These records also have significant potential to help establish and verify our oral  
2 histories.

3 \*\*\* Our way of life goes beyond just the physical world we live in and interact  
4 with, beyond our reservation, water, and natural resources. We need access to our  
5 songs and ceremonies to reconnect with our traditions, our ancestors, our way of  
6 life, and the world around us. We were forbidden from practicing many of our  
7 ceremonies in the 1800's by the federal government, and our Tribal children were  
8 sent off to boarding schools. In the boarding schools, the nuns severely and  
9 brutally punished any Native children who practiced traditional prayers, to the  
10 point where our peoples learned it was safer to hide these traditions than risk  
11 being beaten. As a result, we have lost access to many essential aspects of what  
12 it means to be Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin. We continue to practice prayer,  
13 but without a better understanding of what we used to practice, these prayers are  
14 more modern and assimilated — until we are able to re-establish our traditions, it  
15 is harder to properly connect with our world as our peoples had for generations.  
16 We have an opportunity to heal by having meaningful access to these resources.  
17 Taking away the Archives without any input from us is another familiar violence  
18 not unlike those inflicted in boarding schools and by assimilative policies.

19 Donald C. Gentry, Tribal Chairman of the Klamath Tribes.

20 12. In addition to undervaluing the extreme negative impact that removal of archival  
21 records from the Pacific Northwest would have on the Tribes and other interest stakeholders, the  
22 agencies' hurried decision to sell the Seattle Archives Facility was procedurally flawed and  
23 legally infirm. First, the National Archives at Seattle is used for "research in connection with"  
24 Federal programs "for agricultural, recreational, or conservation purposes," rendering it  
25 ineligible for selection under the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA).<sup>3</sup> Second,  
26 despite a clear statutory mandate in Section 11 of FASTA, OMB and GSA failed to develop or  
provide the PBRB with the standards, criteria, and recommendations required by the statute.

13. Moreover, the agencies did not conduct state, local, or tribal outreach or  
consultation prior to the public announcement of the sale of the facility housing the National  
Archives at Seattle. Notably, tribal governments were not notified or consulted in advance,  
notwithstanding the requirements for such consultation under federal policies. And there were

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<sup>3</sup> FASTA, Pub. L. 114-287, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1463, as amended by Pub. L. 114-318, §7(b), (d),  
Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1616, 1617; Pub. L. 115-141, div. E, title V, §527, div. P, title VI, §608(a), Mar. 23, 2018,  
132 Stat. 573, 1105; Pub. L. 115-437, §1, Jan. 14, 2019, 132 Stat. 5563; Pub. L. 115-438, §1, Jan. 14, 2019, 132  
Stat. 5564.



1 no public hearings held in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, or Alaska, where members of the public  
2 could have provided input and information about the National Archives at Seattle and the  
3 importance of keeping the facility's records in the Pacific Northwest.

4 14. The National Archives at Seattle is the only property among those the PBRB  
5 recommended for sale that has profound importance to the region in which it is situated and is  
6 regularly used by members of the public. Defendants' clear procedural failures, including the  
7 failure to establish the required standards, criteria, and recommendations and the failure to  
8 consult with Tribes and other stakeholders, fundamentally distorted the entire selection process,  
9 including the recommendation and decision to close and sell the National Archives at Seattle.

10 15. Had Defendants followed the statutory requirement to adopt "standards, criteria  
11 and recommendations," used accurate data, consulted with tribal governments, or reached out to  
12 stakeholders or the public in general, they would have learned that the National Archives at  
13 Seattle is routinely used by researchers, historians, and tribes in the Pacific Northwest, often in  
14 connection with research for Federal programs for agricultural, recreational, or conservation  
15 purposes. They also would have realized the crucial importance of the unique records held at the  
16 National Archives at Seattle to all residents of the Pacific Northwest and beyond, including the  
17 many federally-recognized tribal governments and native corporations in this region and in  
18 Alaska, which has no National Archives facility of its own, and how removal of the facility from  
19 the Pacific Northwest would jeopardize public access to these critical federal documents.

20 16. The procedurally and substantively deficient recommendation to sell the National  
21 Archives at Seattle violates FASTA, federal tribal consultation policies, and the Administrative  
22 Procedure Act (APA). The PBRB Report should be invalidated, and this Court should enjoin the  
23 sale of the National Archives at Seattle.  
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1 **II. PARTIES<sup>4</sup>**

2 17. Plaintiff State of Washington is a sovereign entity and brings this action to protect  
 3 its proprietary interests in access to the National Archives at Seattle, and as *parens patriae* on  
 4 behalf of its affected citizens and residents. The National Archives at Seattle is a critical resource  
 5 for state universities—such as the University of Washington and Washington State  
 6 University—whose faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and librarians regularly utilize  
 7 these original records for educational and research purposes in a variety of subject areas. Having  
 8 substantial local archival resources available has helped state universities to recruit top  
 9 applicants who are interested in pursuing research in the Western United States. Washington  
 10 State agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of  
 11 Archaeology and Historic Preservation, also use and/or rely upon documents from the National  
 12 Archives at Seattle in assessing water rights, water navigability, sediment contamination, and  
 13 historic preservation, among other State issues and functions. Additionally, researchers,  
 14 historians, genealogists, and tribes in Washington, as well as private citizens and families,  
 15 likewise rely on the National Archives at Seattle as an invaluable source of unique historical  
 16 information. The Attorney General is the chief legal adviser to the State of Washington. The  
 17 Attorney General’s powers and duties include acting in federal court on matters of public  
 18 concern. This challenge is brought pursuant to the Attorney General’s independent  
 19 constitutional, statutory, and common law authority to bring suit and obtain relief on behalf of  
 20 the State of Washington.

21 18. Plaintiff Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) is a tribal organization  
 22 representing Aleut people in Alaska that assists over 3000 Unangan/Unangas members with  
 23 economic self-sufficiency, provides health, safety and well-being, and strengthens and preserves  
 24 Unanga’s cultural heritage. Towards these ends, APIA maintains a vast library with a continually

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
 26 <sup>4</sup> The description of each Plaintiff is provided by the party in question and represents the views of that party.

1 growing collection of books, articles, audio and video recordings, photographs, maps, journals,  
2 and archival materials relating to Unanga history, culture, and the environment of the region.  
3 Currently, APIA is conducting an inventory, cataloguing and organizing its material to make it  
4 more accessible. The material at the National Archives at Seattle is critical towards building and  
5 enhancing APIA's collection, as well as towards our goals of cultural preservation. The primary  
6 Aleutian language, Unangam Tunuu, is an endangered language with fewer than 90 speakers  
7 remaining. APIA's Cultural Heritage programs works with its member tribes to compile and  
8 maintain documentation about the language and is working to revitalize and preserve the  
9 language through other activities such as digitization of audio recordings, translation,  
10 transcription, and transliteration of recorded and written material, and development of cultural  
11 curricula. APIA also conducts research and develops programming about traditional ecological  
12 practices, traditional food sovereignty, which are critical to Aleut culture and identity. Further,  
13 APIA works with the Department of Defense towards environmental remediation through the  
14 Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program. APIA would be unable to do much  
15 of this work without meaningful access to archival materials held in the National Archives at  
16 Seattle about Aleut culture, language, history, and ecology. Of particular importance to APIA's  
17 collection is the WWII Aleut evacuation and repatriation documentation. During World War II,  
18 Aleut villagers were forcibly evacuated and interned in southeast Alaska, where they endured  
19 considerable hardship at the hands of the government. This is a very important, yet painful, piece  
20 of history to APIA members, and the significance of access to these documents cannot be  
21 understated. APIA understands that these archival documents are also critical to the National  
22 Park Service in conserving and maintaining the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area.  
23 APIA members previously used the federal archives in Anchorage to connect with their family  
24 history and their cultural history from this time—before the Anchorage archives too were closed  
25 and relocated to Seattle. For Aleutians, the archives do more than just store history about the  
26 evacuation, they can also inspire creativity through artistic ventures, and provide an avenue for

1 APIA members to connect with their past. Given the remote nature of the Aleutian Islands, to  
2 move the Archives once more beyond Seattle would foreclose almost any meaningful  
3 opportunity for APIA employees or members to access these crucial documents and the stories  
4 they contain.

5 19. Plaintiff American Historical Association (“AHA”) is a non-profit membership  
6 organization founded in 1884 and incorporated by Congress in 1889 for the promotion of  
7 historical studies. AHA is a trusted voice that advocates for history education, works to sustain  
8 and enhance the professional work of historians, and promotes the critical role of historical  
9 thinking in public life. As the largest organization of professional historians in the world, the  
10 AHA represents approximately 11,000 members and serves historians of every historical period  
11 and geographical area, and who work in a wide variety of settings. AHA’s journal, the *American*  
12 *Historical Review*, is the most widely read and frequently cited professional historical journal in  
13 the world. The American Historical Association, chartered by the United States Congress “for  
14 the promotion of historical studies, the collection and preservation of historical manuscripts, and  
15 for kindred purposes in the interest of American history, and of history in America,” depends  
16 upon broad public access to National Archives records to fulfill this mission. Its Pacific  
17 Northwest members rely on records held at the National Archives at Seattle in their research to  
18 support policy development, teaching, publications, advocacy, and interpretation and  
19 preservation at private, state, and federal historic sites and museums. The AHA’s members use  
20 the archives to explore and reveal every aspect of Pacific Northwest and Alaskan history, such  
21 as Indigenous history, environmental history, social and cultural history, business and economic  
22 history, and governmental history—from policy consideration to policy implementation. AHA  
23 members’ research supports historical scholarship, teaching, and museum work; informs Pacific  
24 Northwest public policy in various contexts, including conservation and resource management;  
25 and enables historians to serve as expert witnesses in important cases involving Tribal  
26 governments and communities, along with a wide variety of other important issues. The AHA’s

1 mandate from the Congress is to act on behalf of “American history, and of history in America.”  
2 In 1910, the AHA petitioned Congress to construct a national depository after finding that many  
3 governmental records from the previous century had been lost or destroyed. The resulting  
4 institution became the National Archives and Records Administration. The AHA continues to  
5 advocate on behalf of the imperative of NARA’s work to ensure that the American people have  
6 access to the documents and other materials essential to understanding, and learning from, our  
7 past.

8 20. Plaintiff Association of King County Historical Organizations (“AKCHO”)  
9 serves as a centralized resource for and connection between King County’s heritage  
10 organizations. AKCHO promotes professional standards for the heritage field and advocates for  
11 public policy that strengthens King County’s heritage and history. AKCHO’s membership spans  
12 more than 25 individuals and 50 organizations, including large institutions, historic houses, and  
13 institutions associated with local governments. Sharing information about where and how to  
14 access primary source documents is one way that AKCHO supports its membership as they  
15 create exhibits, write publications, and provide educational programming, particularly for  
16 children. AKCHO often recommends, and its members rely on, the National Archives at Seattle  
17 as an invaluable resource for primary source documents. AKCHO has also arranged tours of the  
18 Archives so that historical organizations and individuals throughout King County working on  
19 Pacific Northwest historical projects know about the vast resources available there. Access to  
20 the Archives is critical to the mission and programs of AKCHO and the heritage organizations  
21 it represents. Without it, AKCHO and its members would no longer have access to critical  
22 primary source materials relevant to the history and heritage of this region.

23 21. Plaintiff the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
24 (Tlingit & Haida) is a regional, federally recognized Indian tribe in Southeast Alaska, organized  
25 pursuant to section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended, 25 U.S.C. § 5123,  
26 and recognized by Congress in the Act of June 19, 1935, Pub. L. 74-152, 49 Stat. 388, as

1 amended *inter alia* by the Act of August 19, 1965, Pub. L. 89-130, 79 Stat. 543, and in Pub. L.  
2 103-454, § 203, 108 Stat. 4792) (1994); see also Native Entities Within the State of Alaska  
3 Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
4 85 Fed. Reg. 5462, 5466 (Jan. 30, 2020). Tlingit & Haida represents over 32,000 Tlingit and  
5 Haida tribal members living in Southeast Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and throughout the  
6 world. The Haida people and Tlingit people have always lived on the sacred and wondrous lands  
7 and waters of Southeast Alaska and are the original occupants and guardians of these lands and  
8 waters. Tlingit & Haida frequently uses and has a deep interest in the records currently stored in  
9 the Federal Archives and Records Center in Seattle. The Seattle Archives facility has records  
10 concerning our tribal land claims, including claims over hunting and fishing rights acknowledged  
11 and extinguished in section 4(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. 1603(b),  
12 and subsequently addressed by Congress in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
13 Conservation Act (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. §§ 3111–3126; genealogical and birth records of our  
14 tribal members; the history of the federal Government’s interactions with our peoples since 1867,  
15 including such episodes as the 1882 bombardment of Angoon by the United States Navy; the  
16 creation and use of the Tongass National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, and Admiralty  
17 Island and Misty Fjords National Monuments for conservation, recreation, fisheries, and forestry  
18 purposes; the titles and histories of Alaska Native allotments in Southeast Alaska; mineral  
19 development in the Tongass National Forest and other federal lands in Southeast Alaska; Alaska  
20 Native corporation and State of Alaska land selections in Southeast Alaska; and the history and  
21 management of federal Conservation System Units across Southeast Alaska established pursuant  
22 to ANILCA. The proposed sale of the Seattle Archives property and the proposed removal of  
23 the facility’s records to Missouri and California would be severely and adversely impact Tlingit  
24 & Haida’s and our tribal members’ access to and use of these critically important, irreplaceable  
25 records.  
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1           22. Plaintiff Chickaloon Village Traditional Council is the nine-member governing  
2 body of Chickaloon Native Village (CNV; *Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax*), an Ahtna Dene'  
3 (Athabascan) federally-recognized Tribal government located in southcentral Alaska. CNV's  
4 Ahtna name is *Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax*, meaning "the river with two logs across it," and refers  
5 to the river where the most recent ancestral village site was located (now called the Chickaloon  
6 River, a tributary of the Matanuska River). CNV's ancestral territory spans hundreds of miles  
7 between Canada and the Upper Cook Inlet of southcentral Alaska. In 2018, Angela Wade, the  
8 Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and Selena Ortega-Chiolero, the CVTC Museum  
9 Specialist, verified that the National Archives and Records Administration Seattle facility houses  
10 several records related to Chickaloon Native Village's history and Tribal ancestors. These  
11 materials include: historical photographs, census rolls, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act  
12 case files, Alaska Road Commission Directive files, and boarding school records. Access to  
13 these records is vital to the preservation and perpetuation of CNV's history and cultural  
14 heritage. Relocation of these records, to a location farther away and much less accessible from  
15 Alaska, would further remove them from us physically, further disrupt our use of our Tribal  
16 cultural resources, and potentially inhibit future cultural perpetuation.

17           23. Plaintiff Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Seattle (C.A.C.A. Seattle) is the  
18 Seattle chapter of one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the country. An important part  
19 of C.A.C.A. Seattle's mission is to educate the public about the history and contributions of  
20 Chinese Americans in the Pacific Northwest. A critical part of that history is the Chinese  
21 Exclusion Act and its impact on local communities. The National Archives at Seattle holds many  
22 of the most important records about the implementation and impact of the Chinese Exclusion  
23 Act on the region. C.A.C.A. Seattle and its members also rely on the records to not just research  
24 and understand the impact of the Chinese Exclusion Act on their own families, but also to  
25 educate the Pacific Northwest community about the Act and its impact on the region as a whole.  
26 These records are central to C.A.C.A. Seattle's efforts to add the Chinese Exclusion Act studies

1 to the Washington State K-12 curriculum. In 2018, the Chinese Exclusion Act records helped  
2 C.A.C.A. Seattle curate and host its commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the repeal of the  
3 Chinese Exclusion Act at the Wing Luke Museum. Members also utilize records, including oral  
4 histories, housed at the National Archives at Seattle to create art and to tell the stories of both  
5 the racial discrimination faced by Chinese American citizens in the Pacific Northwest and the  
6 myriad ways that Chinese Americans helped to create and build the city that Seattle is today.  
7 Relocation of the National Archives at Seattle would frustrate the mission of C.A.C.A. Seattle  
8 by depriving of it of access to many of the most critical historical documents surrounding the  
9 history of Chinese Americans in the Pacific Northwest. It would also require a diversion of  
10 resources by forcing C.A.C.A. Seattle members to travel or avail themselves of more expensive  
11 research options to continue to build out and teach the public about that history.

12 24. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation)  
13 is a sovereign, federally recognized Native Nation pursuant to its inherent sovereignty and the  
14 rights reserved in the Treaty with the Yakamas of June 9, 1855. Treaty with the Yakamas,  
15 U.S.–Yakama Nation, June 9, 1855, 12 Stat. 951. The National Archives at Seattle holds decades  
16 worth of Yakima Indian Agency (RG 75) records, making it a crucial repository for the Yakama  
17 Nation’s and its enrolled members’ historical documents. These records include, but are not  
18 limited to, early Yakama Nation Tribal Council and General Council resolutions, motions, and  
19 minutes, federal-Yakama correspondence, land records, photographs, and other media.

20 25. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation is a federally  
21 recognized Indian Tribe located in southwest Washington State. The Tribe’s Reservation was  
22 created in 1864 at the site of its major villages in its Homeland. The Tribe is active in the  
23 protection of the Chehalis River basin and the Tribe’s heritage and culture. The Tribe has actively  
24 sought to acquire lands within its Homelands that foster the health, safety and welfare of its tribal  
25 members. The use of the federal archives and its records are an integral part of the Tribe’s  
26



1 protection of the Basin and the gathering of data concerning past generations of Chehalis tribal  
2 members.

3 26. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) is the federally  
4 recognized tribe that controls the Colville Indian Reservation, which is located in  
5 northeastern Washington, United States. It is the government for its people. The CTCR relies  
6 upon the Federal Archives and Records Center in Seattle for access to critical historical,  
7 legislative, judicial, and executive documents to support the assertion of our inherent  
8 sovereignty. The PBRB's proposal to move stored records to a facility in Kansas City, Missouri  
9 and archived records to Riverside, California, will impose undue logistical and financial burdens  
10 on conducting research into these collections. Such burdens are in diametric opposition to the  
11 federal government's trust responsibility to the CTCR. For example, a significant portion of the  
12 records pertaining to the Colville Indian Agency have not been fully indexed, but the staff at  
13 NARA's facility in Seattle have the institutional knowledge necessary to the successful  
14 navigation of this collection. Moving these records, particularly without them being fully  
15 indexed, to locations at which staff is unfamiliar with them will hinder the CTCR's ability to  
16 access documents that are crucial within our history and vital to the assertion of our rights. The  
17 CTCR were never consulted during PBRB's process of formulating its recommendations, or  
18 during OMB's consideration of those recommendations, despite the fact that the closure of this  
19 facility will have substantial direct effects on the CTCR and is, therefore, subject to the  
20 provisions of Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal  
21 Governments. Furthermore, the closure of this facility is a federal undertaking as defined within  
22 the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that, similarly, mandates consultation with Tribes.  
23 Furthermore, the PBRB did not consider the negative impacts of the closure on Tribes and other  
24 stakeholders as required by Section 1 l(b)(3) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act  
25 (FASTA).

