

[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)]

Robb Krehbiel:

Thank you. Hi. I'm Robb Krehbiel. I am a Northwest representative with the Defenders of Wildlife, and we're testifying today in support of the No Discharge Zone.

Defenders is a national non-profit organization with more than 1.2 million members and supporters nationwide, 24,000 of which live here in Washington State, and we are actively engaged in numerous wildlife issues in the state, including the recovery of critically endangered southern resident orcas.

As Chris mentioned earlier in his testimony, we are at risk of losing these whales from the waters of Puget Sound and the outlook for them doesn't look very good. There are multiple threats to our southern residents. One of them is pollution.

Puget Sound is obviously a cultural treasure, and an ecological treasure as well, and for years it has been polluted from a variety of sources. With the number of pumpout stations that are readily available to boaters within the Puget Sound region, we think that is a reasonable action on the Department of Ecology to declare the Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone.

This is an important step in ensuring that the amount of pollution that enters Puget Sound and slowly bioaccumulates its way up through our southern resident orcas, making them sick and depleting their population, is important. So we fully support the No Discharge Zone, and hope to see it move forward.