



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

November 17, 2017

Amy Jankowiak
Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Dear Ms. Jankowiak:

I'm writing to voice our support for the Washington State Department of Ecology's proposed rules to establish a No Discharge Zone in Puget Sound for vessel sewage. The mission of the State Board of Health is to protect and improve the health of people in Washington State. Preventing discharges and exposure to human sewage and other pathogen pollution is a key strategy to preventing the spread of communicable disease.

The proposed rules prohibiting the discharge of sewage from vessels in the designated area will help protect the health of Puget Sound and help protect public health in waters used for swimming, kayaking, and other recreational activities and waters used for shellfish harvesting where people are directly exposed to pathogens in human sewage.

As you move forward, we encourage you to continue working with your project partners and other stakeholders to advance education of boaters and vessel operators and investment in the region's sewage pumpout infrastructure to promote safe and legal sewage disposal and compliance with the new rules.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and for your work on the proposed rules.

Sincerely,

Keith Grellner, Chair

cc: Michelle Davis, State Board of Health