1           27. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians  
2 (CTCLUSI) is a federally recognized sovereign tribal nation headquartered in Coos Bay,  
3 Oregon. CTLUSI is made up of two bands of Coos Tribes: Hanis Coos (Coos Proper), Miluk  
4 Coos; the Lower Umpqua Tribe; and the Siuslaw Tribe. The ancestral territory of CTCLUSI  
5 encompasses approximately 1.6 million acres along the Oregon Coast. The history of interaction  
6 with the United States significantly impacted CTCLUSI and its people. By the late summer of  
7 1855, CTLUSI people were rounded up, imprisoned, and removed from their lands under force  
8 of arms under color of a dishonored and unratified treaty – a treaty of peace and land cession  
9 that CTLUSI ancestors signed in good faith which the Senate failed to ratify, and the United  
10 States Government refused to honor. In 1954, CTCLUSI was terminated by federal legislation.  
11 In 1984, Congress extended federal recognition to CTCLUSI. Since restoration, CTCLUSI has  
12 worked tirelessly to maintain its relationship with its lands, resources, and distinct Tribal  
13 histories and cultures. CTCLUSI has resumed its roles of stewards and caretakers of the lands  
14 and resources that were once managed by its ancestors, including Coos Bay. The National  
15 Archives facility in Seattle contains extensive records that are relevant to CTCLUSI’s efforts to  
16 protect its sovereignty and preserve natural and historic resources important to CTCLUSI and  
17 its members. These efforts have included restoration of the Tribe in 1984 and recent efforts to  
18 designate portions of Coos Bay as a Traditional Cultural Property on the National Register of  
19 Historic Places. Moving the documents from Seattle will add significant expense and difficulty.

20           28. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (“Grand  
21 Ronde”) is a federally recognized Indian tribe comprised of more than 30 tribes and bands from  
22 western Oregon, northern California, and southwestern Washington. Grand Ronde’s reservation  
23 was established on June 30, 1857, by Executive Order in partial fulfillment of seven treaties,  
24 under which Grand Ronde’s antecedent tribes and bands ceded nearly 14 million acres of land  
25 across western Oregon. Grand Ronde has approximately 5,400 living members. The National  
26 Archives at Seattle contain records that are indispensable to Grand Ronde and its members.

1 Among other things, the Seattle facility houses handwritten minutes of Tribal Council meetings  
2 from the 1930's–1950's, early cartographic maps and sketches denoting tribal village sites and  
3 trails, Indian agent letters, land ownership records, and tribal ancestry records. Grand Ronde uses  
4 the records to help understand and educate its members and the public about Grand Ronde's  
5 history and to assist Grand Ronde on matters ranging from self-determination, culture and  
6 enrollment to consulting on National Historic Preservation Act and environmental protection  
7 matters. In addition, current Grand Ronde members and applicants for membership rely on the  
8 National Archives at Seattle to trace their lineage and gather other information necessary to  
9 support their applications for enrollment. Many of the Grand Ronde records housed at the  
10 National Archives at Seattle are not digitized or otherwise filed and catalogued in a manner that  
11 allows them to be discovered or identified without in-person research. In fact, but for the ability  
12 to analyze records in-person, Grand Ronde would not have located certain early tribal ordinances  
13 and other important historic records. Moving the National Archives facility from Seattle would  
14 create a substantial barrier to accessing these important records.

15 29. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (“Siletz Tribe”) is a federally-  
16 recognized Indian tribe located along the Pacific Coast in Oregon. The Siletz Tribe has a long  
17 and complicated history with the federal government; at least 27 different tribes and bands of  
18 Indians under seven ratified and a number of unratified treaties were all moved to the Siletz  
19 Coast Reservation established by Executive Order and confederated together. The Siletz Tribe  
20 was terminated by federal legislation in 1954 and was not restored to federally-recognized status  
21 until 1977. The Siletz Tribe has struggled since restoration to re-establish its status as a  
22 recognized Indian tribe, and to confirm its treaty status and successorship to numerous treaties  
23 and tribes and bands of Indians. Ready access to the Seattle Archives has been critical to the  
24 Siletz Tribe's legal efforts during the last 50 years. Without that access and the ability to conduct  
25 comprehensive cross-referenced research of relevant federal government records, the Siletz  
26 Tribe's legal efforts would have been severely compromised and affected.

1           30. Plaintiff Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Umatilla) is a  
2 federally recognized tribe currently located in north eastern Oregon, and the inherent sovereign  
3 of the rights reserved in the Treaty with the Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla Tribes of Oregon  
4 and Washington, June 9, 1855. 12 Stat. 945. The Treaty included perpetual exclusive rights of  
5 taking fish in the streams running through and bordering the reservation, and at all other usual  
6 and accustomed stations in common with citizens of the United States, and of erecting suitable  
7 buildings for curing the same; the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries and pasturing  
8 their stock on unclaimed lands in common with citizens. The Umatilla routinely access the  
9 National Archives Research Administration (NARA) at the Seattle location to access records  
10 related to cultural, agricultural, legal, language, governance, land, ecosystem and conservation  
11 of water and natural resources conservation interests. The Seattle NARA holds the records of  
12 the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Portland Area Office and the BIA Umatilla Agency  
13 Superintendent for the Umatilla Reservation (RG 75). These records are the only records for the  
14 early federal colonization of the Reservation because the BIA administered government services  
15 on the Reservation until the 1970's. There are no secondary copies within the tribal government.  
16 As recent as 2019 Umatilla staff traveled to the Seattle NARA and researched records involving  
17 the federal surveys of the Indian allotments designated for agricultural purposes and those  
18 implementing the Reservation boundaries set out by Treaty. Those records date back to the  
19 1800's reflecting expeditions into Umatilla aboriginal territories, and federal operations that span  
20 across documents of the BIA, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office, Department  
21 of Agriculture (National Forests) and documents the Umatilla family records, census and  
22 membership documents, General Council decisions, and those made by the Board of Trustees,  
23 the governing body of the Reservation. In 2018, Umatilla accessed NARA to document historical  
24 and cultural ties to the mid and lower Columbia River. The work was funded by the Wanapa Kut  
25 Kut working group under a contract of the Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District. That visit  
26 yielded digital copies of important documents including Celilo Business Committee minutes,

1 surveyor maps of Celilo Falls, proof of lands allotted to Umatilla members on the Washington  
2 side of the Columbia River below present day McNary Dam, individual claims to fishing sites  
3 at Cascade Locks, and BIA correspondence related to the establishment of Treaty in-lieu fishing  
4 sites, among other documents, maps, and exhibits. Currently, Umatilla can access the Seattle  
5 location with a day of travel. Those visits are costly and time consuming for the Tribe and require  
6 senior professional level research. Many of the documents are undigitized, a vast quantity are  
7 hand written on documents that are over a hundred years old, and the issues are complex. In the  
8 early 2000's the Umatilla faced a federal effort to remove and relocate records held by the  
9 Umatilla BIA Superintendent to the Lenexa National Archives in Kansas. Umatilla objected  
10 effort because the documents are vital Umatilla information, and the records are held as a service  
11 to the Umatilla. The solution was for the documents to be returned to the Umatilla. Federal funds  
12 were used to pay for the digitization of those records and the copies that Umatilla subsequently  
13 provided for the Lenexa archives. Umatilla would require return of its documents federally held  
14 at the Seattle NARA site for a similar process. Further consultation is required to protect Umatilla  
15 records at that location and avoid inflicting egregious hardship caused by federal action taken  
16 without appropriate consultation again. OMB ignored the Umatilla's written objection that  
17 "... strongly urges you to decline or reject the disposal of the Sand Point NARA facility."  
18 Umatilla Tribes letter to Russel T. Voight, Acting Director Office of Management and Budget,  
19 January 27, 2020. There was no known response to the Umatilla objection letter.

20 31. Plaintiff The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon  
21 (the "Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs") is a federally-recognized tribe organized pursuant  
22 to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, 48 Stat. 984, as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935,  
23 49 Stat. 378. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is legal successor in interest to the Indian  
24 signatories of the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon of June 25, 1855, 12 Stat. 963. It  
25 possesses inherent sovereignty and also has a trust relationship with the United States defined  
26 by the United States Constitution, the 1855 Treaty, federal statutes, Executive Orders, and court

1 decisions. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs exercises its right to self-government and  
2 self-determination through numerous programs aimed at protecting the natural environment,  
3 conserving natural resources, promoting the safety and well-being of tribal members, and  
4 preserving traditional culture. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs also advocates for its  
5 interests by engaging with federal, state, and private actors across various platforms. Access to  
6 information is key to this ongoing mission of self-government and self-determination, and the  
7 National Archives at Seattle hold valuable records relating to the sovereignty, history, and  
8 culture of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. These documents include early census  
9 records and vital statistics, tribal council records, information on reserved treaty rights, maps  
10 and land records, language preservation materials, early photographs, written histories, sawmill  
11 and lumber production records, and court documents relating to federal court litigation in which  
12 the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs was a party. These documents, most of which are not  
13 digitized, are necessary to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' understanding of its history  
14 and culture and to advocating for its interests as a sovereign. Moving the documents from their  
15 present location in Seattle will add significant difficulty and expense to the task of accessing  
16 such information, possibly preventing such access altogether, and will undermine the  
17 Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs as it works to carry out its mission.

18 32. Plaintiff Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians ("Tribe") is a federally  
19 recognized Indian Tribe located in southwestern Oregon. The Tribe entered into a Treaty in 1854  
20 under which it ceded more than 800 square miles to the United States. The Tribe was restored in  
21 1982 and continues to work to restore its lands for its more than 1,700 members. The National  
22 Archives in Seattle houses records that are and were critical to the restoration of the Tribe and  
23 the future restoration of the Tribe's ancestral lands.

24 33. Plaintiff Doyon, Limited is one of thirteen Native regional corporations  
25 authorized by Congress pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act  
26 of 1971 (ANCSA), as amended, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1629h. Doyon owns approximately 12.5

1 million acres of surface and subsurface lands situated in the Interior of Alaska and is the largest  
2 private landowner in the state. The National Archives at Seattle houses many records important  
3 to Doyon and its shareholders, including original ANCSA records, pre-statehood Alaska land  
4 records, Alaska Census records, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) records for Alaska, and litigation  
5 records for the Federal District Court for the District of Alaska. Many of these records are unique,  
6 rare, un-digitized, and otherwise unavailable elsewhere. Many of our Alaska Native shareholders  
7 have Certificates of Indian Blood (CIBs) that are inaccurate or incomplete. Many of our  
8 shareholder records detailing shareholders' Alaska Native blood quantum are based upon  
9 original BIA records from the 1970s and earlier. It is critical for Doyon and its shareholders to  
10 be able to access BIA records to help correct incomplete or inaccurate CIBs that affect the  
11 issuance of new stock to Alaska Natives born after the date of enactment of ANCSA as well as  
12 for voting status of other shareholders. Doyon also uses the records stored at the National  
13 Archives at Seattle to help protect the subsistence interests of its Alaska Native shareholders.  
14 ANCSA extinguished aboriginal hunting and fishing rights for Alaska Natives throughout  
15 Alaska. 43 U.S.C. §1603(b). Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act  
16 of 1980 (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. §§ 3111–3126, recognized a subsistence preference for rural  
17 Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, engaged in hunting, fishing and other subsistence uses on  
18 federal public lands included in federal “conservation system unit[s]” as defined in ANILCA,  
19 *see* 16 U.S.C. 3102(4).<sup>5</sup> These records are important in the now forty-year history of litigation  
20 in state and federal courts to protect Alaska Native subsistence rights in these conservation  
21 system units. The Seattle archives facility is therefore used in connection with Federal programs  
22 for conservation purposes, namely the Federal subsistence program in Alaska, including research  
23 in connection with that program.

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24 <sup>5</sup> “The term ‘conservation system unit’ means any unit in Alaska of the National Park System, National  
25 Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, National Trails System, National Wilderness  
26 Preservation System, or a National Forest Monument including existing units, units established, designated, or  
expanded by or under the provisions of this Act, additions to such units, and any such unit established, designated,  
or expanded hereafter.”



1           34. Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe, a party to the Treaty of Point Elliot and known as  
2 dxʷdəwʔabš or “The People of the Inside,” governs itself pursuant to a constitution adopted in  
3 1925. Its 600+ members are descended from the Duwamish Indian signers to the Treaty, and  
4 they include descendants of Chief Seattle. The Duwamish people have resided in the area of  
5 Puget Sound since time immemorial. The Duwamish Tribe and its members have a unique  
6 interest in the continued presence of the National Archives at Seattle. For over 40 years, they  
7 have worked to confirm the Tribe’s rightful status as a federally recognized tribe. Direct access  
8 to physical records at the National Archives at Seattle has been, and remains, vital to the Tribe  
9 and its members in this effort to confirm federal recognition. Members of the Duwamish Tribe  
10 and their representatives have used the National Archives to support the Tribe’s efforts by,  
11 among other things, researching records on early state and pre-state history for the Puget Sound  
12 area, including genealogical, anthropological, and historical studies of Washington tribes and, in  
13 particular, the Duwamish Tribe. In addition to the records already reviewed, Members know that  
14 irreplaceable records not yet reviewed are housed in the National Archives building in Seattle,  
15 and the Tribe understands that those records represent important evidence regarding the history  
16 of the Duwamish Tribe and important evidence in support of its fight for restoration of status.  
17 Moving them would certainly compromise access to those records and raises the risk of their  
18 being lost forever and certainly creates extreme hardship for the Tribe’s ongoing research efforts.  
19 The federal government’s unlawful and procedurally improper sale of the real property housing  
20 the National Archives at Seattle will result in a substantial burden on the Duwamish Tribe and  
21 its members. The closure of the National Archives at Seattle will obstruct the Tribe’s and its  
22 members’ ability to access information relevant not only to federal recognition but also to the  
23 preservation of Duwamish history for future generations. This concern is particularly acute for  
24 records in the National Archives that the Tribe and its representatives have not yet had an  
25 opportunity to review, which includes boxes housing materials not yet digitized and subject to  
26 pending research requests.

1           35. Plaintiff Historic Seattle is a public development authority chartered and  
2 established by the City of Seattle in 1973 to acquire and rehabilitate historic properties and  
3 advocate for the thoughtful and meaningful preservation of historic buildings and landscapes. In  
4 that role, Historic Seattle provides educational programs, real estate development services, and  
5 historic resources consulting to individuals, community groups, developers, and policymakers.  
6 Historical research is an integral component of those projects and programs. Historic Seattle  
7 relies upon local and regional primary source materials, including those stored at the National  
8 Archives in Seattle, to research buildings, places, and people related to properties it owns or for  
9 which it advocates. These primary source materials are particularly important to Historic  
10 Seattle's preparation of local landmark applications, National Register of Historic Places  
11 nominations, and federal historic rehabilitation tax credit applications. The National Archives is  
12 one of the key places to conduct this research in the Pacific Northwest and contains records that  
13 cannot be found anywhere else and have not been digitized, including architectural and  
14 engineering drawings, historic maps, tribal records, military records, and unique materials  
15 related to Washington state and territory. Access to the National Archives is critical to Historic  
16 Seattle's efforts to save places that matter and tell the stories of the people associated with those  
17 places, which are core components of its mission and programs.

18           36. Plaintiff HistoryLink is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1997  
19 to pioneer innovative approaches to historical research, education, and publishing. Its primary  
20 public service activity is production of HistoryLink.org, the free online encyclopedia of  
21 Washington state history and the nation's first original encyclopedia of community history  
22 created expressly for the Internet. With nearly 8,000 articles about the history of Washington  
23 state, HistoryLink.org provides professionally written and edited resources based on research in  
24 the primary sources held at archives, libraries, and historical organizations, which tell the stories  
25 of Washington and serve as a stepping stone to further research. HistoryLink also publishes  
26 books and develops curriculum materials on Washington state history across a broad range of

1 topics, which are also grounded in the documents and other materials held at those repositories.  
2 The National Archives at Seattle (the “Archives”) is a key resource for the development of  
3 HistoryLink articles, books, tours, and curriculum materials. Its writers have accessed the  
4 records there to learn about the history of federal facilities such as Hanford Nuclear Works, Sand  
5 Point Naval Air Station, the Hiram Chittenden Locks, and the Lake Washington Ship Canal,  
6 significant events such as the passage of the Donation Land Law, the 1962 World’s Fair, and the  
7 Pig War incident in the San Juan Islands, and biographies of significant people who have shaped  
8 the state’s history, among many other topics. These records are invaluable because there is often  
9 a dearth of secondary sources documenting local history, so historians must rely on archival  
10 collections to learn about them. The Archives’ collections are particularly important because of  
11 the federal government’s significant role in shaping the region’s infrastructure development, the  
12 importance of the relationship between tribal communities and federal departments and agencies,  
13 and the role federal treaties, policies, and actions have played in shaping public policy at all  
14 levels. Without easy access to the records held at the Seattle facility, HistoryLink would be  
15 severely hindered in its efforts to tell the stories of Washington’s people, places, and significant  
16 events, which would have negative consequences for educators, students, journalists, elected  
17 officials, agency personnel, and the general public who use HistoryLink.org to learn about  
18 Washington’s history.

19 37. Plaintiff The Hoh Indian Tribe (“Hoh Tribe”) is a federally recognized Indian  
20 tribe and recognized as the political successor in interest to a signatory tribe to the 1855 Treaty  
21 of Olympia. The Hoh Indian Reservation is located at the mouth of the Hoh River on the Olympic  
22 Peninsula of Western Washington. The reservation is approximately 670 acres with much of the  
23 acreage located in the floodplain of the Hoh River. The Hoh Tribe relies upon access to records  
24 maintained in the Sandpoint Archives to support its efforts to protect treaty rights and interest,  
25 to educate itself and surrounding communities about the history of Hoh Tribe and its members  
26 and to research eligibility for citizenship in the Hoh Tribe. The Hoh Tribe is a small tribe with

1 limited economic development opportunities due to its location on the Olympic Peninsula. The  
2 Tribe lacks the financial resources to access these records on a necessary basis if they are moved  
3 out of the Pacific Northwest. Relocation of the Sandpoint Archive records away from the  
4 Northwest United States will significantly impact the Hoh Tribe's ability to access the records  
5 to protect and advocate its rights and document its history.

