

FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor)

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor) is a broad-based 100% volunteer tax-exempt 501(c)(3) citizens group made up of crabbers, fishers, oyster growers and caring citizens. The mission of FOGH is to foster and promote the economic, biological, and social uniqueness of Washington's estuaries and ocean coastal environments. The goal of FOGH is to protect the natural environment, human health and safety in Grays Harbor and vicinity through science, advocacy, law, activism and empowerment.

While FOGH is located on the Central Coast of Washington State, the impacts to other major waterways is important to us as actions elsewhere often create precedent and may ultimately affect waterways in our watershed.

First, a three-week comment period is NOT sufficient for local citizens to become knowledgeable or engaged in the process being proposed. The comment period must be expanded to a minimum of 45 days (preferable 60 days), as the summer vacation months will limit public engagement.

A public hearing should be scheduled to allow the general public an opportunity to learn the details of the proposal and to offer their support or concerns in person.

Details of the variance applications should be made public and available online, at libraries and other points of public information gathering. It is important for the public to know the present standards and what would be the long-term and cumulative effect of these variances.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Arthur (R.D.) Grunbaum
President
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