

President Vladimir Putin  
Russian Federation  
23, Ulitsa Ilyinka,  
103132, Moscow, Russia

17 March, 2019

Dear President Putin,

We are writing to thank you and the Russian government for steps taken to protect 80+ beluga whales and 10 orcas now held in inadequate conditions in Srednyaya Bay, near the east coast city of Nakhodka.

We commend the action you have taken so far to block the export of these amazing beings to dolphinariums in other countries, as whales and dolphins do not cope well with captivity. We further commend you and your government for not approving new capture permits for 2019, and fully support the Russian initiative to implement a permanent ban on capture of Russian orcas and beluga whales. Such an action would prevent the horrible situation playing out in the Far East from happening ever again.

We would like to ask you to take several important steps for the welfare of the remaining whales in the sea pens. We cannot stress enough that the lives of these whales are in danger, and they need immediate help. Please consider expanding their current sea pens in size and/or building additional enclosures to reduce the number of animals per pen and introducing insulation and warming protocols to prevent ice from forming in the enclosures. These steps are critical for the whales' survival.

We further ask you and the Russian government, in consultation with Russian scientists and Russian non-governmental organizations, to plan to return the orcas and beluga whales to the Sea of Okhotsk and their birth populations when feasible. There are many international scientists and experts as well who have extensive expertise in successfully rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing orcas to the wild, such as Keiko, Springer and many others. International experts will be happy to provide their help to Russian colleagues with rehabilitation and release of the orcas and belugas back into the wild.

This is an important moment for Russia on the world stage. The world is waiting for a happy ending in this tragic and unfortunate situation. Thank you again for all that you have done, and please take action to protect these magnificent Russian whales!

Sincerely,

Pamela Anderson  
Actor

Yuliya Aug  
Actor

Wendy Benchley  
Co-Founder, Peter Benchley Ocean Awards  
Member, WildAid Board of Directors

Sir Richard Branson  
Founder and Chairman, Virgin Group  
Member, Ocean Elders

Jackson Browne  
Musician  
Member, Ocean Elders

Tom Campbell  
Cinematographer, Producer, Director

Susan Casey  
Bestselling Author, *Voices from the Ocean*  
Former Editor-in-Chief, *O Magazine*

Gregory Colbert  
Artist, Creator of *Ashes and Snow*

Holly Marie Combs  
Actor

Celine S. Cousteau  
Filmmaker, Environmentalist

Jean-Michel Cousteau  
Chairman and President, Ocean Futures Society  
Member, Ocean Elders

Gabriela Cowperthwaite  
Director, *Blackfish*

Beth Davidow  
Cinematographer, Filmmaker, Author

Kristin Davis  
Actor, Environmentalist

Saba Douglas-Hamilton  
Television Presenter, Wildlife Conservationist

Sylvia Earle, PhD  
National Geographic Explorer in Residence  
Founder, Mission Blue  
Member, Ocean Elders

Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE  
Founder, Jane Goodall Institute  
UN Messenger of Peace

Adrian Grenier  
Actor, Director, Producer

Tom Gruber  
Co-Founder of Siri Inc.  
Member, Ocean Elders

Sati Kazanova  
Singer

Graeme Kelleher  
Former Chairman and CEO, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
Member, Ocean Elders

Yuri Kolokolnikov  
Actor

Doutzen Kroes  
Supermodel, Actor, Environmentalist

Ilya Lagutenko  
Musician, Mumiy Troll  
Founder of VROX.org Festival

Kate Mara  
Actor

Eli Martinez  
International TV presenter, Environmentalist  
Founder of Shark Diver Magazine

Rinal Mukhametov  
Actor

Leilani Münter  
Race Car Driver, Environmentalist

Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan  
Member, Ocean Elders

Edward Norton Jr.  
Actor

Hayden Panettiere  
Actor

Prof. Bertrand Piccard  
Chair, Solar Impulse Foundation  
Member, Ocean Elders

Louie Psihoyos  
Executive Director, Oceanic Preservation Society  
Director, *The Cove*

Mark Ruffalo  
Actor, Environmentalist

David Shaw  
Manager, Black Point Group  
Member, Ocean Elders

Robert Talbot  
Film Maker, Photographer

Anne-Marie van Dijk  
International Model

Natalia Vodianova  
Supermodel, Elbi Founder

Captain Don Walsh, PhD  
USN (Ret)  
Member, Ocean Elders

Bob Weir  
Musician  
Member, Ocean Elders

Maisie Williams  
Actor, Environmentalist

Ann Wilson  
Musician, *Heart*

Nancy Wilson  
Musician, *Heart*

Olga Zueva  
Filmmaker