

Robert Mitchell

I am writing to express my support for the regulations that have been developed to implement ESHB 1578, Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by improving the safety of oil transportation. I appreciate the effort that has gone into this process to ensure the safety of our environment and communities.

I would like to request that the rulemaking also includes the following measures to further enhance the safety of oil transportation in Washington State:

- * Requiring all new and existing containment structures to withstand seismic forces to prevent spilled oil from reaching the waters of the state.
- * Requiring all oil transfer operations to be pre-boomed (when safe and effective to do so) and eliminating the Rate B loophole that allows oil transfers at 500 gallons per minute or less to occur without pre-booming.
- * Restricting all oil transfer operations to daylight hours, particularly when it's not safe and effective to pre-boom.

These measures are necessary to ensure that the safety of our environment and communities is not compromised during oil transportation operations. By implementing these measures, we can reduce the risk of oil spills and protect our natural resources.

Once again, thank you for your efforts to improve the safety of oil transportation in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Robert Mitchell
Olympia, Wa