Phyllis Farrell

Uh, thank you. Uh, I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Phyllis Farrell, and I live in Thurston County, and I want to thank you for the improvements in the draft SMA, uh, rule language. Uh, the SMA, of course, requires the state, um, um, achieve a balance of, uh, between development, environmental protections, and public access. And according to the League of Women Voters, uh, 2022 Shoreline Study, uh, public access is generally considered adequate. However, it does need to be protected and facilities maintained. Uh, I"d like to offer a couple, a few suggestions to strengthen environmental protections. Uh, estuaries must be allowed to naturally migrate inland due to sea level rise, requiring buffer distances to also migrate. Uh, prohibit new development in areas vulnerable to sea level rise, especially in areas in coastal bluffs. Uh, repair and replacement of existing buildings should reflect accommodation for sea level rise. Uh, include climate change and critical area, and critical area buffer delineations and standards. Uh, I"d like to see, uh, the application of the principles of net ecological gain to shorelines, uh, but failing that, uh, strengthen no-net-loss requirements, by requiring reports of cumulative impacts, and mitigation requirements when no net loss has not been achieved. Expand vegetation and tree buffers along riparian areas to account for climate change, and strengthen enforcement provisions, especially regarding shoreline armoring. Local jurisdictions should annually survey their shorelines for armoring. Unpermitted projects should be removed and a fine sufficient for deterrent purposes assessed. Um, request, uh, Ecology include adequate budget for enforcement, uh, activities. And then take local government enforcement with clear, specific requirements. This would provide local jurisdictions with relief from local and political pressures. And thank you so much for your work and consideration.