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STATE OF WASHINGTON

February 18, 2014

Mr. Joel Salter, Oregon Water Programs Coordinator
USEPA Region 10 – Oregon Operations Office
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

RE: Draft Petition for Puget Sound vessel No Discharge Zone

Dear Mr. Salter:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) along with our State partners, Washington Department of Health and the Puget Sound Partnership, request your review of a draft petition for a Puget Sound vessel No Discharge Zone (NDZ). Ecology has led an evaluation of the feasibility of a NDZ for the Puget Sound during the last two years that has included extensive research and stakeholder outreach.

The Puget Sound is a unique and sensitive water body with limited tidal flushing that makes it prone to poor water quality conditions. Parts of the Sound are listed for bacterial pollution and low dissolved oxygen. These lead to restrictions on harvests of vast shellfish resources, and harm to aquatic life. Vessel sewage is one of many Puget Sound pollutant sources that the State is addressing. Discharges from marine sanitation devices (MSDs) typically do not meet standards for water quality and public health protection. As vessels move throughout the Puget Sound, they have the potential of discharging in sensitive water bodies such as shellfish harvesting areas. A NDZ can address this source of preventable pollution.

The enclosed draft petition includes a Certification of Need that the identified waters require greater environmental protection than the applicable federal standards, maps and information on pumpout capabilities, information on vessel population and usage, an implementation strategy, and additional information.

Prior to any final petition, Ecology will supply any updated information on pumpout capacity. Additional pumpout capacity continues to be added to the existing capacity especially in key areas for recreational boats and commercial vessels.

We appreciate any comments and feedback on the draft petition in our efforts to assure greater protection for water quality and public health.

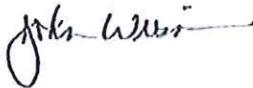
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If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Ecology's project lead, Amy Jankowiak at (425) 649-7195 or amy.jankowiak@ccy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Maia D. Bellon,
Director, Washington State Department of Ecology



John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health, Washington State Department of Health



Sheida R. Sahandy
Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership

Enclosure

cc: Donald A. Seeberger, Water Quality Acting Program Manager, Ecology
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Mark Henley, Municipal Unit Supervisor, Ecology
Amy Jankowiak, NDZ Project Lead, Ecology
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Duane Fagergren, Strait Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, PSP