From: deco
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Friday, June 13, 2008 2:23:29 PM

Dear Mr. Stone:
I am writing to express my opposition to allowing the Makah to continue their hunting of whales. I have vast respect for the cultural traditions of native peoples. But I would like to argue that inflicting so much pain and suffering on these intelligent, sensitive, and threatened animals cannot be justified. Cultural tradition should never be an excuse to abuse and torture an animal to death. Most reasonable people agree that certain "traditions" such as slavery, denying women the right to vote, etc. were rightfully abolished and should never be revisited. We should have enough respect for the Makah to realize that they can revitalize their cultural tradtions without killing whales.
This hunt has global implications for whale populations. The scientific community is in agreement that whale populations have been severely diminished around the world by hunting. The Makah hunt provides an open door for commerical whalers in Japan, Norway, Iceland and Russia, who seek to use this "cultural" justification as just another loophole to kill whales for their own finacial gain.
Thank you for considering my comments.
Sincerely,
Michelle L. Gramza