6 38. Plaintiff Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe has 545 Tribal Citizens, and 423.56 acres  
7 of Trust and Reservation land located in Clallam County, Washington. The S'Klallam territory  
8 stretches across the northern Olympic Peninsula and across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to  
9 Vancouver Island and beyond. The Tribe's Treaty Rights derived from the Treaty of Point No  
10 Point promised them that treaty resources would remain and be protected. 12 Stat. 933 (1855).  
11 Instead, Jamestown S'Klallam has had to prove the historical areas where these rights attached  
12 by providing historical documentation so their rights could not be erased by the passage of time.  
13 As part of the restoration, preservation, and protection of these important rights, the Jamestown  
14 S'Klallam Tribe has relied heavily on historical research from the National Archives regarding  
15 traditional hunting practices, gathering, fishing rights, and the identification of S'Klallam  
16 settlements and cultural sites, as well as documentation of relations with the non-Indian and  
17 federal relations with the Tribe's communities. This includes research that was done for the  
18 purpose of supporting conservation, management, and protection of cultural knowledge as part  
19 of federally funded fisheries and natural resource programs. Similarly, the S'Klallam provided  
20 research from the Archives to assist with the U.S. Navy's required compliance with the National  
21 Historic Preservation Act. Federal agencies are required to inventory cultural resources on lands  
22 they manage to ensure they are not lost. Materials that were critical to this research, found in the  
23 local archives, were written communications regarding the orders to destroy the S'Klallam  
24 settlement at Port Townsend and forcibly relocate the S'Klallams to the Skokomish Reservation.  
25 The geographic disbursement, and even potential for division of the materials, or merely  
26 digitizing them, would significantly burden the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and hinder

1 compliance with mandatory objectives and conservation goals, and ultimately harm the  
2 S’Klallam people by hiding the history of their ancestors in a less accessible site or format.  
3 Further, the decision to sell the Archives and move the records housed therein was done without  
4 any meaningful Tribal consultation.

5 39. Plaintiff Kalispel Tribe of Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe. The  
6 National Archives at Seattle houses documents which are invaluable to the Kalispel Tribe and  
7 these archives are utilized extensively. Specifically, this facility holds thousands of the Kalispel  
8 Tribe’s documents including, but not limited to, photographs, ethnographies, reports, minutes,  
9 maps, correspondence, notes from the Kalispel language, and a plethora of other important  
10 information. These documents continue to be an important resource that the Tribe needs access  
11 to and the Indigenous knowledge recorded in these documents is priceless.

12 40. Plaintiff the Klamath Tribes is a federally-recognized Indian tribe that has  
13 occupied the lands of South Central Oregon and Northern California since time immemorial.  
14 The Klamath Tribes, with a current enrollment of 5,611 members, is comprised of three historical  
15 tribes: the Klamath Tribe, the Modoc Tribe, and the Yahooskin Band of Paiute Indians. The  
16 Klamath Tribes signed the Treaty of 1864 with the United States, ceding over 22 million acres  
17 of aboriginal territory and reserving approximately one million acres for a permanent homeland.  
18 In 1954, The Klamath Tribes were subjected to the ill-considered and destructive federal policy  
19 known as “termination”, and for over thirty years were not recognized as an Indian tribe by the  
20 United States. As a result of termination, the Tribes were denied the basic rights to which  
21 federally-recognized tribes are entitled, including services from the federal government for  
22 education, health care, social services, and natural resources protection. In 1986, the Tribes  
23 succeeded in persuading Congress to restore the Tribes’ federal recognition, and the Tribes have  
24 been rebuilding their government, their institutions, and their infrastructure since that time. The  
25 Tribes have relied significantly and repeatedly on access to the National Archives at Seattle for  
26 documents, photos, artifacts, audio recordings, and other items of cultural and historical

1 importance related to the Tribes' treaty-making, its history of federal-tribal relations, and its  
2 reservation, as well as information collected from Tribal elders and ancestors concerning Tribal  
3 culture, tradition and languages. The information contained in the National Archives at Seattle  
4 was very important to the Tribes' successful effort at restoration. Further, that information has  
5 continued to be relevant in reconstructing critical components of institutional, cultural, and  
6 traditional infrastructure and knowledge necessary for the Tribes' post-restoration efforts. The  
7 Tribal leadership, administration, and membership all rely on ready access to the National  
8 Archives at Seattle for such information, access that will disappear if the facility and its resources  
9 are moved.

10 41. Plaintiff Metlakatla Indian Community ("Metlakatla") is a federally recognized  
11 Indian tribe located in the Southern Alaska archipelago. Metlakatla, with a population of  
12 approximately 1,400 members, has the unique distinction of being the only tribe in Alaska with  
13 lands set aside in reservation trust status in the state of Alaska—the Annette Islands Reserve,  
14 created by Congress in 1891. Metlakatla was founded by Tsimshian peoples who migrated from  
15 their ancestral homelands in what is now British Columbia to Metlakatla's current home in  
16 Alaska. Metlakatla has a significant interest in the records stored at the National Archives at  
17 Seattle, particularly in light of the closures of the Archives in Anchorage. Metlakatla believes  
18 that the National Archive contains records related to the founding of Metlakatla, Alaska World  
19 War II history and infrastructure on Annette Island, Metlakatla's internal political history, and  
20 the history of intertribal, tribal-state, and federal-tribal relationships. The records also likely  
21 contain documents important to Metlakatla's traditional fishing and hunting rights, as well as  
22 traditional ecological knowledge about plants and medicines. If these documents were  
23 transferred beyond the closest major city to our community, our members would be foreclosed  
24 from accessing these histories and knowledge permanently.

25 42. Plaintiff Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is a federally recognized, self-governing,  
26 sovereign Indian Tribe. The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe is the recognized political successor in

1 interest to some signatory tribes and bands to the Treaty of Point Elliott and to the Treaty of  
2 Medicine Creek, and as such has the present-day right to exercise the treaty right to fish, hunt  
3 and gather, among other rights. *See United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312, 365 (W.D.  
4 Wash. 1974), *aff'd*, 520 F.2d 676, 692 (9th Cir. 1975). The Tribe is organized under a  
5 Constitution and Bylaws ratified by members of the Tribe and approved by the United States  
6 Department of the Interior pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as  
7 amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378). The Muckleshoot Indian Reservation is  
8 located in Western Washington between the White and Green River southeast of the City of  
9 Auburn and has approximately 3,000 members. The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe relies upon  
10 access to records maintained in the National Archives at Seattle to support its efforts to its protect  
11 treaty rights and interests. The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and some of its members have used  
12 the National Archives at Seattle for research that confirms Muckleshoot's oral histories,  
13 documents genealogy, confirms Muckleshoot's treaty fishing, hunting and other rights, and  
14 details Muckleshoot's Indigenous land occupancy and natural and cultural resource use and  
15 conservation and Muckleshoot's interactions and relations with other tribal governments and  
16 federally appointed agents. Representatives of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe have used the  
17 National Archives at Seattle for decades and continues to use the National Archives at Seattle  
18 and records from that facility on a routine basis, including research in connection with federal  
19 program for natural resource conservation purposes. Were the records stored at the National  
20 Archives at Seattle moved out of the region or state, Muckleshoot and Muckleshoot's members  
21 would, practically speaking, no longer have access to those records and Muckleshoot would be  
22 irreparably harmed. By joining in this Complaint, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe does not admit  
23 any of the factual allegations of the Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe, and specifically disclaims and  
24 denies any allegation herein regarding the "Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe" claims to be a  
25 contemporary organization that is a successor in interest to the historic Duwamish Tribe or to be  
26 an Indian Tribe or that the self-identified "Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe" is a party to the Treaty of



1 Point Elliott. These claims have been rejected by both the federal courts and the Department of  
2 the Interior. *See United States v. Washington*, 476 F. Supp. 1101, 1105, 1111, (W.D. Wash.  
3 1979), *aff'd*, 641 F.2d 1368 (9th Cir. 1981), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 1143 (1982); *see also*  
4 Department of the Interior Decision Documents accessible at [https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/025-](https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/025-duwami-wa%20)  
5 [duwami-wa%20](https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/025-duwami-wa%20).

6 43. Plaintiff Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) is Washington State's largest  
7 independent heritage organization, serving tens of thousands of Washington State residents,  
8 visitors and school children each year with exhibits, programs and educational activities related  
9 to the history of the Puget Sound region and the Pacific Northwest. As the region's leading  
10 resource for history and civics education, MOHAI works closely with the National Archives  
11 Seattle branch to research and share the stories of our region, using the invaluable treasures of  
12 the NARA Seattle archives to bring a historical perspective to the public discussion of  
13 contemporary issues facing the community. Because of their close proximity, MOHAI and the  
14 National Archives Seattle branch have partnered over many years on exhibits, public programs,  
15 and research projects, and MOHAI has provided a public venue for presenting National Archives  
16 materials which otherwise would be largely inaccessible to the general public. MOHAI's annual  
17 service to 30,000 students, in dozens of school districts, and its public programs and exhibits  
18 which reach over 100,000 area residents each year, would suffer significantly with the loss of  
19 the archives in our region, and the opportunity the archives presents for MOHAI to provide  
20 Northwest residents with a better understanding of our shared past.

21 44. Plaintiff Nez Perce Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian tribe with headquarters  
22 on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho. The Nez Perce people, the Nimiipuu, exclusively  
23 occupied, since time immemorial, thirteen million acres encompassing a large part of what is  
24 today Idaho, Oregon, and Washington—stretching from the Bitterroot Mountains to the Blue  
25 Mountains. Nez Perce also traveled far beyond this homeland to fish, hunt, gather, and  
26 pasture—frequently going east to what is today the state of Montana, and west along the Snake

1 and Columbia rivers to the Pacific Ocean. Nez Perce actively maintain their connection to the  
2 land, water, and resources of their vast homeland. Seasonal rounds and migration patterns for  
3 cultural and subsistence uses are carefully coordinated to take full advantage of fish, wildlife,  
4 and root crops. These annual cycles correspond not only to the unique resource needs of the Nez  
5 Perce and the seasonal availability of their resources but also to the ceremonial activities and  
6 social gatherings that occur throughout the year. The Nez Perce's intimate knowledge and  
7 continuous use of their homeland over millennia has created a unique and reverential bond  
8 between people and place that defines Nez Perce culture and identity. The Nez Perce Tribe relies  
9 on the National Archives at Seattle for access to critical historical documents. The sale and  
10 subsequent removal of archived materials would have a profound, negative, and irreparable  
11 impact to the Nez Perce people. The Tribe has utilized the National Archives at Seattle for the  
12 records housed there to gather the necessary research to protect the Tribe's interests and treaty  
13 rights. Various programs of the Tribe use this facility to locate historically important and  
14 culturally significant archived records and materials that they need to conduct the ongoing  
15 business of the Tribe. At one point, documents from the Northern Idaho Agency of the Bureau  
16 of Indian Affairs—including enrollment records, family trees of individual Nez Perce families,  
17 and superintendent reports from the Lapwai Sanatorium—were transferred to the Seattle facility.  
18 The Tribe was assured access would be close in Seattle, and Seattle is already a full day's drive  
19 for Nez Perce members. All these records are not only important to the Tribe as a whole but also  
20 to each individual enrolled member and their family. The Seattle facility also includes various  
21 federal land, census, and other essential information that are used to establish or confirm tribal  
22 history and heritage. Tribal members use these files to establish or keep membership in the Tribe.  
23 For example, proof of tribal citizenship is required to obtain education funds.

24 45. Plaintiff Nisqually is a federally recognized Tribe and signatory to the 1854  
25 Treaty of Medicine Creek. Nisqually's Reservation is located on the Nisqually River in rural  
26 Thurston County, 15 miles east of Olympia, Washington. Nisqually has used the National

1 Archives Building to do critical research over the years regarding genealogy, treaty rights,  
2 traditional knowledge of conservation, educational research for native studies, sovereignty  
3 issues, and research on first foods/food sovereignty. The facility provides a place for the next  
4 generation to do research and preserve their cultural identity. The diversity in tribes represented  
5 at the facility provides mixed families a place to research both sides of their family history. The  
6 facility provides irreplaceable and un-digitized original source documents in the Lushootseed  
7 language. The Tribe has used the facility to research and identify historical place names,  
8 ancestral names, and family and cultural history. The facility houses invaluable teaching tools  
9 for tribal students, teachers, and colleges in the region. The records stored at the Seattle facility  
10 are of the utmost importance to Nisqually people, the people of Washington State, and the  
11 surrounding region. If the records are moved, the Nisqually Tribe, its members, and other  
12 Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes will no longer have access to the records and the Tribe will be  
13 irreparably harmed. By joining in this Complaint, the Nisqually Indian Tribe does not admit any  
14 of the factual allegations of the Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe, and specifically disclaims and denies  
15 any allegation herein regarding the “Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe” claims to be a contemporary  
16 organization that is a successor in interest to the historic Duwamish Tribe or to be an Indian  
17 Tribe or that the self-identified “Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe” is a party to the Treaty of Point  
18 Elliott. These claims have been rejected by both the federal courts and the Department of the  
19 Interior.

20 46. Plaintiff Nooksack Indian Tribe is a federally recognized tribe of approximately  
21 2,000 members, located in its ancestral homeland in the northwest corner of Washington State.  
22 The Nooksack Indian Tribe is a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855. Its name comes  
23 from a place name in the Nooksack language and translates to “always bracken fern roots,” which  
24 illustrates the Nooksack Indian Tribe’s close ties to its land and the resources that continue to  
25 give strength to its people. The Nooksack reservation is located in Deming, Washington, just 15  
26 miles east of Bellingham, 12 miles south of the Canadian border, nestled amongst majestic

1 mountains, lush forest, and the meandering and dynamic Nooksack River. The Nooksack Indian  
2 Tribe relies on the Seattle archives facility primarily for research to help determine tribal  
3 membership eligibility. One basis for tribal membership in Nooksack is descentance from  
4 individual allottees whose allotments were originally homesteads by European settlers. The  
5 Tribe is often required to research records at the archives to determine original allotments or  
6 homesteads. Further, because the Nooksack Indian Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing stations  
7 include the entire Nooksack River basin and adjoining marine waters, including portions of the  
8 Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and of the North Cascades National Park, the Tribe  
9 often uses the archives for research to support contracts with the United States Forest Service  
10 over issues such as the effects of logging on water quality and instream flows and salmon habitat  
11 restoration more generally.

12 47. Plaintiff OCA Asian Pacific Advocates – Greater Seattle is a chapter of OCA  
13 Asian Pacific Advocates, formerly known as the Organization of Chinese Americans. Founded  
14 in 1973, the organization was founded with a vision of uniting Chinese Americans across the  
15 United States into one representative voice. Today, OCA has transformed into a national  
16 organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian  
17 Pacific Americans in the United States. OCA is nonprofit, non-partisan organization representing  
18 over 10,000 people nationally, including affiliates, college affiliates, and general membership.  
19 The Greater Seattle Chapter (“OCA-GS”) was formed in 1995 as an affiliate of the national OCA  
20 organization. Since its inception, OCA-GS has served the Greater Seattle Chinese and Asian  
21 American and Pacific Islander American community as well as other communities in the Pacific  
22 Northwest. It is recognized in the local community for its advocacy of civil and voting rights as  
23 well as its sponsorship of community activities and events. The National Archives facility  
24 located in Seattle, Washington is fundamental to our community's conservation and educational  
25 efforts relating to immigrant and Native/Indigenous ancestry and history. These Archives house  
26 critical information that must remain accessible to the communities, specifically the Northwest

1 communities, since it holds our histories. For OCA's members and the communities it serves,  
2 the Archives provide a critical source of information in the following ways: as an educational  
3 resource for our local college and university faculty who rely on access to the Archives for  
4 research and classroom teaching purposes; as a critical tool for our Asian and Native/Indigenous  
5 communities to learn more about their history, and as a source for two of OCA-GS's former  
6 Presidents who published books with historical significance to our community and state; as a  
7 source of information that OCA-GS used to support efforts to award the Congressional Gold  
8 Medal to our veterans (many of our members, including the current OCA-GS President, are  
9 descendants and/or relatives of Japanese, Filipino, and Chinese veterans of World War II); and  
10 as critical partners in the conservation of our community's history, including the Chinese  
11 Exclusion Act files that cover not only Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska from the 1850s  
12 to 1980s, but also include Chinese who entered the U.S. through any of these states but settled  
13 or visited elsewhere in the U.S. Volunteers have carefully created one of the best NARA indices  
14 of these files.

15 48. Plaintiff State of Oregon is a sovereign entity and brings this action to protect its  
16 proprietary interests in access to the National Archives at Seattle, and as *parens patriae* on behalf  
17 of its affected citizens and residents. The National Archives at Seattle is a critical resource for  
18 the state's largest research universities, including the University of Oregon and Oregon State  
19 University, whose undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and librarians regularly rely on  
20 these original records unique to the Pacific Northwest for research, educational, and publication  
21 purposes. The federal government has been entrusted with these rare and unique historical  
22 archival documents to which local access is essential to tell and preserve our national and  
23 regional history. The sale of the Federal Archives and Records Center located at 6125 Sand Point  
24 Way NE, in Seattle, Washington, and removal of the records to the proposed locations will  
25 undoubtedly damage our state's public learning institutions and the communities and individuals  
26 we serve, in addition to having a devastating impact to Oregon tribes that rely on the records for

1 treaty and tribal membership purposes. Access to original records in their context is essential to  
2 our public universities' ability to educate scholars and the public and maintain their missions to  
3 preserve and enhance knowledge. Many of the documents at Sand Point have artifactual value  
4 that cannot be reproduced through digital representations, or that must be viewed in context with  
5 other related documents to understand their meaning and significance. Having substantial local  
6 archival resources accessible in physical form has helped our state universities to recruit top  
7 applicants interested in pursuing research in the Western United States. Our researchers,  
8 historians, genealogists, and tribes in Oregon, as well as private citizens and families, continue  
9 to rely on the National Archives at Seattle as an invaluable source of unique historical  
10 information and will be harmed by the planned removal to more distant locations. The Attorney  
11 General is the chief legal officer for the State of Oregon and is authorized by Oregon law to  
12 perform all legal services for the State. The Attorney General's powers and duties include acting  
13 in federal court on matters of public concern. This challenge is brought pursuant to the Attorney  
14 General's independent constitutional, statutory, and common law authority to bring suit and  
15 obtain relief on behalf of the State of Oregon.

16 49. Plaintiff Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe ("PGST") is a federally recognized, self-  
17 governing tribal government located on approximately 1,700 acres on the Kitsap Peninsula,  
18 Kitsap County, Washington. Approximately two-thirds of our over 1,300 enrolled PGST  
19 members live on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Reservation—100% of which is held in federal  
20 trust status. PGST is a signatory to the 1855 Point No Point Treaty with the United States and  
21 was organized pursuant to the federal Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, which was passed by  
22 the U.S. Congress in part to "conserve and develop Indian lands and resources." PGST and PGST  
23 members use the National Archives at Seattle for research that confirms S'Klallam oral histories;  
24 documents S'Klallam genealogy; and confirms PGST Treaty fishing, hunting, and other rights,  
25 S'Klallam Indigenous land occupancy and natural and cultural resource use and conservation,  
26 and PGST interactions and relations with other tribal governments and federally appointed

1 agents. PGST has used the National Archives at Seattle for decades and continues to use the  
2 National Archives at Seattle and records drawn from that facility on a routine basis. In particular,  
3 PGST has used and continues to use that facility for research in connection with federal programs  
4 for natural resource conservation purposes. Were the records stored at the National Archives at  
5 Seattle moved out of the region or state, PGST and PGST members would, practically speaking,  
6 no longer have access to those records and PGST would be irreparably harmed.

