K'Allen Specht

My name is K"Allen Specht. If you can hear me now, you may be familiar with my story, and my struggles to regain local public access. I could use these three minutes to write, recite statues, regulations, codes, and policies, as I have done at previous hearings. Instead, I"d like to bring it all together. So what? I ask myself, what now? After all the research, public records and testimony, I"m still left with one question. What is the future of Soundview Drive Northwest? I don"t have the answer. That question extends beyond this rule making. But the loss of public access has materially degraded a historic shoreline experiences. The signs, parking restrictions, mapping, and enforcement changed, restricting access after 100 years of public enjoyment. In June 2023, Snohomish County"s own county engineer wrote that Soundview access issue has gone back and forth depending on which neighbor calls. A century-old public right-of-way, yet the public-facing answer changes depending on who calls.

Despite years of effort, I have been unable to restore the public shoreline access lost through Snohomish County"s discretionary decisions. This is despite the framework of RCW 90.58 and WAC 173, which is intended to preserve, maintain, and enhance public access. Perhaps this process can prevent similar losses. I ask that you take sufficient time to read the extensive written comments I will be submitting. I"ve put significant effort into proposals beyond my own interest. Street ends serve small communities throughout the state and are critical links in the public shoreline access network. The loss of shoreline access is not only my story; Soundview Drive Northwest is merely one example. Thank you for hosting these public hearings and providing the opportunity to participate. I"ll leave you with one final suggestion. RCW 90.58.20 calls for preserving the public"s opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines to the greatest extent feasible. Somehow we lost that opportunity after more than 100 years of documented access. Therefore, I suggest strengthening WAC 173-26-221(4)(D)(i) by adding the legislature"s chosen word "preserve" as follows: establish policies and regulations that protect, preserve, and enhance both physical and visual public access. Thank you.