

[The following testimony is a transcription of oral testimony recorded on November 13, 2017, at the webinar hearing for proposed Chapter 173-228 WAC – Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone. The testimony was transcribed by Dept. of Ecology staff. The original audio file of this testimony is part of the rule file (Administrative Order #17-02).]

Marcie Keever:

Thank you. This is Marcie Keever with Friends of the Earth, and we will, are planning on submitting formal comments before the comment period deadline.

I just wanted to weigh in and say that we are extremely supportive of the designation of Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone. We have been working on a number of the No Discharge Zone designations around the country, including those that have been set up for National Marine Sanctuaries, in particular in California, Florida, and we hope in Washington State.

It's incredibly important with what we know about how damaging, and highly polluting sewage from marine sanitation devices can be. And we're just really happy to see this move forward and we'll do what we can to support the designation throughout both this period and as the additional vessels that have been given an extension, or, you know, a phase in period, to make sure that they are also compliant because we believe that everyone, from recreational boaters all the way on up to the large cruise ships should be doing the most that they can to protect the Sound and Washington waters from sewage by not discharging at all.

So, I really appreciate the opportunity to comment, and we'll be submitting more detailed comments before the end of the comment period.