7 50. Plaintiff Puyallup Tribe is a federally-recognized, sovereign tribal government  
8 also recognized by the Treaty of Medicine Creek with the United States (10 Stat. 1132). The  
9 Tribe is located in and around the urban core of Tacoma, Washington. It is governed by its own  
10 Constitution and Bylaws, a comprehensive code of laws including family protection, housing,  
11 fishing, hunting, and land use, as well as its own civil and criminal codes. Members of the  
12 Puyallup Tribe have lived, fished, harvested, hunted, protected the environment, and practiced  
13 cultural traditions in these areas since time immemorial. The Tribe's government programs  
14 numbering over 60 include departments such as historic preservation, fisheries management  
15 including the timber, fish & wildlife program, higher education, realty, law enforcement, tribal  
16 courts, the law office, business and tax licensing department, and family protective service  
17 departments including the Indian Child Welfare department, which all serve to preserve the  
18 Tribe's existence, land, culture and to improve the general welfare of over 5,600 members and  
19 their families. Many of these departments and others carry out tribal and federal programs,  
20 functions, services, and activities under P.L. 93-638 contracts awarded by the Department of  
21 Interior pursuant to Title I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25  
22 U.S.C. §§ 5301 et seq.). Archives held at the National Archives at Seattle facility are an  
23 irreplaceable documented history of the Tribe's people, lands, natural and cultural resources, and  
24 government. With the assistance of expert archivists who have worked with records specific to  
25 tribes for decades, the tribal government, individual tribal members, and tribal community  
26 members have used and continue to use the National Archives at Seattle for historical research



1 of a wide variety of topics from enrollment, genealogy, archaeology, historical and legal issues  
2 involving fishing, hunting, water, land, and government-to-government agreements between the  
3 tribes and other governments including the United States government. These irreplaceable  
4 archives are primarily un-digitized and do not exist elsewhere. Closure and sale of the National  
5 Archives at Seattle and relocation of the archives would pose significant economic burdens and  
6 administrative challenges on the Tribe and its membership. Not having the archives readily  
7 available, protected, and nearby will affect the Tribe's ability to use this data for all of these  
8 essential governmental purposes. By joining in this Complaint, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians  
9 does not admit any of the factual allegations of the Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe, and specifically  
10 disclaims and denies any allegation herein regarding the "Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe" claims to  
11 be a contemporary organization that is a successor in interest to the historic Duwamish Tribe or  
12 to be an Indian Tribe or that the self-identified "Plaintiff Duwamish Tribe" is a party to the  
13 Treaty of Point Elliott. These claims have been rejected by both the federal courts and the  
14 Department of the Interior. See *United States v. Washington*, 476 F. Supp. 1101, 1105, 1111,  
15 (W.D. Wash. 1979), *aff'd*, 641 F.2d 1368 (9th Cir. 1981), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 1143 (1982);  
16 see also Department of the Interior Decision Documents accessible at [https://www.bia.gov/as-](https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/025-duwami-wa%20)  
17 [ia/ofa/025-duwami-wa%20](https://www.bia.gov/as-ia/ofa/025-duwami-wa%20).

18 51. Plaintiff Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation ("Quileute Tribe") is a  
19 federally recognized Indian tribe and signatory tribe to the 1855 Treaty of Olympia. The Quileute  
20 Reservation is located at the mouth of the Quillayute River on the Olympic Peninsula of Western  
21 Washington, and the Tribe's ceded lands extend for hundreds of square miles, reaching the  
22 Olympic Mountains. For decades, the Quileute Tribe has heavily relied upon, and will continue  
23 to heavily rely upon, the Sand Point Archives in connection with research for federal  
24 conservation programs. In just the past five years, the Quileute Tribe has used the Archives to  
25 defend its treaty rights; fulfill its obligations under various federal grant programs, including a  
26 climate change study; comply with (and ensure that the United States as its trustee complies

1 with) the conservation requirements of numerous federal laws, including but not limited to the  
2 National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. This Court cited  
3 numerous documents obtained from the Sand Point Archives in its 2015 decision adjudicating  
4 the Quileute Tribe’s treaty fishing area.<sup>6</sup> In just the coming decade, the Quileute Tribe intended  
5 to conduct research at the Archives for numerous purposes, including in connection with the  
6 ongoing process of moving its reservation out of the tsunami zone (see Pub L. 112-97, 126 Stat.  
7 257), with ongoing habitat and infrastructure restoration projects, and with a National Park  
8 Service Tribal Heritage Grant to develop a cultural and language center to protect Quileute  
9 culture. The Quileute Tribe’s compliance with applicable federal laws and federal conservation  
10 program requirements in carrying out these projects has involved, and will involve, continuing  
11 reliance upon the Sand Point Archives. The Quileute Tribe lacks the financial resources to access  
12 these records if they are moved out of the Pacific Northwest. Thus, relocation of the Sandpoint  
13 Archive records away from the Northwest will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for  
14 the Quileute Tribe to access the records its needs for these crucial federal programs and for tribal  
15 cultural preservation. This would cause irreparable harm to the Tribe, both in the form of  
16 increased costs of accessing the records and in the cultural harm caused when the Tribe is unable  
17 to participate in these programs due to the prohibitive cost of accessing archival records.

18 52. Plaintiff Quinault Indian Nation (“Quinault Nation”) is a sovereign government  
19 and federally-recognized Indian tribe located on the west coast of Washington. The Quinault  
20 Nation is a signatory to the Treaty of Olympia (1856), ratified by Congress in 1859 (12 Stat.  
21 971), in which it reserved a right to take fish at its “usual and accustomed fishing grounds and  
22 stations” and the privilege of hunting and gathering, among other rights, in exchange for ceding  
23 lands it historically roamed freely. Representatives of the Quinault Nation have historically  
24 relied on and accessed records housed at National Archives at Seattle pertaining to its enrolled

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26 <sup>6</sup> See *United States v. Washington*, 129 F. Supp. 3d 1069, 1073 (W.D. Wash. 2015) (stating that the Court admitted 472 exhibits; numerous of those exhibits were obtained from the Sand Point Archives).

1 membership and census records, historic cultural and treaty practices, as well as historic photos  
2 and newspaper articles about the Quinault people. The Quinault Nation has a keen interest in  
3 continuing to be able to access such historic records at the National Archives at Seattle without  
4 the cost and stress of having to travel a longer distance than to Seattle.

5 53. Plaintiff Samish Indian Nation (“Samish Tribe”) is a federally-recognized Indian  
6 tribe located in Northwest Washington. The Samish Tribe has had a contentious relationship  
7 with the federal government, including the government’s position in the late 1960s taken without  
8 any final judicial decision that the Samish Tribe was no longer federally-recognized, and the  
9 government’s opposition to Samish treaty status because the Tribe was not recognized. The  
10 Samish Tribe has been involved in continuous litigation for the last 45 years to confirm its treaty  
11 status and its status as a federally-recognized tribe. Tribal access to the National Archives in  
12 Seattle was and is critical to the Tribe’s successful re-recognition litigation, its successful  
13 *Carcieri* determination, and its ongoing legal efforts to confirm its treaty status. Moving the  
14 Seattle Archives records back East would severely cripple the Samish Tribe’s ongoing legal  
15 efforts.

16 54. Plaintiff Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe is a tribal nation which is federally recognized  
17 by the United States Secretary of the Interior. Representatives of the Tribe were signatories to  
18 the Treaty of Point Elliott between the United States and several tribal nations. Because millions  
19 of acres of lands and waters in the Pacific Northwest are subject to the exercise of tribal rights  
20 reserved in the Treaty, access to the governmental records housed in the Pacific Northwest  
21 Regional Archives is often among the most expedient way of resolving the many disputes which  
22 arise among tribal and non-tribal people and governments in the Pacific Northwest. The  
23 information in such records is often dispositive of such disputes, and this serves the public  
24 through the avoidance of litigation.

25 55. Plaintiff the City of Seattle is a city organized under the laws of the State of  
26 Washington, and is the largest municipality within the National Archives’s geographic scope. In

1 developing infrastructure throughout its jurisdiction, and in approving private development  
2 applications, it relies directly and indirectly on records in the National Archives to understand  
3 the limitations imposed by tribal treaty rights. Seattle also operates the Seattle Public Library  
4 (SPL), which depends on the National Archives records as well. SPL maintains a central location  
5 in Downtown Seattle and 26 branch locations across the City of Seattle, ultimately serving a city  
6 population of nearly 4 million people. In its Strategic Direction, SPL has identified Seattle  
7 culture and history as a service priority, thereby committing to provide research and reference  
8 services related to the history of the region. To deliver on these service responsibilities, SPL  
9 depends on the resources of its partner institutions like the National Archives. The National  
10 Archives contains a vast collection of unduplicated and un-digitized original records from Seattle  
11 history that are essential for SPL stakeholders, including patrons, researchers, City staff and  
12 elected officials, community advocates, news media, developers, and business. Specific  
13 collections of interest include: Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Land Management; Records  
14 of land offices; Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files; Federal District, Circuit, and Territorial Court  
15 Records; and Naturalization Records. Removing the National Archives from Seattle would  
16 substantially limit SPL and its stakeholders from accessing these crucial records. Had the City  
17 of Seattle been permitted to comment on the National Archives's removal, it would have detailed  
18 how removal will reduce the City's ability to consider the limits tribal treaty rights place on  
19 development and how it will deprive the SPL of access to records of tremendous local import.

20         56. Plaintiff Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe (Shoalwater Bay) is a federally recognized  
21 Indian tribe in southwestern Washington State along the waters of the Willapa Bay. Shoalwater  
22 Bay was established by Executive Order in 1866 and it currently has 440 members. The records  
23 housed at the National Archives at Seattle are critical for documenting Shoalwater Bay tribal  
24 history and the lives of Shoalwater Bay members' ancestors. Shoalwater Bay has conducted key  
25 research at this facility in the process to achieve formal federal recognition and establishment in  
26 1971. Shoalwater Bay tribal staff rely on this facility for original source materials that support

1 planning and grants processes as well as various research relating to culture, history, and natural  
2 resource projects. The National Archives at Seattle also holds key documents relevant to  
3 litigation surrounding Shoalwater Bay's assertion of its tribal fishing rights and the protection  
4 and conservation of the fisheries on which those rights depend. In the past, Shoalwater Bay  
5 employees have had to rely on the federal archival collection when source material was missing  
6 from state collections. Moreover, the National Archives at Seattle holds critical and intimate  
7 records on Shoalwater Bay tribal members, including non-digitized hand-written personal  
8 correspondence. For example, the Archives has the personal hand-written letters to Shoalwater  
9 Bay's first Chairman from his family members while he was in boarding school at Chemawa  
10 Indian School. The removal of key historical documents from Seattle to California and Missouri  
11 will cause Shoalwater Bay irreparable harm. Removing these documents and placing them up to  
12 1,500 miles away removes Shoalwater Bay its history and frays already tenuous connections to  
13 its past and its people. This move will make it nearly impossible for Shoalwater Bay to conduct  
14 thorough research for grants, cultural projects, and genealogical history, which will create  
15 financial harm to Shoalwater Bay and its members, if grants are denied, and immeasurable harm  
16 to their collective knowledge. Key officials of the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Council and  
17 Administration were notified by a regional tribal association of the plan to close the National  
18 Archives at Seattle, but no federal government representative contacted the Tribe in connection  
19 with the government's decision to sell the facility. Shoalwater Bay believes that the proposed  
20 closure of the National Archives at Seattle is an act of cultural genocide against the Indigenous  
21 people on the Willapa Bay.

22 57. Plaintiff Skokomish Indian Tribe is an Indian tribe with a governing body duly  
23 recognized by the Secretary of the Interior. *Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive*  
24 *Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs*, 85 Fed. Reg. 5462 (January 30, 2020).  
25 The Tribe is re-organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934. 48 Stat. 984,  
26 987, 25 U.S.C. § 5123; *Theodore H. Haas, Ten Years of Tribal Government under I.R.A.* (1947).

1 The Tribe operates under its Constitution and by-laws first adopted on April 2, 1938, and  
2 approved by the Secretary of the Interior May 3, 1938, amended January 15, 1980, as approved  
3 by the Secretary of the Interior March 17, 1980. *Id.*; Skokomish Const. The Tribe, as the  
4 successor in interest to the Skokomish and Twana people, is a signatory to the Treaty of Point  
5 No Point of January 26, 1855 and retains reserved Treaty rights. 12 Stat. 933 (Ratified Mar. 8,  
6 1859 and Proclaimed Apr. 29, 1859); *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312, 376-377  
7 at Finding Nos. 133-134 (W.D. Wash. 1974). The Tribe is located within the Hood Canal  
8 drainage area of the State of Washington. *Id.* The Skokomish's Reservation is defined by an  
9 Executive Order and later Proclamations. *Exec. Order of President Ulysses S. Grant*  
10 (February 25, 1874). As of December 28, 2020, there are 781 enrolled members of the  
11 Skokomish Indian Tribe. For more than a century, the Tribe and its members suffered at the  
12 hands of agents implementing policy of the United States, which sought to strip away  
13 Skokomish's language, culture, and heritage. Despite having been subject to this adversity to  
14 this day the Tribe and its members' cultural identity remains strong, in part due to the ability to  
15 rediscover lost knowledge preserved at the National Archives facility in Seattle. The closure of  
16 this facility would undoubtedly inflict a most grievous injury upon the Tribe and its members  
17 and once again cut off Skokomish's connection to the past. The Tribe relies on this critical  
18 facility, for example, amongst other things to: maintain its tribal rolls; secure and preserve its  
19 territory and Treaty rights to hunt, gather, and fish; and maintain cultural knowledge. The  
20 members would also face undue financial harm if they could not travel to a local facility to  
21 conduct their own research into their families' histories, their homeland, their Treaty, and their  
22 traditional ways of life.

23 58. Plaintiff Snoqualmie Indian Tribe is a federally-recognized sovereign Indian tribe  
24 and signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855 with reserved rights thereunder, with its  
25 governmental offices at 9571 Ethan Wade Way SE, Snoqualmie, WA 98065. The Seattle  
26 National Archives contain a wealth of historical information about the Snoqualmie people,

1 including but not limited to records from the Tulalip Agency (1861-1950), the Western  
2 Washington Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (1950-1975), and the Portland Area Office  
3 (1931-1970). Snoqualmie regularly relies on the documents within the Seattle National Archives  
4 to support both certain legal endeavors, including its ongoing litigation, and its continuing effort  
5 to document the Tribe's ethnohistory. Closure and relocation of the Seattle National Archives  
6 would pose significant challenges to Snoqualmie's ability to access these critical and  
7 irreplaceable records of its history.

8         59. Plaintiff Spokane Tribe of Indians ("Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe  
9 located in Eastern Washington. The Tribe's Reservation was established in August of 1877 after  
10 the Tribe was forced from its land by the United States government. *Northern Pac. Ry. Co. v.*  
11 *Wismer*, 246 U.S. 283, 288 (1918). The Tribe's Reservation borders are the East Bank of  
12 Chamokane Creek, the South Bank of the Spokane River, the West Bank of the Columbia River  
13 and the Northern Border is the 48<sup>th</sup> parallel. 1880 WL 32483 (Exec. Ord.). The Tribe's  
14 membership of more than 2,700 live within the Reservation and throughout the region. The  
15 National Archives in Seattle contains thousands of documents that are pertain to the Spokane  
16 Tribe, its people, and its lands. These documents are invaluable in efforts to protect tribal  
17 resources, including its lands, waters, and cultural resources. Moving the documents will cost  
18 the Tribe significant time, expense, and resources to access these documents at another locations.

19         60. Plaintiff Squaxin Island Tribe ("Squaxin") is a federally recognized, self-  
20 governing tribal government located in Mason County, Washington. Squaxin is a signatory to  
21 the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek with the United States. Squaxin uses the National Archives  
22 at the Sand Point facility to research and document Squaxin genealogy, and conduct historical  
23 research in the areas of Treaty rights (particularly fishing and hunting rights), historical political  
24 structure, land base occupancy, natural and cultural resource use and conservation, interactions  
25 and relations with other tribal governments and federally appointed agents, and uses of  
26 Indigenous plants and medicines. In the 1950s and 1960s, Squaxin used the documents at the



1 National Archives at Sand Point to research its political continuity in a battle to prevent  
2 termination of the Tribe. From the 1960s and 1970s to the present, Squaxin has used the  
3 documents at the National Archives at Sand Point to document its reserved fishing rights under  
4 the Treaty of Medicine Creek. Beginning in the 1970s, Squaxin has used the documents at the  
5 National Archives at Sand Point to conduct genealogical research to assist the Tribe's support  
6 for national Indian Child Welfare legislation. Were the records stored at the National Archives  
7 at Seattle moved out of the region or state, Squaxin and Squaxin members would, practically  
8 speaking, no longer have access to those records and Squaxin would be irreparably harmed.

9 61. Plaintiff Suquamish Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and is a  
10 signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott, 1855. The Port Madison Indian Reservation, home of the  
11 Suquamish Tribe, (7,657 acres) is located across the Puget Sound from Seattle (named for  
12 Suquamish Chief Sealth) on the Kitsap Peninsula (named for Suquamish Chief Kitsap) in and  
13 around the towns of Suquamish and Indianola. The Suquamish had winter villages at Suquamish,  
14 Port Madison, Sandy Hook, Lemolo, Point Bolin, Poulsbo, Silverdale, Chico, Colby, Olalla,  
15 Point White, Lynwood Center, Eagle Harbor, Battle Point, Manette, Elwood Point, and Point No  
16 Point. The best known winter village was Old Man House at the modern location of  
17 Suquamish, the home of Chief Sealth and Chief Kitsap. The Sand Point archives helped the Tribe  
18 and its researchers and experts uncover many critical facts about its places and names, its  
19 language and history. The Suquamish periodically left their winter residences in the spring,  
20 summer and early fall in family canoes to travel to temporary camps at their fishing, hunting,  
21 and gathering grounds in and around the Puget Sound. The Suquamish paddled from Old Man  
22 House to the Point Elliot Treaty grounds, across the water on the Seattle side. Since treaty time  
23 and the hard times immediately thereafter, the Suquamish Tribe has continued to grow. Part of  
24 the Tribe's ability to grow and know itself as a Tribe are the unique records that the National  
25 Archives at Sand Point have provided to the Tribe's historians, attorneys, linguists, geographers  
26 and citizens. Having immediate access to the Sand Point Archives has been critical to the

1 Suquamish Tribe's legal efforts to protect its treaty rights, its trust properties, and the Tribe's  
2 status as a Tribe during the last 50 years. Those legal efforts continue to this day, and many still  
3 require that the Tribe perform additional historical research at the Sand Point Archives. Without  
4 access to the Sand Point Facility and the ability to research federal government records related  
5 to pre-treaty activities and the Tribe's usual and accustomed areas, the Suquamish Tribe's efforts  
6 to demonstrate its presence in the pre-treaty Puget Sound would have been, and will be severely  
7 compromised. The National Archives at Sand Point also provide important genealogic and  
8 linguistic information to the Tribe's researchers. Without access to the Sand Point archives, the  
9 Tribe's ability to research everything from its language to genealogy to locations and usages  
10 would be severely compromised. The Tribe cannot afford to send members, contractors or staff  
11 to the Midwest or elsewhere for prolonged research stints. The closure of the Sand Point  
12 Archives and the removal of the Archival materials will injure this and future generations of  
13 tribal scholars from viewing their history in its original context. It will also prevent the  
14 Suquamish Department of Education from bringing Suquamish youth to the Archive site to show  
15 them the records there and their relation to Suquamish history, geography, and language. The  
16 Suquamish governmental offices are located at 18490 Suquamish Way NE, Suquamish, WA  
17 98392. The Suquamish Tribe, by joining this complaint, joins in the pleadings, but neither  
18 endorses nor disparages the unrelated claims of any other party advocating the preservation of  
19 the Sand Point Archives and reserves its rights to address any other such claim at another place  
20 and time.

