November 3, 2026

Washington State Department of Ecology
ATTN: Rebecca Rothwell
Rulemaking Lead
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: WAC 173-26-206 New Section Ecology rulemaking
No net loss of shoreline ecological function

Dear Rebecca Rothwell,

I want to express my appreciation for new section WAC 173-26-206. If any provision in Ecology's goals for the environment is important, this one is very important.

It has been so disappointing over the years watching people remove their trees from the shorelines on a Saturday or Sunday and replace it with no vegetation except grass. On Lake Whatcom I have planted fir and cedar trees in shorelines and replanted waterways on my property. When the floods show up, the roots hold the soil and rocks in place. Even if the tree is topped for view, the roots still are at work.

Sincerely,

Tani Sutley
3006 Northshore Road
Bellingham, WA 98226