
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Southern Resident Orcas (“the Orcas) are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world; and

WHEREAS, despite legal protections for nearly two decades, the population continues to decline and is critically endangered, with only 73 individuals left; and

WHEREAS, the Orcas’ survival is dependent on healthy and functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, over 20 countries, dozens of local communities in the United States, and several tribal governments have recognized that nature has inherent rights, and that human society has the responsibility to protect and steward nature in a manner consistent with our interconnected relationships; and

WHEREAS, the rights of the Southern Resident Orcas include, but are not limited to, the right to life, autonomy, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional, or mental harm, including a habitat degraded by noise, pollution, and contamination.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David J Faber, Mayor of the City of Port Townsend, do hereby proclaim on this 5th day of December 2022: The City of Port Townsend supports and urges action by local, state, federal, and tribal governments that secure and effectuate the

Rights of the Southern Resident Orcas

and of the ecosystems upon which they depend.

David J. Faber, Mayor

