Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- Southern Resident killer whales are an endangered population listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act and the United States Endangered Species Act;
- Legally protected critical habitat for Southern Residents is located within the heavily transited transboundary marine waters of the Salish Sea;
- Underwater noise and physical disturbance from vessels affect the ability of Southern Residents to communicate successfully and forage effectively;
- Southern Resident killer whales can lose more than 50% of their echolocation range when foraging near commercial shipping traffic;
- Increased shipping traffic from container expansions at Roberts Bank and oil tankers for Trans Mountain increase underwater noise in critical habitat. The lost foraging on salmon associated with this noise increases the risk of extinction for Southern Residents;
- More ships will reduce the quiet time Southern Residents can feed without noise interfering with echolocation and communication;
- Considering these threats, Washington State recently passed legislation (Senate Bill 5371) that establishes a mandatory 1,000-yard buffer for recreational and commercial whale watching vessels around Southern Resident killer whales; and
- Canada has committed to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, as declared with the signing of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, call upon the **Minister of Transport** to implement a mandatory vessel distance regulation where recreational vessels and commercial whale-watch vessels must not be closer than 1,000 metres to Southern Resident killer whales, consistent with vessel distance regulations for these whales in Washington State.

Signature (Sign your own name. Do not print.)	**Address** (Just city and province, OR postal code)

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, call upon the Minister of Transport to implement a mandatory vessel distance regulation where recreational vessels and commercial whale-watch vessels must not be closer than 1,000 metres to Southern Resident killer whales, consistent with vessel distance regulations for these whales in Washington State.

Signature (Sign your own name. Do not print.)	**Address** (Just city and province, OR postal code)

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, call upon the Minister of Transport to implement a mandatory vessel distance regulation where recreational vessels and commercial whale-watch vessels must not be closer than 1,000 metres to Southern Resident killer whales, consistent with vessel distance regulations for these whales in Washington State.

Signature (Sign your own name. Do not print.)	**Address** (Just city and province, OR postal code)

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, call upon the Minister of Transport to implement a mandatory vessel distance regulation where recreational vessels and commercial whale-watch vessels must not be closer than 1,000 metres to Southern Resident killer whales, consistent with vessel distance regulations for these whales in Washington State.

Signature (Sign your own name. Do not print.)	**Address** (Just city and province, OR postal code)

Guidelines

1. Must have at least 25 original signatures with valid addresses (we recommend 30+ to be safe);
2. Must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it;
3. Must have at least 3 valid signatures and addresses on the first page after the full text of the petition (again, more is better if they can be fit);
4. Must include the prayer line (the request) of the petition on each subsequent page;
5. The text must not be altered or have any text added on any of the pages;
6. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition;
7. Should contain signatures of residents of Canada only;
8. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition;
9. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself;
10. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy; and,
11. Petitions can be either double-sided or have a blank back page.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6