21 62. Plaintiff Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is a sovereign entity and federally-  
22 recognized Indian tribe. It is an adjudicated successor in interest to certain tribes and bands of  
23 Indians which were party to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, including the Kikiallus, Lower  
24 Skagit, aboriginal Samish, and aboriginal Swinomish. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community  
25 has regularly relied on its proximity to the Seattle branch of the National Archives and Records  
26 Administration since the facility was created at Sand Point in 1963. The Tribe's needs for a

1 regional repository of federal records have been many and varied. For decades, Tribal staff,  
2 attorneys, and outside expert researchers and consultants have depended on Record Group 75  
3 (RG 75), the complex web of record sets from the Bureau of Indian Affairs housed at Seattle  
4 NARA which “document the U.S. Federal government’s interaction with American Indians.”  
5 Materials from RG 75, and other record groups at Sand Point, have played critical roles in  
6 Swinomish’s struggle to enforce tribal sovereignty and the rights reserved for them by the 1855  
7 Treaty of Point Elliott. Additionally, these documents have informed the Tribe’s creation of laws  
8 and infrastructure that govern reservation life today. Equally important to the Swinomish Indian  
9 Tribal Community has been the creation of its own repository in 2007 to preserve and understand  
10 its history. The Swinomish Tribal Archive has laid a firm foundation for this work by regularly  
11 accessing materials at Seattle NARA. The success of the Tribal Archive to build resources for  
12 the community from genealogical databases to timelines that document the history of Swinomish  
13 government, health care, education, land use and more, is a direct result of the materials obtained  
14 in Seattle. Had this regional branch of the National Archive been located in the middle of the  
15 United States, these research trips by Swinomish staff would have been prohibitively expensive  
16 and out of reach.

17 63. Plaintiff Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an intertribal organization located  
18 in central Alaska and comprised of thirty-seven federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes and  
19 five additional Alaska Native communities. TCC is an arm of the tribal governments which  
20 created it. *Beverdorf v. Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.*, No. 4FA-17-01911 CI, Order of  
21 Dismissal (Alaska Super. Ct. Sept. 27, 2017). TCC was formed in 1915 to protect Native land  
22 rights, tribal self-determination, and regional Native unity. TCC reorganized as a nonprofit  
23 corporation under Alaska law in 1962, shortly after Alaska statehood, and today provides health,  
24 education, economic, and social services for Alaska Natives, American Indians, and other  
25 eligible individuals throughout a 235,000 square mile region in interior Alaska. TCC has a deep  
26 interest in the records currently stored in the Federal Archives and Records Center in Seattle,

1 because (among other things) that facility houses records concerning tribal aboriginal claims,  
2 including claims over hunting and fishing rights acknowledged and extinguished in section 4(b)  
3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANILCA), 43 U.S.C. 1603(b), and  
4 subsequently addressed by Congress in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
5 Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. §§ 3111–3126; Alaska tribal organizations;  
6 Alaska Native allotments; Alaska Native townsites; educational activities in Alaska Native  
7 villages; early religious (mission) activities in village Alaska; World War II (WWII) and post-  
8 WWII activities across the interior of Alaska; mineral development in the interior of Alaska;  
9 Alaska Native corporation and State of Alaska land selections in the interior of Alaska; and the  
10 history and management of federal “conservation system unit[s]” across the interior of Alaska  
11 defined in ANILCA, *see* 16 U.S.C. 3102(4). In this last respect, the archives facility houses  
12 records leading to the establishment or enlargement (through ANILCA) of several conservation  
13 system units of particular interest to TCC and its member Tribes, including the Gates of the  
14 Arctic National Park and Preserve, Karuti National Wildlife Refuge, Koyukuk National Wildlife  
15 Refuge, Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge, Noatak National  
16 Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.  
17 Pursuant to Title VIII of ANILCA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 3111–3126, the residents of TCC’s region  
18 exercise specially reserved hunting and fishing rights for subsistence purposes in each  
19 conservation system unit addressed in ANILCA, and information concerning the nature and  
20 exercise of hunting and fishing activities in these and other areas across the interior of Alaska  
21 are housed in the facility. Also housed in the facility are the records of the Federal Field  
22 Committee for Development Planning in Alaska, whose research and 1968 report (published by  
23 the Government Printing Office) provided a detailed history of the demography and lifeways of  
24 Alaska Native people, including hunting and fishing activities, together with much of the  
25 background that led to the development of ANCSA.  
26

1           64. Plaintiff Upper Skagit Indian Tribe is a federally-recognized, sovereign tribal  
2 government and successor in interest to the Treaty of Point Elliot with the United States. The  
3 Tribe post Treaty was a “landless” Tribe as its members refused relocation to the Swinomish  
4 reservation. The Upper Skagit membership continued to sustain itself in its traditional territories  
5 in and around Skagit County and adjacent marine areas. It is governed by its own Constitution  
6 and Bylaws, a comprehensive code of laws including family protection, housing, fishing,  
7 hunting, and land use, as well as its own civil and criminal codes. Members of the Upper Skagit  
8 have lived, fished, harvested, hunted, protected the environment, and practiced cultural traditions  
9 in and around the Skagit Basin since time immemorial. The Tribe’s government programs  
10 include departments such as historic preservation, fisheries management including the timber,  
11 fish & wildlife program, higher education, realty, law enforcement, tribal courts, office of Tribal  
12 Attorney, and family protective service departments including the Indian Child Welfare  
13 department, which all serve to preserve the Tribe’s existence, land, culture and to improve the  
14 general welfare of over 1,300 members and their families. Many of these departments and others  
15 carry out tribal and federal programs, functions, services, and activities under P.L. 93-638  
16 contracts awarded by the Department of Interior pursuant to Title I of the Indian Self-  
17 Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. §§ 5301 et seq.). Archives held at the  
18 National Archives at Seattle facility are an irreplaceable documented history of the Tribe’s  
19 people, lands, natural and cultural resources, and government. With the assistance of expert  
20 archivists who have worked with records specific to tribes for decades, the tribal government,  
21 individual tribal members, and tribal community members have used and continue to use the  
22 National Archives at Seattle for historical research of a wide variety of topics, including taking  
23 land into trust to establish its reservation, preservation of its Treaty rights, enrollment, genealogy,  
24 archaeology, historical and legal issues involving fishing, hunting, water, land, and government-  
25 to-government agreements between the tribes and other governments including the United States  
26 government. These irreplaceable archives are primarily un-digitized and do not exist elsewhere.

1 Closure and sale of the National Archives at Seattle and relocation of the archives would pose  
2 significant economic burdens and administrative challenges on the Tribe and its membership.  
3 Not having the archives readily available, protected, and nearby will affect the Tribe's ability to  
4 use this data for all of these essential governmental purposes.

5 65. Plaintiff Washington Trust for Historic Preservation (WTHP) is a 501(c)(3)  
6 nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to saving the places that matter in Washington State  
7 and to promoting sustainable and economically viable communities through historic  
8 preservation. WTHP is Washington's only statewide historic preservation organization. Among  
9 other public services and programs, WTHP provides technical advice, financial assistance, and  
10 advocacy to local preservation efforts statewide. WTHP has members throughout the state of  
11 Washington. The National Archives in Seattle are an important resource for WTHP's advocacy,  
12 education, and stewardship programs. Archival research, including at the National Archives, is  
13 critical to determine whether and how to protect and advocate for historic resources. For  
14 example, WTHP recently used the Archives to complete preservation-related projects funded  
15 through the federal Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Byways programs. The records at  
16 the Archives are also particularly useful to the efforts of WTHP and its members to develop  
17 nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, materials related to the federal  
18 Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, and landmark nominations to local city and county historic  
19 registers through the Certified Local Government program. Many of the relevant records at the  
20 Archives, including property records, correspondence, historic reports, genealogy, military  
21 records, photos and other forms of documentation, are available only at the Archives and have  
22 not been digitized. Continued access to the Archives is critical to WTHP's mission and programs  
23 and to the preservation of historic resources throughout the state.

24 66. Plaintiff Wing Luke Memorial Foundation (d/b/a Wing Luke Museum) is a  
25 museum whose mission is to connect everyone to the dynamic history, cultures, and art of Asian  
26 Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and

1 social equity. Founded in 1966 in Seattle's historic Chinatown-International District, honoring  
2 Wing Luke, an immigrant and first person of color elected to Seattle City Council in 1962, the  
3 Wing Luke Museum is a cultural gathering place for diverse audiences spanning generations and  
4 diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. The Wing Luke Museum engages the public in the history,  
5 culture, and art of Asian Pacific Americans through community-driven exhibitions, educational  
6 resources and programs, guided tours, and neighborhood revitalization activities. The Wing  
7 Luke Museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and an Affiliated Area of the National  
8 Park Service. Research within the National Archives and Records Administration in Seattle has  
9 been integral to the creation of many exhibitions at the Wing Luke Museum, especially drawing  
10 upon the Chinese Exclusion Files. These records have illuminated the immigration experience  
11 for Chinese Americans from the 1850s to 1980s. The records also have been key to its  
12 interpretation of the historic Seattle Immigration and Naturalization Service Building. Since the  
13 records connect with individuals and their families, research at the National Archives and  
14 Records Administration has enabled the Wing Luke Museum to share and explore personal  
15 stories within its exhibitions, connecting with its visitors and immersing them in history. Indeed,  
16 research at the National Archives and Records Administration has been a powerful way to  
17 recover history that would otherwise be lost to Asian Pacific American communities in the  
18 Pacific Northwest region and beyond. Through genealogy workshops and family histories  
19 donated to the Wing Luke Museum Collections, community members cite how necessary in-  
20 person research at the National Archives and Records Administration has been to their findings.  
21 Without access to these records, the Wing Luke Museum would be without core exhibition  
22 interpretation materials, lose a vital educational resource, and be greatly reduced in its ability to  
23 serve the Asian Pacific American communities and the general public overall.

24           67. Defendant Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is an agency of the United  
25 States, and is the agency responsible under FASTA for providing the PBRB with standards and  
26 criteria, as well as reviewing the PBRB's recommendations.



1           68. Defendant Rob Fairweather is the Director of OMB, and is sued in his official  
2 capacity.

3           69. Defendant Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB) is an agency of the United  
4 States, created through FASTA.

5           70. Defendant Adam Bodner is the Executive Director of the PBRB, and is sued in  
6 his official capacity.

7           71. Defendant General Services Administration (GSA) is an agency of the United  
8 States, and is the agency responsible under FASTA for effectuating the sale of federal property.

9           72. Defendant Katy Kale is the Acting Administrator for GSA, and is sued in her  
10 official capacity.

11           73. Defendant National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) is an agency  
12 of the United States, whose public mission is: “[T]o provide public access to Federal  
13 Government records in our custody and control. Public access to government records strengthens  
14 democracy by allowing Americans to claim their rights of citizenship, hold their government  
15 accountable, and understand their history so they can participate more effectively in their  
16 government.”<sup>7</sup>

17           74. Defendant David S. Ferriero is the Archivist of NARA, and is sued in his official  
18 capacity.

### 19   **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20           75. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (action arising under the  
21 laws of the United States), 28 U.S.C. § 1346 (United States as a defendant), and 5 U.S.C.  
22 §§ 701-706 (judicial review of agency action under the APA). The United States has waived its  
23 sovereign immunity from this suit pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 702. An actual controversy exists  
24 between the parties within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a), and this Court may grant  
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26  

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/about/info/mission>.

1 declaratory relief, injunctive relief, mandamus, and other relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
2 §§ 2201-2202, 1361 and 5 U.S.C. §§ 705–706.

3 76. The court has jurisdiction over this civil action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1362 in  
4 that numerous of the plaintiffs are Indian tribes with a governing body duly recognized by the  
5 Secretary of the Interior and the matter in controversy arises under the Constitution, laws or  
6 treaties of the United States.

7 77. Defendants’ actions described herein constitute final agency actions or  
8 unlawfully withheld or reasonably delayed agency actions and are therefore judicially  
9 reviewable within the meaning of the APA. 5 U.S.C. §§ 704, 706.

10 78. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because this is a  
11 judicial district in which the State of Washington resides and this action seeks relief against  
12 federal agencies and their officials acting in their official capacities. *See California v. Azar*,  
13 911 F.3d 558, 569–70 (9th Cir. 2018), *cert. denied sub nom. Little Sisters of the Poor*  
14 *Jeanne Jugan Residence v. California*, 139 S. Ct. 2716 (2019). Moreover, venue is proper in this  
15 Court because the property that is the subject of the action is situated in the Western District of  
16 Washington. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

#### 17 IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

##### 18 A. Factual Background

##### 19 1. History of the Seattle Archives Property

20 79. The National Archives at Seattle is located at 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle,  
21 Washington, 98115, in the Hawthorne Hills residential neighborhood of northeast Seattle.

22 80. Named for Chief Si’ahl, who was chief of the Duwamish and Suquamish Tribes,  
23 Seattle is on Duwamish land. White settlers began arriving in the Seattle area in 1851, and by  
24 the mid-1860s, Native people were prohibited from residing in Seattle, including the Duwamish,  
25 notwithstanding its status as a party to the Point Elliott Treaty, ratified in 1859. Like the rest of  
26 the city, the Seattle Archives facility sits on ill-gotten land.

1           81. As documented by a now-retired senior NARA archivist, the land on which the  
2 Seattle Archives facility resides was once a thriving farm operated by members of the Uyeji  
3 family, who emigrated from Japan.<sup>8</sup> In the decades leading up to World War II, the Uyeji family  
4 lived and worked on the land and operated a “truck farm.”



14 *Two members of the Uyeji family in their greenhouse during the 1930s and a picture of the Uyeji family*  
15 *farm. Their home and farm were located on the site of the current Seattle Archives facility.*  
16 *Photos courtesy of Densho, Uyeji Collection.*

17           82. In May 1942, when the federal government ordered the forced removal of  
18 residents of Japanese ancestry in the area, the Uyeji family and their Japanese-American  
19 neighbors were removed from their home and family farm.

20           83. The Uyeji family was initially interned at the Pinedale Assembly Center in central  
21 California and then later at the Tule Lake Relocation Center in northern California. The Uyeji  
22 family were never able to return to their Seattle home.

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<sup>8</sup> See National Archives Researcher News, *Real Property Research at the National Archives at Seattle* by Ken House, at 4–5 (providing the history of the Seattle Archives facility and discussing the Uyeji family), available at <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/newsletter/2013-spring.pdf>.

1           84.     The land that the Uyeji family had lived on and farmed was parceled, sold, and  
2 then subsequently condemned by the U.S. Navy in 1945 in order to build the warehouse that is  
3 now used by NARA.



13           *The greenhouse and farm property in 1944, two years after the Uyeji family*  
14           *were interned. This photo is located in an appraiser's file at the Seattle*  
15           *Archives related to the 1945 condemnation proceeding.*

16           85.     Since 1963, the warehouse has been a NARA facility, and it currently houses  
17 records about the Uyeji family farm—including a key to the front door of the family's former  
18 home—as well as records related to the internment of Japanese Americans in the 1940s.<sup>9</sup>

19           86.     The National Archives at Seattle houses approximately one million boxes of  
20 federal records, dating back to the 1840s, from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska. This  
21 includes military, land, court, tax, and census records for the region.<sup>10</sup>

22           87.     If these records were to be moved, replicating the direct access currently available  
23 to residents of the Pacific Northwest would require a significant financial and time investment,  
24 likely including flight and hotel expenses, that is out of reach for many. Despite recent efforts to

25           <sup>9</sup> *See id.* (“Remarkably, one file still contains the front door key to the Uyeji farm house. The subsequent  
26 owner mailed the key to Navy officials, and they dutifully filed it.”).

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/terrible-and-disgusting-decision-to-close-national-archives-at-seattle-a-blow-to-tribes-historians-in-4-states/>.

1 digitize some records, only a very small fraction of the millions of records at the Seattle facility  
 2 are available online. According to Susan Karren, NARA’s Seattle director, only “.001% of the  
 3 facility’s 56,000 cubic feet of records are digitized and available online.”<sup>11</sup> If the sale proceeds,  
 4 the records will be inaccessible for an unknown period of time, as they will need to be  
 5 inventoried, shipped, and reprocessed at their new sites.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, having to submit records  
 6 requests from afar precludes requestors from browsing the records; the requestor may not know  
 7 exactly which particular records they seek.

## 8 **2. Records Housed at the Seattle Archives Property**

9 88. As discussed below, the National Archives at Seattle houses records that are  
 10 particularly unique and important to residents of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, such as  
 11 census and genealogical records, tribal records, Chinese Exclusion Act records, and Japanese  
 12 internment records. These records are a crucial part of Pacific Northwest and Alaska history, to  
 13 which residents currently have direct access. Alaska, whose population is approximately 15%  
 14 Alaska Natives, no longer has a National Archives facility after its own facility was closed and  
 15 the records were shipped to the Seattle facility.

16 89. Removing these records from the Pacific Northwest will deprive residents of this  
 17 region with access to valuable and important historical documents. Indeed, upon announcing the  
 18 pending closure of the National Archives at Seattle, NARA acknowledged: “We recognize that  
 19 the closure of our facility will have a negative impact on researchers, Federal agencies, and other  
 20 customers that use our facility.”<sup>13</sup> Closure of the National Archives at Seattle is inconsistent with  
 21 NARA’s mission, which is to provide “public access to Federal Government records in our  
 22 custody and control,” recognizing that “[p]ublic access to government records strengthens

23 <sup>11</sup> <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/human-rights-archives-section/more-than-a-warehouse-why-the-closure-of-seattles-national-arch>.

24 <sup>12</sup> <https://www.historyassociates.com/hai-advises-clients-to-plan-ahead-closure-of-the-national-archives-at-seattle-will-impact-litigation-research/>.

25 <sup>13</sup> NARA Press Release, Seattle Facility Approved for Closure (Jan. 27, 2020),  
 26 <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2020/nr20-37>.

1 democracy by allowing Americans to claim their rights of citizenship, hold their government  
2 accountable, and understand their history so they can participate more effectively in their  
3 government.”<sup>14</sup>

4 **a. Tribal Records**

5 90. The National Archives at Seattle houses a significant body of Treaty and other  
6 records relating to the 272 federally recognized tribal governments in Alaska, Washington,  
7 Oregon, and Idaho. These include records from Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) offices and  
8 federal Indian agencies and schools in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, reports regarding  
9 usufructuary activities reserved to numerous Pacific Northwest tribal governments in their  
10 Treaties (such as fishing, hunting, and gathering), court cases regarding treaty rights and  
11 transcripts of testimony from tribal members in those cases, and other materials of extreme  
12 import to the tribal governments in the Northwest.

