



ADAM BANDT MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP - Prime Minister of Australia

CC: Senator the Hon Penny Wong - Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dear Prime Minister,

Captain Paul Watson

We, the Australian Greens, write to you in relation to Captain Paul Watson who was arrested on 21 July 2024 in Nuuk, Greenland on an extradition request from Japan. The basis of the extradition request relates to events in 2010 when Captain Paul Watson was in the Southern Ocean, protecting whales from the annual Japanese slaughter.

As you know that same year, in 2010, the Australian Government successfully instituted proceedings against Japan in the International Court of Justice and Japan was ordered to stop whaling in the Southern Ocean. This set the scene for Japan's withdrawal from whaling in Antarctica in 2018.

Australia has been a fierce ally for cetaceans through the International Whaling Commission and other diplomatic forums, and is fully committed to their protection in its territorial waters.

That is why we call upon you, Prime Minister, to continue your advocacy for the protection of whales, and use our Government's influence to secure the release of Captain Paul Watson – an ocean conservationist who has saved hundreds of whales.

Captain Paul Watson was on his way to the North Pacific to stop the killing of whales by Japan, including the endangered fin whale, when he was disturbingly arrested and detained. This arrest was nothing short of a political tactic by the Japanese Government to prevent him from saving whales that the Japanese intend to hunt and kill in the North Pacific.

We fought for whales in 2010 in the International Court of Justice and we fight for whales today by ensuring their full protection in Australian waters, but we also need to fight for them in the North Pacific where they remain at serious risk.

We implore you, Prime Minister, to use your diplomatic channels in any way possible to help free Captain Paul Watson.

For the ocean,



Adam Bandt MP
Member for Melbourne



Senator Mehreen Faruqi
Senator for New South Wales



Senator Peter Whish-Wilson
Senator for Tasmania



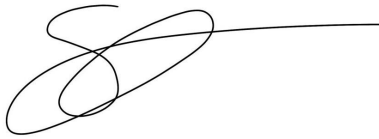
Senator Larissa Waters
Senator for Queensland



Senator Sarah Hanson-Young
Senator for South Australia



Senator Penny Allman-Payne
Senator for Queensland



Stephen Bates MP
Member for Brisbane



Max Chandler-Mather MP
Member for Griffith



Senator Dorinda Cox
Senator for Western Australia



Senator Steph Hodgins-May
Senator for Victoria



Senator Nick McKim
Senator for Tasmania



Senator Barbara Pocock
Senator for South Australia



Senator David Shoebridge
Senator for New South Wales



Senator Jordon Steele-John
Senator for Western Australia



Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP
Member for Ryan