

# Jennifer Barton

Dear Ms. Jankowiak:

Thank you for your hard and diligent work to evaluate the criteria to designate Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone. Based on your study, I believe that Puget Sound is poised to join other iconic waterways across the United States as a No Discharge Zone.

To date, the Pacific Northwest is the only region in the nation that has not designated No Discharge Zones for any waters. Puget Sound, a national treasure, needs this type of protection. I fully support Department of Ecology's determination and proposal to establish the Puget Sound No Discharge Zone.

This simple and common sense approach will protect public health, keep our waters clean, protect sensitive marine waters, and important shellfish harvesting areas.

Fortunately, over 97% of boaters already do the right thing -- they have holding tanks onboard to store sewage (also called blackwater), then pump it out using any one of the 100 designated pumpout facilities that are available throughout the Puget Sound.

I support establishing a No Discharge Zone because of the critical protection it will provide to the people, marine creatures, and water quality of Puget Sound. Puget Sound and its tributaries are threatened by many sources of pollution and while no one source is solely responsible for the Sound's water quality problems, all of the sources add up. It is time to address ship pollution in order to help Puget Sound recover the health of its ecosystem.

Again, thank you for your hard work and I strongly support the establishment of a Puget Sound No Discharge Zone.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Barton