13 91. The National Archives at Seattle also houses records transferred to Seattle when  
14 the National Archives facility in Anchorage closed in 2014. The collection that moved from  
15 Alaska includes “everything from village census records from before statehood to histories of  
16 fur seal hunts in the Pribilof Islands.”<sup>15</sup>

17 92. Direct access to these records, the vast majority of which are not digitized, is  
18 critical for Pacific Northwest tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations. As Chairman  
19 Jeromy Sullivan of Plaintiff Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe and then Chairman David Bean of  
20 Plaintiff Puyallup Tribe of Indians noted in letters to then-Acting OMB Director Russell Vought  
21 on January 23, 2020, and on January 24, 2020 (respectively), tribal governments rely on physical  
22 access to critical historical documents and, as a result, sale of the Seattle facility will have a  
23 “profound, negative and irreparable impact.”<sup>16</sup> As Chairman Bean explained, the facility “houses

24 <sup>14</sup> About the National Archives, Mission, Vision, and Values, [https://www.archives.gov/about/  
25 info/mission](https://www.archives.gov/about/info/mission).

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2014/06/10/national-archives-departure-impacts-broad-community/>.

26 <sup>16</sup> [https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6671516-National-Archives-Puyallup-and-Port-Gamble  
.html](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6671516-National-Archives-Puyallup-and-Port-Gamble.html).



1 critical documents associated with litigation that document the Tribe’s effort to protect our treaty  
 2 rights and territory.” *Id.* Chairman Sullivan similarly explained that “[t]he facility also houses  
 3 critical and hard-to-reproduce historical information related to the area tribes.” *Id.* The records  
 4 are used to confirm tribal oral histories and to develop tribal ethnohistories and to affirm Treaty  
 5 and other sovereign rights, particularly natural and cultural resource conservation rights. Tribal  
 6 citizens also seek and use NARA records for scores of different reasons, including to trace their  
 7 lineage and ancestry, establish tribal citizenship, demonstrate and exercise tribal Treaty fishing,  
 8 hunting, and other rights, and access Indian school records. Closing the Seattle facility renders  
 9 these records practically inaccessible for Pacific Northwest tribal governments and Alaska  
 10 Native Corporations. As John Hollowed, legal adviser to the Northwest Indian Fisheries  
 11 Commission, told the press following a meeting with NARA staff after closure of the Seattle  
 12 facility was announced: “Everything of value to the tribes has been taken away by the federal  
 13 government. Their land, their right to fish, and the worst travesty was taking away their kids.”<sup>17</sup>



23 *Photographs of Metlakahtla (Tsimshian) Children in Metlakahtla, Alaska. Available at the National*  
 24 *Archives at Seattle (Box 276).*

25  
26 <sup>17</sup> <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/frustrated-tribes-finally-get-hearing-with-national-archives-about-sand-point-facility-closure/>.



1           93. Now, the impending sale of the National Archives at Seattle and transfer of the  
2 historical records housed therein threatens to take away the Pacific Northwest tribal governments  
3 and Alaska Native Corporations' access to records of their own history. Shipping these records  
4 to Riverside or Kansas City will effectively *eliminate* public access to the records, creating  
5 insurmountable obstacles for local tribal governments and citizens and other affected  
6 communities in the Pacific Northwest seeking access to critical historical resources.

7                   **b. Chinese Exclusion Act Records**

8           94. The National Archives at Seattle also contains more than 50,000 case files related  
9 to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which was passed to limit the number of Chinese laborers  
10 entering the United States. The Act was repealed in 1943.

11           95. Individuals applying for entry or re-entry into the United States under the Chinese  
12 Exclusion Act had to go through an extensive application process. The Seattle facility has case  
13 files for individuals who entered the United States through ports in Portland and Seattle as well  
14 as individuals who entered through ports that were managed by officials in Seattle, including  
15 Helena, Montana; Port Townsend, Washington; Portal, North Dakota; Sumas, Washington; and  
16 Vancouver, British Columbia.<sup>18</sup> The Seattle facility's case files include identification  
17 photographs, biographical information, interrogation notes, copies of federal and local court  
18 records, and personal letters and photographs. *Id.*

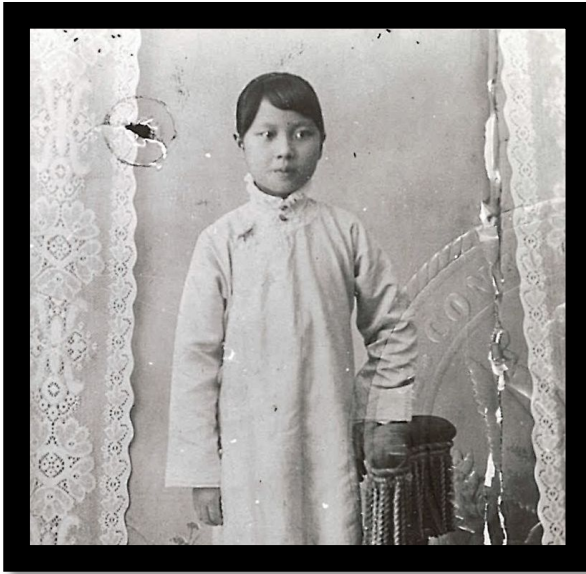
19           96. These records have been a critical resource for Chinese Americans in the Pacific  
20 Northwest looking for information about their ancestors.<sup>19</sup> As one individual who successfully  
21 traced his family history with the help of NARA Seattle staff explained, “[i]t’s all there on paper,  
22 so you can literally recreate a picture of the village and the family tree through these  
23 documents.”<sup>20</sup>

24                   <sup>18</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/seattle/finding-aids/chinese-exclusion-act>.

25                   <sup>19</sup> <https://www.kuow.org/stories/first-panic-then-a-battle-to-keep-the-national-archives-in-seattle>.

26                   <sup>20</sup> <https://iexaminer.org/concerns-raised-about-closure-of-national-archives-in-seattle-which-contains-chinese-exclusion-act-records/>.

1 97. To help facilitate access to these records, there is a dedicated staff of local  
 2 volunteers at the Seattle facility working to index the Chinese Exclusion Act case files.<sup>21</sup> The  
 3 hard work of these NARA Seattle volunteers was profiled in a 2018 *Seattle Times* video, which  
 4 highlights their efforts in making these files more readily accessible to the public.<sup>22</sup>



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*Photograph from the Chinese Exclusion Act case file of Soong May Ling (National Archives at Seattle, RS Case File 1483). As an adult, Soong May Ling, also known as Madame Chiang Kai Shek, played a role in the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act.*

24

### c. Japanese Internment Records

25 98. The closure of the facility will also have a significant impact on the local Japanese  
 26 American community. In 1940, there were over 14,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans living  
 in Washington State, comprising 11.5% of the population, according to the U.S. Census.<sup>23</sup> As  
 discussed above, the land on which the Seattle facility resides was once a farm operated by  
 Japanese Americans, the Uyeji family, for several decades prior to the Second World War. After  
 the Uyeji family were removed from their home and interned, their land was never returned to  
 them; in 1944, it was condemned by the U.S. Navy in order to build a warehouse. The connection

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/seattle/volunteer#profiles>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.seattletimes.com/video/5978784223001/its-like-reading-someones-life-seattles-chinese-exclusion-act-files>.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1940/population-nonwhite/population-nonwhite.pdf>.

1 between the land on which Seattle facility resides and the records it holds further underscores  
2 the profound regional importance of the National Archives at Seattle.

3 99. Since 1963, the warehouse has been a NARA facility, and it currently houses  
4 records about the internment of Japanese Americans in the 1940s. For instance, the Seattle  
5 facility holds records and case files of the United States district and bankruptcy courts in the  
6 Pacific Northwest region, including those involving individuals of Japanese descent during  
7 World War II. This collection includes also records of criminal cases against Japanese  
8 Americans for curfew violations or failure to register for the Selective Training and Service Act.

9 100. If the closure of the facility proceeds, these records will be transferred to facilities  
10 in Kansas City and Riverside. According to local archivist organizations like Densho, which  
11 preserve and share the history of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans,  
12 physically moving these archives would impede a local family's research into their roots and  
13 genealogy.<sup>24</sup> These records are particularly relevant to families whom the federal government  
14 forcibly removed from the Pacific Northwest, and those seeking to fully understand the impact  
15 of internment.

## 16 **B. Statutory Background**

17 101. The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (FASTA), Pub. L. 114-287, as  
18 amended, establishes a process for selling federal real property on an expedited basis. It was  
19 enacted on December 16, 2016. It created an independent reform Board, the PBRB, and a process  
20 for the PBRB to make recommendations for property disposals, consolidations, lease reductions,  
21 cost containment, and "other efficiencies" across the Federal Government.

22 102. FASTA establishes a multi-step process for ensuring the PBRB has the decision  
23 making framework and data necessary to make its recommendations before it begins its work.

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26 <sup>24</sup> <https://iexaminer.org/concerns-raised-about-closure-of-national-archives-in-seattle-which-contains-chinese-exclusion-act-records/>.

1           103. Section 3 of FASTA excludes certain types of property from its definition of the  
2 “Federal civilian real property” and “civilian real property” that are eligible for sale under  
3 FASTA. One such exclusion is for “[p]roperties used in connection with Federal programs for  
4 agricultural, recreational, or conservation purposes, including research in connection with the  
5 programs.” Section 3(5)(B)(viii).

6           104. Section 11 of FASTA provides: “Not later than 120 days after the date of  
7 enactment of this Act, and not later than 120 days after the first day of each fiscal year thereafter  
8 until the termination of the Board,”<sup>25</sup> other federal agencies are required to submit “current data”  
9 (such as age and condition of the property and operating costs) and “recommendations” of  
10 certain “excess” federal civilian real properties and operational efficiencies to the Administrator  
11 and the Director of OMB. Section 11(a).

12           105. Under Section 11(b), no later than 60 days after the submission deadline for such  
13 agency information and recommendations, the Director of OMB “shall (A) review the agency  
14 recommendations; (B) develop consistent standards and criteria against which the agency  
15 recommendations will be reviewed; and (C) submit to the Board the recommendations developed  
16 pursuant to paragraph (2),” which are to be developed “jointly” with the GSA Administrator.  
17 Section 11(b)(1)–(2).

18           106. Section 11(b)(3) further directs that in developing these standards, the Director  
19 of OMB, in consultation with the GSA Administrator, “shall incorporate the following factors:

- 20           (A) The extent to which the civilian real property could be sold (including property  
21 that is no longer meeting the needs of the Government), redeveloped, outleased,  
22 or otherwise used to produce the highest and best value and return for the  
23 taxpayer.

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26           <sup>25</sup> Section 10 of FASTA, as amended, provides that the PBRB “shall cease operations and terminate” six years after the appointment of the Board members. Pub. L. No. 115-437 (Jan. 14, 2019).

- 1 (B) The extent to which the operating and maintenance costs are reduced through  
 2 consolidating, co-locating, and reconfiguring space, and through realizing other  
 3 operational efficiencies.
- 4 (C) The extent to which the utilization rate is being maximized and is consistent  
 5 with non-governmental industry standards for the given function or operation.
- 6 (D) The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of  
 7 years, beginning with the date of completion of the proposed recommendation.
- 8 (E) The extent to which reliance on leasing for long-term space needs is reduced.
- 9 (F) The extent to which a civilian real property aligns with the current mission of  
 10 the Federal agency.
- 11 (G) The extent to which there are opportunities to consolidate similar operations  
 12 across multiple agencies or within agencies.
- 13 (H) The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the civilian  
 14 real property.
- 15 (I) The extent to which energy consumption is reduced.
- 16 (J) The extent to which public access to agency services is maintained or  
 17 enhanced.”

18 107. Additionally, Section 11(c) mandates that these standards “shall incorporate and  
 19 apply clear standard utilization rates to the extent that such standard rates increase efficiency and  
 20 provide performance data.” The utilization rates “shall be consistent throughout each applicable  
 21 category of space and with nongovernment space utilization rates.” *Id.*

22 108. Section 11(d) provides that, after developing these standards and incorporating  
 23 the relevant utilization rates, the Director of OMB “shall submit the standards, criteria, and  
 24 recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (b) to the [PBRB] with all supporting  
 25 information, data, analyses, and documentation.” Section 11(d)(1). FASTA also directs that the  
 26 “standards, criteria, and recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (b) shall be

1 published in the Federal Register” and transmitted to certain congressional committees and to  
2 the Comptroller General of the United States. Section 11(d)(2).

3 109. Section 12 of FASTA sets forth the duties of the PBRB, and directs the PBRB to  
4 “identify opportunities for the Government to reduce significantly its inventory of civilian real  
5 property and reduce costs to the Government.” Section 12(a).

6 110. The PBRB was initially charged with identifying “not fewer than five Federal  
7 civilian real properties that are not on the list of surplus or excess as of [180 days after Board  
8 members are appointed] with a total fair market value of not less than \$500,000,000 and not  
9 more than \$750,000,000” (“High Value Assets”). Section 12(b)(1)(A).

10 111. Section 12(b) directs the PBRB to identify the High Value Asset properties “not  
11 later than 180 days after Board members are appointed[.]” Section 12(b)(1). In identifying the  
12 High Value Assets, the PBRB is instructed that it “shall consider the factors listed in section  
13 11(b)(3).” Section 12(b)(3).

14 112. The PBRB must then transmit the list of High Value Assets to the Director of  
15 OMB and to Congress as “Board recommendations,” which are subject to the approval process  
16 in Section 13 of FASTA. Section 12(b)(1)(B).

17 113. Under Section 12(b)(5): “Not later than 60 days after approval of Board  
18 recommendations” any “Federal agencies with custody, control, or administrative jurisdiction  
19 over the identified properties shall submit a Report of Excess to the General Services  
20 Administration.”

21 114. Section 12(c) directs the PBRB that it “shall perform an independent analysis of  
22 the inventory of Federal civilian real property and the recommendations submitted pursuant to  
23 section 11.” Section 12(c).

24 115. Section 12(d) permits the PBRB to “receive and consider proposals, information,  
25 and other data submitted by State and local officials and the private sector,” and requires the  
26

1 Board to “consult with State and local officials on information, proposals, and other data that the  
2 officials submit to the Board.” Section 12(d)(1)–(2).

3 116. Section 12(f) directs that the PBRB “shall conduct public hearings” and that “all  
4 testimony at such a hearing shall be presented under oath.”

5 117. Section 13 provides that within 30 days after receiving the PBRB’s  
6 recommendations, the Director of OMB shall “conduct a review” and transmit to the PBRB and  
7 Congress a report approving or disapproving of the recommendations. Section 13(a)–(b). If the  
8 Director does not transmit to Congress an “approval and certification” within this timeframe, the  
9 PBRB’s multiple-round identification process under Section 12 begins anew. Section 13(d).

10 118. Should the Director of OMB transmit the recommendations to Congress, Federal  
11 agencies must “immediately begin preparations to carry out the Board’s recommendations”  
12 within 60 days, and “initiate all activities necessary” to do so within two years. Section 14(a)(1).  
13 All recommended actions are to be completed within six years. Section 14(a)(2). However, when  
14 acting on a recommendation of the PBRB, the Act obligates federal agencies to “continue to act  
15 within the Federal agency’s existing legal authorities.” Section 14(c)(1)(A).

### 16 **C. Federal Tribal Consultation Policies**

17 119. In its dealings with tribal governments and tribal citizens, the federal government  
18 is charged with “moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust” and should be “judged  
19 by the most exacting fiduciary standard.” *Seminole Nation v. United States*, 316 U.S. 286, 296  
20 (1942). One of the United States’ responsibilities to tribal governments is to meaningfully  
21 consult with them prior to taking action or making decisions of tribal implication.

22 120. Executive Order 13175 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal  
23 Governments directed the “establish[ment] [of] regular and meaningful consultation and  
24 collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal  
25 implications,” to, among other things, “strengthen the United States government-to-government  
26



1 relationships with Indian tribes.”<sup>26</sup> Defendant Fairweather and PBRB, GSA, and NARA must  
 2 consult not only with tribal governments pursuant to Executive Order 13175; according to P.L.  
 3 108-199, they must also “consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian  
 4 tribes under Executive Order No. 13175.”<sup>27</sup>

5 121. On November 5, 2009, President Barack Obama issued a Tribal Consultation  
 6 Memorandum For the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies affirming that “executive  
 7 departments and agencies . . . are charged with engaging in regular and meaningful  
 8 consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that  
 9 have tribal implications, and are responsible for strengthening the government-to-government  
 10 relationship between the United States and Indian tribes.”<sup>28</sup> The Memorandum acknowledges:  
 11 “History has shown that failure to include the voices of tribal officials in formulating policy  
 12 affecting their communities has all too often led to undesirable and, at times, devastating and  
 13 tragic results.” Therefore, President Barack Obama directed each federal agency to submit to  
 14 Defendant OMB’s Director “a detailed plan of actions the agency will take to implement the  
 15 policies and directives of Executive Order 13175.”

16 122. According to Defendant OMB, Executive Order 13175 and President Obama’s  
 17 November 5, 2009, Tribal Consultation Memorandum binds “all Federal agencies,” including  
 18 Defendants PBRB, OMB, GSA, and NARA. Defendant GSA’s Policy Toward Native American  
 19 and Alaskan Tribes, for example, pledges that “GSA will consult, to the greatest extent  
 20 practicable and to the extent permitted by law, with tribal governments prior to taking action or  
 21 formulating policies that will significantly or uniquely affect those particular tribal governments  
 22 or their tribal trust resources.”

23 <sup>26</sup> [https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/11/09/00-29003/consultation-and-coordination-with-](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/11/09/00-29003/consultation-and-coordination-with-indian-tribal-governments)  
 24 [indian-tribal-governments.](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/11/09/00-29003/consultation-and-coordination-with-indian-tribal-governments)

25 <sup>27</sup> Pub. L. 108-199, Div. H, § 161, 118 Stat. 452 (Jan. 23, 2004), *as amended* Pub. L. 108-447, Div. H,  
 Title V, § 518, 118 Stat. 3267 (Dec. 8, 2004).

26 <sup>28</sup> [https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/memorandum-tribal-consultation-signed-](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/memorandum-tribal-consultation-signed-president)  
[president.](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/memorandum-tribal-consultation-signed-president)

1           123. Defendant GSA likewise acknowledges the importance of “Tribal Consultation”  
 2 on its website, recognizing that “[t]he United States has a unique legal and political relationship  
 3 with Indian tribes and a special relationship with Alaska Native entities as provided in the  
 4 Constitution of the United States, treaties, and federal statutes.”<sup>29</sup> Nevertheless, neither GSA nor  
 5 any other Defendant contacted any of the Plaintiff Pacific Northwest tribal governments and  
 6 Alaska Native Corporations in connection with the sale of the National Archives at Seattle *before*  
 7 the decision to sell that facility was made and approved.

8           124. On January 23, 2020, Chairman Sullivan of Plaintiff Port Gamble S’Klallam  
 9 Tribe wrote to then Acting Director of OMB (Vought) to express opposition to the decision to  
 10 sell the National Archives at Seattle and transfer the historical records housed therein:

11           The Sand Point Center is very important to the 272 federally-recognized tribes in  
 12 the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon and Idaho) and Alaska. Ours is  
 13 merely one of them . . . . [O]ur Tribe relies upon the Sand Point Center for access  
 14 to critical historical documents. Among many important historical materials  
 15 housed at Sand Point are the original copies of correspondence between Governor  
 Stevens, Indian agents, and Tribal leaders during treaty negotiations in the mid-  
 19<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as original drafts of the treaties themselves. The facility also  
 houses critical and hard-to-reproduce historical information related to the area  
 tribes.

