

[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).]

Peggy Willis:

I'm a Washington native and a lifelong Washington resident. I have been a boater for many years. I'm also a past commodore of a local yacht club. And I've swum, and sailed, and rowed, and crewed, and done just about everything in the Puget Sound Salish Sea throughout my life.

I'm here today to support this measure for establishing a Puget Sound No Discharge Zone, and I think it's long overdue. And I am delighted that 97% of boaters already are complying, and think that some, the pumpout stations are, from what I see, pretty available at least around here. Around the central Puget Sound maybe there's more work to do, but it's long overdue and we need to start and the time is now.

I'm delighted that we had ten million gallons of sewage that was pumped out in 2016, which otherwise would have gone into polluting our Sound. And with our growth in our region we just have to make sure that other generations can continue to enjoy our beaches and swimming and boating. We just need to properly manage our sewage. And I think we can really make a difference in protecting our clean water and public health, our marine life and our shellfish.

I'm delighted to urge you to create this No Discharge Zone for Puget Sound and the Salish Sea.

Thank you.