16           If the Sand Point Center is closed, all of its archival materials will need to be  
 17 moved. We understand the records will be sent all the way to Kansas City,  
 Missouri and other archived materials will be sent to Riverside, California.  
 18 Obviously, such new locations will make it much harder for our Tribe and those  
 in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska to access these historically important and  
 culturally significant archived records and materials. A sale of the Sand Point  
 19 Center will undoubtedly have an impact on tribes. In fact, it will be a profound,  
 negative and irreparable impact. Yet the Public Buildings Reform Board, the  
 National Archives and Records Administration, the Office of Management and  
 Budget, nor any other federal agency has engaged in government-to-government  
 20 consultation as required by Executive Order 13175. Worse, the federal agencies  
 did not even alert Tribes about the proposed sale. We learned about it through a  
 news source.

21           125. On January 24, 2020, Chairman Ron Allen of Plaintiff Jamestown S’Klallam  
 22 Tribe also wrote then Acting Director of OMB (Vought), “urgently requesting that the sale and  
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 24  
 25

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>29</sup> GSA, Tribal Consultation, <https://www.gsa.gov/node/79654>.

1 transfer of the Sand Point Archive must be slowed down, carefully analyzed, and ultimately  
2 reconsidered and reversed.” Chairman Allen continued:

3 Under the FASTA process, the OMB must make its decision to approve or deny  
4 the sale within days. If OMB gives the green light, the sale process then gets fast-  
5 tracked under FASTA’s guidelines. Doing so without having consulted with the  
6 area Tribes is improper and the process should and must be halted and analyzed  
7 correctly.

8 The recommendation for sale is on a fast track under FASTA’s expedited  
9 timelines. The impacts from the transfer of the archived materials, which  
10 represent the archived history and information on the 272 Federally recognized  
11 Tribes in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, will be profound and irreparable. And  
12 yet, this decision has been made without following the government-to-  
13 government consultation requirements of Executive Order 13175. \*\*\* [N]owhere  
14 during this process were the area’s Tribes consulted as required under Section  
15 5(a) of E.O. 13175, despite the clear “Tribal implications” of this move.

16 126. On February 6, 2020, Chairman Rodney Cawston of the Confederated Tribes of  
17 the Colville Reservation also wrote then Acting Director of OMB (Vought) in “unequivocal  
18 opposition” to the decision to sell the National Archives at Seattle, explaining:

19 The CTCR were never consulted during PBRB’s process of formulating its  
20 recommendations or during OMB’s consideration of these recommendations,  
21 despite the fact that the closure of the facility will have substantial direct effects  
22 on the CCTR and is, therefore, subject to the provisions of Executive Order  
23 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.  
24 Furthermore, the closure of this facility is a federal undertaking as defined within  
25 the National Historic Preservation Act that, similarly, mandates consultation with  
26 Tribes. Furthermore, the PBRB did not consider the negative impacts of the  
closure on Tribes and other stakeholders as required by Section 11(b)(3) of the  
Federal Assets and Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA). . . . [W]e urge OMB to  
reverse its decision to approve PBRB’s recommendations regarding the closure  
and sale of NARA’s facility and to engage in meaningful consultation with the  
CTCR and other affected Tribes prior to taking any further action regarding the  
facility . . .

27 127. On February 11, 2020, *after* the decision to sell the National Archives at Seattle  
28 was made and approved, NARA officials conducted a meeting with a few tribal officials at that  
29 facility. No more than forty people were allowed to attend the meeting and only three tribal  
30 representatives were permitted to address NARA officials with concerns about the decision to  
31 sell National Archives facility in Sand Point and transfer the historical records housed therein.  
32 NARA officials gave only three business days’ notice of the meeting. No federal officials with

1 policymaking authority attended the meeting. Officials and representatives for Plaintiffs Port  
2 Gamble S’Klallam, Samish, and Siletz Tribes, advised NARA officials the meeting was not a  
3 consultation as contemplated by Executive Order 13175.

4 128. On February 24, 2020, Chairman Sullivan wrote NARA officials in follow up to  
5 the February 11, 2020, meeting, expressing that Plaintiff Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe is  
6 “primarily concerned with ensuring the collections maintained by the National Archives Records  
7 Administration at the Sand Point facility, remain accessible in the Pacific Northwest.”

8 129. Defendants have never consulted with any affected tribal governments or Alaska  
9 Native Corporations, including Plaintiffs Aleutian Islands Pribilof Association, Confederated  
10 Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Confederated  
11 Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw  
12 Indians, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Doyon, Ltd., Confederated Tribes of the  
13 Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Kalispel  
14 Tribe of Indians, The Klamath Tribes, Metlakatla Indian Community, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe,  
15 Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Quileute Tribe  
16 of the Quileute Reservation, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian  
17 Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Skokomish Indian Tribe,  
18 Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tanana Chiefs  
19 Conference, Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Confederated  
20 Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
21 Reservation of Oregon, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation regarding  
22 either the sale of the National Archives at Seattle or the transfer of the historical records housed  
23 therein.

24 130. These Plaintiffs, based on Executive Order 13175 and the Obama Tribal  
25 Consultation Memorandum, as well as on experience and observation of agency consultation  
26 practices prior to and since the adoption of those authorities, believe that one or more of

1 Defendants PBRB, OMB, GSA, and NARA may have adopted an internal policy requiring tribal  
2 consultation that governs these circumstances, and further believe that the evidentiary support  
3 for the existence and applicability of such federal internal tribal consultation policies could likely  
4 be developed after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery.

5 **D. The National Archives at Seattle Is Exempt from Sale under FASTA**

6 131. “Properties used in connection with Federal programs for agricultural,  
7 recreational, or conservation purposes, including research in connection with the programs,” are  
8 exempt from sale under FASTA. Section 3(5)(B)(viii).

9 132. The National Archives at Seattle falls within the Section 3(5)(B)(viii) exemption.

10 133. The National Archives at Seattle is used for “research in connection with” a  
11 variety of “Federal programs for agricultural, recreational, or conservation purposes.” For  
12 example, research at the National Archives at Seattle is frequently undertaken in conjunction  
13 with nominations to the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places, which is  
14 “part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify,  
15 evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources.”<sup>30</sup> Seattle Archives  
16 research is also used to develop signage and educational materials for national parks, trails, and  
17 conservation areas. And Pacific Northwest tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations  
18 frequently consult the National Archives at Seattle for research used to vindicate rights that are  
19 established or protected by ecological conservation, agricultural, and recreational programs of  
20 the Federal government, and to implement federally funded programs under the Indian Self  
21 Determination and Education Assistance Act, among other statutes.

22 134. Research at the National Archives at Seattle also is frequently required for both  
23 the federal government, tribal governments, and others to comply with numerous federal laws  
24 for conservation, including the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. § 306102 *et seq.*  
25 (NHPA).

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26 <sup>30</sup> National Register of Historic Places, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>.

1           135. The NHPA requires that each federal agency establish a “preservation program”  
2 for the protection of historic property. The National Park Service has established a Tribal  
3 Preservation Program to “assist Indian tribes in preserving their historic properties and cultural  
4 traditions through the designation of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) and through  
5 annual grant funding programs.”<sup>31</sup> The grant funding programs for historic preservation include  
6 Tribal Historic Preservation grants to assist tribes in complying with the National Historic  
7 Preservation Act,<sup>32</sup> Tribal Heritage Grants to assist tribal governments with cultural and historic  
8 preservation projects,<sup>33</sup> and numerous other federal preservation grant programs administered  
9 by the National Park Service’s State, Tribal, Local, & Grants Division.<sup>34</sup>

10           136. The NHPA requires the federal government agencies to identify whether a federal  
11 action “has the potential to cause effects on historic properties,” including “possible historic  
12 properties not yet identified” and sites that “may possess religious and cultural significance” to  
13 tribal governments. *See* 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.3–4. If the federal action has such potential, the NHPA  
14 obligates the federal agency to consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer  
15 and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, involve the public and other consulting parties, and  
16 determine how to resolve potential adverse effects. *See* 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.3–6. To comply with  
17 the NHPA and related federal agency preservation programs and federal preservation grants, the  
18 federal government, tribal governments, and states regularly consult archival records to identify  
19 the significance of the site at issue and the potential stakeholders who must be consulted.

20           137. The federal government also delegates its conservation, agricultural, and  
21 recreational related research duties to Indian tribes and, where authorized, tribal organizations,  
22 under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638 (ISDEAA).  
23 Under “638” or self-governance funding agreements, Indian tribes and, where authorized, tribal  
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25           <sup>31</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/thpo/index.html>.

26           <sup>32</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/thpo/grants/index.html>.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/thpo/tribal-heritage/index.html>.

<sup>34</sup> *See generally* <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1623/index.htm>.

1 organizations assume responsibility for implementation of federal programs, for example, to  
 2 conserve natural and cultural resources. For example, Plaintiff Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe has  
 3 assumed federal program and research responsibilities to mitigate the environmental effects of  
 4 climate change and conserve forestry and fish and game habitat on and around the Kitsap and  
 5 Olympic Peninsulas:

6 Since at least 2015, the Tribe has received federal Cooperative Landscape  
 7 Conservation—Climate Adaption funding from the Interior Department as part of  
 8 our self-governance funding agreement . . . . The Tribe has used those federal  
 9 program dollars to conduct a climate change impact assessment within our usual  
 10 and accustomed Treaty fishing areas. In particular, the Tribe has researched on  
 11 behalf of the United States the causes of high temperatures and low oxygen levels  
 12 in Western Washington rivers and streams that threaten salmon  
 13 species . . . . Through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Tribe has  
 14 received additional monies from the Interior Department under a 2018 contract for  
 15 “Modeling Elk Response to Ecological Changes in Warming Climate.” . . . Most  
 16 recently, the Tribe received federal program dollars to research and study the risk  
 17 to tribal shellfish resources from accelerating bluff erosion . . . Tribal Natural  
 18 Resources Department staff have also used records obtained by the Tribe from the  
 19 National Archives at Seattle in connection with all of these federal climate change-  
 20 related conservation program and research efforts.

21 For many years, the Tribe has also received self-governance funding from the  
 22 Interior Department for forestry management on the Kitsap and Olympic  
 23 Peninsulas . . . . With federal [Timber, Fish and Wildlife] dollars, Tribal Natural  
 24 Resources Department staff research and study impacts to wetlands and salmon  
 25 streams caused by certain logging projects on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas.  
 26 Tribal Natural Resources Department staff have also used records obtained by the  
 Tribe from the National Archives at Seattle in connection with such federal forestry  
 and habitat conservation efforts.

Jeromy Sullivan, Tribal Chairman of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe.

138. In addition, NARA has its own programs for conserving archival documents  
 including those housed at the Seattle Archives Facility. NARA’s Conservation Division is  
 generally responsible for document conservation.<sup>35</sup> NARA also has a unit known as the  
 “Document Conservation Laboratory” or “Conservation Lab.” According to NARA’s website,  
 the Conservation Lab “is responsible for conservation activities which contribute to the  
 prolonged usable life of records in their original format. Among other activities, the

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/preservation/preservation/conservation-division>.



1 Conservation Lab “repairs and stabilizes textual records (un-bound papers, bound volumes, and  
2 cartographic items) and photographic images among the holdings of [NARA] and provides  
3 custom housings for these records as needed.”<sup>36</sup>

4 139. NARA’s website defines “Conservation” as follows: “Conservation attempts to  
5 preserve records in their original format. Conservators examine records and assess their  
6 condition and the materials which comprise them. Conservators then recommend remedial  
7 treatments to arrest deterioration to improve condition. As they perform the recommended  
8 treatments, conservators carefully document the condition of the record as well as the procedures  
9 performed and materials used.”<sup>37</sup>

10 140. NARA also conducts conservation-related activities as to documents housed at  
11 the National Archives at Seattle.

12 141. In addition, the National Archives at Seattle is used for “research in connection  
13 with” NARA’s conservation-related activities, because its conserved records are available to and  
14 used by researchers, historians, genealogists, tribes, and others.

15 **E. Defendants Failed to Comply with FASTA’s Procedural Requirements**

16 142. Despite FASTA’s passage in 2016, a quorum of five PBRB members were not  
17 sworn in until May 2019.

18 143. As the PBRB publicly acknowledged in its High Value Assets Report to OMB, it  
19 “encountered significant challenges as it developed the [High Value Asset] disposal  
20 recommendations” required by FASTA.<sup>38</sup> Specifically, FASTA required the PBRB, not later  
21 than 180 days after a quorum of members was appointed, to identify for disposal not fewer than  
22 five Federal civilian real properties, that were not on the list of surplus or excess, with a total fair

23 <sup>36</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/open/plain-writing/examples/preservation-programs-before.html>.

24 <sup>37</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>38</sup> High Value Assets Report: Key Findings and Recommendations Pursuant to the Federal Asset Sales and  
26 Transfer Act of 2016 (hereinafter, the “PBRB High Value Assets Report”), at 12, available at  
<https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/20191227%20High%20Value%20Assets%20Report%20as%20Required%20by%20FASTA.pdf>.

1 market of not less than \$500 million and not more than \$750 million, and transmit the list of  
2 properties to the Director of OMB as Board recommendations. FASTA, Section 12(b)(1).  
3 According to the agency, “FASTA’s aggressive timeframe forced the PBRB to focus on  
4 properties already for sale and unneeded vacant land that can be sold quickly.”<sup>39</sup>

5 144. In addition to challenges caused by FASTA’s accelerated statutory timeframe,  
6 the PBRB faced additional “formidable” challenges “due to the procedure and time required to  
7 qualify the PBRB as an independent agency.”<sup>40</sup> As a result, “PBRB members did not have  
8 Government ID’s for over 2 months after being sworn in, and the PBRB had no staff for the first  
9 4 months, leaving substantial work to be accomplished in just 8 weeks.”<sup>41</sup>

10 145. On October 31, 2019, approximately five months after a quorum of the Board  
11 was established, the PBRB notified OMB that it was submitting its first set of recommendations  
12 pursuant to Section 11 of FASTA. The PBRB included with its three-page letter a one-page list  
13 of fourteen High Value Asset properties that it recommended for disposal. One of those  
14 properties was the National Archives at Seattle. The only information contained on the list was  
15 the name, location, and custodial agency of each property.

16 146. On November 27, 2019, OMB notified the PBRB that it disapproved of the  
17 recommendations due to a lack of supporting information or financial execution plan. OMB gave  
18 the PBRB 30 days to resubmit its recommendations.

19 147. On December 27, 2019, the PBRB submitted a revised list of twelve High Value  
20 Asset properties to OMB, and this time included a “High Value Assets Report” that included the  
21 purported bases for its designation of the twelve properties, including the National Archives at  
22 Seattle.

23 148. On January 24, 2020, OMB summarily accepted the PBRB’s recommendations.  
24

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25 <sup>39</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>40</sup> *Id.* at 12.

<sup>41</sup> *Id.*

1           149. Throughout this process, OMB did not satisfy even its most basic statutory  
2 obligations under Sections 11(b) through 11(d) of FASTA, including the requirement that it work  
3 with the GSA Administrator to develop, submit, and publish “consistent standards and criteria  
4 against which the agency recommendations will be reviewed” as well as “recommendations” to  
5 the PBRB based on those standards and criteria.

6           150. Upon information and belief, OMB did not develop, and has never developed,  
7 the standards, criteria, and recommendations required by Section 11(b) of FASTA. As the PBRB  
8 explained in its High Value Assets Report: “Unfortunately, the PBRB did not benefit from the  
9 Section 11 FASTA directive that OMB, in consultation with GSA, develop standards and criteria  
10 to use in evaluating agency submissions and making recommendations to the PBRB. To the best  
11 of PBRB’s knowledge, the standards and criteria were never developed.”<sup>42</sup> In its discussion of  
12 “OMB Engagement” in its Report, the PBRB further explained that “defined standards, criteria,  
13 and recommendations would have significantly reduced the PBRB’s challenges.”<sup>43</sup>

14           151. By failing to develop these statutorily-required standards, criteria, and  
15 recommendations, OMB also failed to comply with numerous other statutory requirements,  
16 including: “submit[ting] the standards, criteria, and recommendations developed pursuant to  
17 [Section 11] subsection (b) to the Board with all supporting information, data, analyses, and  
18 documentation”; publishing its “standards, criteria, and recommendations” in the Federal  
19 Register; and transmitting its standards, criteria, and recommendations to the Committee on  
20 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight  
21 and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security  
22 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of  
23 the Senate, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate,  
24 and the Comptroller General of the United States, as specified in FASTA. Section 11(d).

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25           <sup>42</sup> PBRB High Value Assets Report at 10.

26           <sup>43</sup> *Id.* at 12.

1           152. OMB’s failure to develop the standards, criteria, and recommendations required  
2 by Section 11(b) of FASTA is particularly difficult to understand given that President Trump  
3 appointed all of the individuals to the PBRB and, therefore, controlled the statutory timetable on  
4 which the PBRB had to identify and transmit to OMB a list of not fewer than five High Value  
5 Assets for disposal with a fair market value between \$500–750 million. OMB could have  
6 developed its standards, criteria, and recommendations prior to or immediately after the  
7 President appointed a quorum of PBRB members, but failed to do so.

8           153. According to the PBRB High Value Assets Report, agencies submitted their  
9 recommendations of properties that could be sold or otherwise disposed of to the Director of  
10 OMB and the GSA Administrator on December 7, 2018, and then submitted their  
11 recommendations for leaseback opportunities on June 6, 2019.<sup>44</sup> FASTA required the OMB  
12 Director, in consultation with the GSA Administrator, to develop “consistent standards and  
13 criteria against which the agency recommendations [were to] be reviewed,” and  
14 recommendations based on those standards and criteria by “[n]ot later than 60 days” after those  
15 agency submission deadlines. OMB’s complete failure to satisfy Congress’s directive to  
16 promulgate these standards, criteria, and recommendations violated the law.

17           154. In addition, OMB’s failure to develop and publish its standards, criteria, and  
18 recommendations in the Federal Register and transmit them to the Committee on Transportation  
19 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight and Government  
20 Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and  
21 Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the  
22 Senate, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and  
23 the Comptroller General of the United States, as required by FASTA, also lessened the ability  
24 of both the public and Congress to oversee this important process.

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25  
26 <sup>44</sup> PBRB High Value Assets Report at 7.

1 155. And because it never developed its own standards, criteria, and recommendations  
 2 as required by FASTA, OMB lacked the statutorily-prescribed factual basis upon which to  
 3 review and assess the PBRB's recommendations.

4 156. The PBRB High Value Assets Report candidly acknowledges that "defined  
 5 standards, criteria, and recommendations [from OMB] would have significantly reduced the  
 6 PBRB's challenges." The PBRB High Value Assets Report details other "challenges in gathering  
 7 the data needed to support decision making for complex real estate transactions," and specifically  
 8 acknowledges "extraordinary issues with data gaps and data integrity" in the data contained in  
 9 the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP),<sup>45</sup> which it "relied heavily on" for its decisionmaking.<sup>46</sup>  
 10 As one witness testified at a PBRB public meeting, the Board's data suffered from numerous  
 11 and obvious problems, such as incorrectly showing a federal building was located "in the middle  
 12 of an ocean."<sup>47</sup>

#### 13 **F. Defendants Failed to Consult with Tribes and Other Stakeholders**

14 157. The PBRB compounded its errors by failing to obtain public input from state,  
 15 local, or tribal officials in the Pacific Northwest. No public hearings were held in Washington,  
 16 Idaho, Oregon, or Alaska. And in the four public meetings that were held (two in the District of  
 17 Columbia, one in Denver, Colorado, and one in Laguna Niguel, California), there was no public  
 18 identification of and/or discussion of the facility housing the National Archives at Seattle being  
 19 recommended for sale.<sup>48</sup>

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 <sup>45</sup> The Federal Real Property Profile is the former government-wide inventory of information about the  
 22 nature, use and extent of the Federal government's real property assets. It was developed in 2004 and housed within  
 GSA. <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/real-property-policy/asset-management/federal-real-property-profile-frpp/frpp-frequently-asked-questions>.

23 <sup>46</sup> *Id.*

<sup>47</sup> Transcript of PBRB Meeting held on June 17, 2019, at 107, [https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Public%20Meeting%20Transcript%20June%2017%202019%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Public%20Meeting%20Transcript%20June%2017%202019%20(1).pdf).

24 <sup>48</sup> See Transcript of PBRB Meeting held on June 17, 2019, [https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Public%20Meeting%20Transcript%20June%2017%202019%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Public%20Meeting%20Transcript%20June%2017%202019%20(1).pdf); Transcript of PBRB Meeting held on July 16,  
 25 2019, <https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/PBRB%20Public%20Meeting%20July%2016%2C%20Agenda.pdf>;  
 26 Transcript of PBRB Meeting held on July 24, 2019, <https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Public%20Meeting%20July%2024th%20Laguna%20Niguel%20Notes.pdf>; Transcript of PBRB Meeting held on July 25, 2019,

1 158. Moreover, by failing to consult with tribal officials prior to recommending the  
2 facility housing the National Archives at Seattle for sale and the resultant transfer of the historical  
3 records housed therein, the PBRB failed to account for the agency tribal consultation policies  
4 that bind OMB, GSA, and NARA, and failed to consider the tribal importance of the records  
5 housed there. In an October 2020 PBRB meeting, one of the PBRB's members conceded that  
6 tribal governments had not been consulted with respect to its selection of properties, stating that  
7 "[w]ith respect to tribal entities, I guess, that hasn't been brought to our attention before that  
8 there was an interest there," even while acknowledging "if they are a stakeholder in a property,  
9 certainly we would want to consult with them."<sup>49</sup> By this time, the Federal Government had  
10 received extensive feedback from tribal governments and other stakeholders who expressed their  
11 opposition to the sale after learning of it in January 2020.

12 159. As a result, the decisions to recommend and approve both the sale of the facility  
13 housing the National Archives at Seattle and the transfer of the historical records housed therein  
14 were made without the necessary consultation with Pacific Northwest tribal governments and  
15 Alaska Native Corporations, who will be severely impacted by the closure of the National  
16 Archives at Seattle.

17 160. There also was no informed consideration of the significant negative impact that  
18 closure of the National Archives at Seattle will have on "public access to agency services[.]"  
19 Section 11(b)(3)(J).

20 161. The legislative history of FASTA emphasizes, the "requirement to consider  
21 whether public access to agency services is maintained or enhanced in the standards and criteria  
22 the Board use to develop its recommendations," and notes that "OMB is responsible for  
23 developing th[ose] standards and criteria," and that the requirement should "help prevent

24 [https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Notes%20Denver%20Public%20meeting%20July%2025th%202019%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/Notes%20Denver%20Public%20meeting%20July%2025th%202019%20(1).pdf).

25 <sup>49</sup> Transcript of PBRB Meeting held on Oct. 1, 2020, at 23:8-24:10, <https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/October%201%202020%20Public%20Meeting%20-%20Agenda%20and%20Presentation.pdf>.

1 unintended, negative consequences of transferring agency services.”<sup>50</sup> Based upon the lack of  
 2 information solicited regarding the public’s use of the National Archives at Seattle facility, and  
 3 OMB’s failure to develop standards and criteria incorporating the issue of public access, the type  
 4 of “unintended, negative consequences” Congress sought to prevent have resulted here.

5 162. These numerous multi-agency procedural and substantive failures render the  
 6 decision to sell the National Archives at Seattle contrary to FASTA and thus a legal nullity.  
 7 Defendants’ failure to consult with Pacific Northwest tribal governments and Alaska Native  
 8 Corporations also violates federal and agency-specific policy requiring such consultation.

9 163. In October 2020, the PBRB posted meeting minutes on its website which  
 10 disclosed that the PBRB, in consultation with GSA and OMB, had decided to bundle the National  
 11 Archives at Seattle with the other eleven High Value Asset properties, and would bring all 12  
 12 properties to market “by early 2021,” rather than selling the properties individually over the  
 13 course of the year as previously planned.<sup>51</sup> PBRB officials claimed that the COVID-19  
 14 pandemic’s effects on the commercial real estate market justified its new sales approach and  
 15 timeline.<sup>52</sup>

16 164. Despite significant public interest in the planned closure and sale of the National  
 17 Archives at Seattle, Defendants never reached out to interested stakeholders—in particular, to  
 18 state and tribal officials—to notify them of Defendants’ plans to bring all twelve federal  
 19 properties to market “by early 2021.”<sup>53</sup>

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22  
 23 <sup>50</sup> Committee Statement and Views, Purpose and Summary of H.R. 4465 (FASTA),  
 24 <https://www.congress.gov/114/crpt/hrpt578/CRPT-114hrpt578-pt2.pdf> at 18 (discussing “Public access  
 consideration”).

25 <sup>51</sup> See PBRB website, “Updates,” <https://www.pbrb.gov/>; Materials and Transcript of PBRB Meeting held  
 on Oct. 1, 2020, <https://www.pbrb.gov/assets/uploads/October%201%202020%20Public%20Meeting%20-%20Agenda%20and%20Presentation.pdf>.

26 <sup>52</sup> PBRB website, “Updates,” <https://www.pbrb.gov/>.

<sup>53</sup> *Id.*



V. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

Count I

*By All Plaintiffs against All Defendants*  
**Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, Section 706(2)—  
Agency Action in Excess of Statutory Authority and Contrary to Law**

165. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate by reference the allegations in each of the preceding paragraphs.

166. This Court must “hold unlawful and set aside agency action” that is, *inter alia*, “not in accordance with law,” “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations,” or “without observance of procedure required by law[.]” 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

167. As described above, FASTA applies only to the sale of “Federal civilian real property” and “civilian real property.”

168. Excluded from the definition of “[f]ederal civilian real property” and “civilian real property” are “[p]roperties used in connection with Federal programs for agricultural, recreational, or conservation purposes, including research in connection with the programs.” FASTA, Section 3(5)(B)(viii).

169. The National Archives at Seattle is used for “research in connection with” a variety of “Federal programs for agricultural, recreational, or conservation purposes.” For example, research at the National Archives at Seattle is frequently undertaken in conjunction with nominations to the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places, which is “part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources.”<sup>54</sup> Seattle Archives research is also used to develop signage and educational materials for national parks, trails, and conservation areas. And Pacific Northwest tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations frequently consult the National Archives at Seattle to vindicate rights that are established or protected by ecological conservation, agricultural, and recreational programs of the Federal

<sup>54</sup> National Register of Historic Places, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>.

1 government, and to implement federal programs using federal funds pursuant to statutes such as  
2 the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.

3 170. In addition, the National Archives at Seattle is a property used in connection with  
4 NARA's preservation programs for conservation of records because it houses records subject to  
5 such conservation. Moreover, those conserved records are available to be used by researchers,  
6 historians, tribes, and others, meaning the facility is also used for "research in connection with"  
7 NARA's conservation programs.

8 171. Accordingly, the National Archives at Seattle is not a "Federal civilian real  
9 property" eligible to be sold under FASTA.

10 172. The actions taken by Defendants to nevertheless prepare for and effectuate the  
11 sale of the National Archives at Seattle are in excess of statutory authority under FASTA, and  
12 must be invalidated and set aside.

13 173. Absent declaratory and injunctive relief vacating Defendants' recommendation  
14 to sell the National Archives at Seattle and/or prohibiting the sale from going into effect,  
15 Plaintiffs will be immediately, continuously, and irreparably harmed by Defendants' illegal  
16 actions.

17 174. The Court should enjoin and vacate the agencies' actions to prepare for and  
18 effectuate the sale of the National Archives at Seattle as contrary to law and *ultra vires* under 5  
19 U.S.C. § 706(2).

## 20 **Count II**

### 21 ***By All Plaintiffs against GSA, OMB, Fairweather, and Kale*** 22 **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, Section 706(1)—** 23 **Agency Action Unlawfully Withheld or Unreasonably Delayed**

24 175. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate by reference the allegations in each of the  
25 preceding paragraphs.

26 176. This Court must "compel agency action unlawfully withheld or unreasonably  
delayed." 5 U.S.C. § 706(1).

1 177. Agency action may be unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed where, *inter*  
2 *alia*, Congress has provided a timetable that the agency failed to meet; the delayed action is a  
3 relatively high agency priority; or the delay prejudices the interests of stakeholders or the public.  
4 *See Telecommunications Research & Action Center v. F.C.C.*, 750 F.2d 70, 79–80 (D.C. Cir.  
5 1984) (“*TRAC*”); *Agua Caliente Tribe of Cupeno Indians of Pala Reservation v. Sweeney*, 932  
6 F.3d 1207, 1216 n.7 (9th Cir. 2019). The court need not “find any impropriety lurking behind  
7 agency lassitude in order to hold that agency action is unreasonably delayed.” *TRAC*, 750 F.2d  
8 at 80.

9 178. Sections 11(b)–11(d) of FASTA require OMB, in consultation with GSA, to  
10 provide the PBRB with certain standards, criteria, and recommendations, which must  
11 incorporate, *inter alia*, standard utilization rates for the properties in question. This requirement  
12 must be completed “not later than 60 days after” the deadline for other federal agencies to submit  
13 their recommendations under Section 11(a). OMB’s standards, criteria, and recommendations,  
14 along with “all supporting information, data, analyses, and documentation,” must be submitted  
15 to the PBRB, and “shall be published in the Federal Register” and transmitted to numerous  
16 congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States.

17 179. These requirements are a core function of FASTA, and ensure that public interests  
18 are adequately accounted for when deciding whether to sell federal property.

19 180. OMB, in consultation with GSA, had a discrete statutory duty to “develop  
20 consistent standards and criteria against which the agency recommendations will be reviewed,”  
21 and OMB and GSA had a discrete statutory duty to “jointly develop recommendations to the  
22 [PBRB] based on th[ose] standards and recommendations,” and lacked discretion to decline to  
23 do so.

24 181. OMB also had a discrete statutory duty to submit the standards, criteria, and  
25 recommendations required by Section 11 to the PBRB, along with all supporting information,  
26 data, analyses, and documentation, and lacked discretion to decline to do so.

1 182. In addition, OMB also had a discrete statutory duty to publish its standards,  
 2 criteria, and recommendations in the Federal Register and to transmit the same to certain  
 3 congressional committees specified by FASTA and to the Comptroller General of the United  
 4 States, and lacked discretion to decline to do so.

5 183. OMB failed to complete any of its Section 11 obligations. As a result, the PBRB  
 6 undertook its analysis and made its recommendations without the standards, criteria, and/or  
 7 recommendations of OMB and GSA and without OMB's supporting information, data, analyses,  
 8 or documentation. And because it never developed its own standards, criteria, and  
 9 recommendations, OMB lacked the statutorily-required standards against which to review the  
 10 PBRB's recommendations.

11 184. Despite this fundamentally flawed process, OMB nonetheless approved PBRB's  
 12 recommendations under Section 13.

13 185. OMB's failure to develop its own standards, criteria, and recommendations as  
 14 required by Section 11 of FASTA; its failure to provide its standards, criteria, and  
 15 recommendations along with its supporting information, data, analyses, and documentation to  
 16 the PBRB; its failure to publish its standards, criteria, and recommendations in the Federal  
 17 Register; and its failure to transmit the same to certain congressional committees specified by  
 18 FASTA and to the Comptroller General of the United States, are agency actions unlawfully  
 19 withheld or unreasonably delayed that should be compelled under 5 U.S.C. § 706(1).

20 186. The Court should grant declaratory relief and issue a writ of mandamus requiring  
 21 OMB to perform its duties under FASTA prior to any sale of the National Archives at Seattle.

22 **Count III**  
 23 ***By All Plaintiffs against All Defendants***  
 24 **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, Section 706(2)—**  
**Agency Action in Excess of Statutory Authority and Contrary to Law**

25 187. Plaintiffs reallege and reincorporate by reference the allegations in each of the  
 26 preceding paragraphs.

1           188. This Court must “hold unlawful and set aside agency action” that is, *inter alia*,  
2 “not in accordance with law,” “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations,” or  
3 “without observance of procedure required by law[.]” 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

4           189. As set forth above, FASTA establishes certain procedural requirements that must  
5 be met during the process of making recommendations and decisions to sell federal property.  
6 These procedural requirements were not met during the process that resulted in the  
7 recommendation and decision to sell the National Archives at Seattle. OMB failed to develop  
8 and transmit to the PBRB the standards, criteria, and recommendations required by Section 11  
9 of FASTA, or to provide the agency with the supporting information, data, analyses, and  
10 documentation. OMB also failed to publish its standards, criteria, and recommendations in the  
11 Federal Register and to transmit the same to certain congressional committees specified by  
12 FASTA and to the Comptroller General of the United States.

13           190. As a result of these procedural violations, the subsequent actions taken by  
14 Defendants to prepare for and effectuate the sale of the National Archives at Seattle are void *ab*  
15 *initio*. They are in excess of statutory authority under FASTA, and must be invalidated and set  
16 aside.

17           191. Absent declaratory and injunctive relief vacating Defendants’ recommendation  
18 to sell the National Archives at Seattle and/or prohibiting the sale from going into effect,  
19 Plaintiffs will be immediately, continuously, and irreparably harmed by Defendants’ illegal  
20 actions.

21           192. The Court should enjoin and vacate the agencies’ actions to prepare for and  
22 effectuate the sale of the National Archives at Seattle as contrary to law and *ultra vires* under 5  
23 U.S.C. § 706(2).

**Count IV**

***By Plaintiffs Aleutian Islands Pribilof Association, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Doyon, Ltd., Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, The Klamath Tribes, Metlakatla Indian Community, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation against All Defendants***  
**Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act, Sections 706(1) and 706(2)—  
 Failure to Engage in Tribal Consultation**

193. Plaintiffs Aleutian Islands Pribilof Association, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Doyon, Ltd., Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, The Klamath Tribes, Metlakatla Indian Community, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (“Count IV Tribal Plaintiffs”) reallege and reincorporate by reference the allegations in each of the preceding paragraphs.

1           194. Under the APA, this Court “shall . . . hold unlawful and set aside agency action”  
2 that is “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law[.]”  
3 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A). This Court must also “compel agency action unlawfully withheld or  
4 unreasonably delayed.” 5 U.S.C. § 706(1).

5           195. An agency must comply with its own internal policies even if those policies are  
6 more rigorous than procedures required by the APA.

7           196. Where a federal agency has established a policy requiring prior consultation or  
8 coordination with affected tribal governments, and therefore created a justified expectation that  
9 each affected tribal government or Alaska Native corporation will receive a meaningful  
10 opportunity to express its views before policy or decisions are made, that opportunity must be  
11 given.

12           197. Defendants failed to consult or coordinate with affected Pacific Northwest tribal  
13 governments and Alaska Native Corporations or fully comply with OMB, GSA, PBRB, and/or  
14 NARA tribal consultation policies and other federal-tribal consultation law and policy prior to  
15 recommending and authorizing the sale of the facility housing the National Archives at Seattle  
16 and transfer of the historical records of use and interest to affected Pacific Northwest tribal  
17 governments and Alaska Native Corporations, including Count IV Tribal Plaintiffs. Defendants  
18 unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed consultation or coordination with Count IV Tribal  
19 Plaintiffs.

20           198. Defendants’ agency actions are illegal, arbitrary, and capricious, and abuses of  
21 discretion.

22           199. Absent declaratory and injunctive relief vacating Defendants’ recommendation  
23 to sell the National Archives at Seattle and transfer the records housed therein and/or prohibiting  
24 that sale and transfer from going into effect, Count IV Tribal Plaintiffs will be immediately,  
25 continuously, and irreparably harmed by Defendants’ illegal actions.  
26



1 200. The Court should enjoin and vacate the agencies' actions to prepare for and  
2 effectuate the sale of the National Archives at Seattle under 5 U.S.C. § 706(2) and compel agency  
3 consultation under 5 U.S.C. § 706(1).

4 **VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

5 Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray that the Court:

6 a. Declare that OMB, Fairweather, GSA, and Kale have unlawfully withheld or  
7 unreasonably delayed the performance of their mandatory duties under FASTA;

8 b. Issue a writ of mandamus requiring OMB, Fairweather, GSA, and Kale to  
9 perform their duties under FASTA prior to any sale of the facility housing the National Archives  
10 at Seattle;

11 c. Issue a writ of mandamus requiring Defendants to perform their duties under  
12 federal-tribal consultation law and policy prior to any sale of the facility housing the National  
13 Archives at Seattle and any transfer of the historical records housed therein;

14 d. Declare that the National Archives at Seattle is ineligible for selection under  
15 FASTA and therefore, the actions of Defendants to prepare for and effectuate the sale of the  
16 National Archives at Seattle are in excess of statutory authority and are *ultra vires*, and that such  
17 actions are vacated and set aside;

18 e. Declare that the actions of Defendants to prepare for and effectuate the sale of the  
19 National Archives at Seattle are not in accordance with law, in excess of statutory authority,  
20 without observance of procedure required by law, and are *ultra vires*, and that such actions are  
21 vacated and set aside;

22 f. Declare that the actions of Defendants to prepare for and effectuate the sale of the  
23 National Archives at Seattle are illegal, arbitrary, and capricious, and abuses of discretion for  
24 want of consultation or coordination with affected tribal governments and Alaska Native  
25 Corporations and violate the agencies' own tribal consultation policies, and that such actions are  
26 vacated and set aside;

1 g. Issue a preliminary and a permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from  
2 taking any further actions to effectuate the sale of the National Archives at Seattle;

3 h. Award Plaintiffs their costs and reasonable attorneys' fees; and

4 i. Award such other and further relief as the interests of justice may require.

5 DATED this 25th day of January 2021.

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**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I hereby declare that on this day I caused the foregoing document to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the Court’s CM/ECF System which will send notification to all counsel of record.

DATED this 25th day of January, 2021, at Seattle, Washington.

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