



Re: Approve proposed rule to extend tug escort requirement to smaller oil tankers

Dear Washington Board Pilotage Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed rule change to extend the tug escort requirement to smaller oil tankers, ATBs, and towed barges between 5,000 - 40,000 dwt other than those engaged in bunkering operations. I appreciate your work, effort, and diligence on this long process and believe that the proposed rule changes meet the primary intent of ESHB 1578 and will add needed safety measures to the rising risk of an oil spill from the increased transportation of oil in the Salish Sea. We both know that even one large oil spill would be catastrophic to the highly endangered Southern Resident orca population, as witnessed with the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince Williams Sound in 1989 that resulted in a functionally extinct orca population. We HAVE to protect these orcas any way we can. Our region, our Salish Sea Ecosystem, the Coast Salish Tribes, and our marine economies are too fragile for even one major oil spill. Of the four alternatives evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I support Alternative C (Expansion of Tug Escort Requirements) which provides the greatest assurances to protect Southern Resident orcas from an oil spill - the primary intent of this rule implementing legislation (ESHB 1578) and Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force recommendations.

Thank you.

Jill Hein

Coupeville, WA 98239-9557



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Dear Washington Board Pilotage Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed rule change to extend the tug escort requirement to smaller oil tankers, ATBs, and towed barges between 5,000 - 40,000 dwt other than those engaged in bunkering operations. We need to take better care of what is left of our environment, for wildlife, marine life, plant life, and people. I appreciate your work, effort, and diligence on this long process and believe that the proposed rule changes meet the primary intent of ESHB 1578 and will add needed safety measures to the rising risk of an oil spill from the increased transportation of oil in the Salish Sea. We both know that even one large oil spill would be catastrophic to the highly endangered Southern Resident orca population, as witnessed with the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince Williams Sound in 1989 that resulted in a functionally extinct orca population. Our region, our Salish Sea Ecosystem, the Coast Salish Tribes, and our marine economies are too fragile for even one major oil spill. Of the four alternatives evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I support Alternative C (Expansion of Tug Escort Requirements) which provides the greatest assurances to protect Southern Resident orcas from an oil spill - the primary intent of this rule implementing legislation (ESHB 1578) and Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force recommendations.

Thank you.

priscilla martinez

Snoqualmie, WA 980659718



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Thank you.

Kevin Gallagher

Lake Forest Park, WA 98155



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Thank you.

Sarah Habel

Lacey, WA 985034131



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Thank you!

B. Jackson

Normandy Park, WA 981663927



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Dear Washington Board Pilotage Commissioners,

As a native Washingtonian who is committed to the preservation of our iconic species and ecosystems, I thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed rule change to extend the tug escort requirement to smaller oil tankers, ATBs, and towed barges between 5,000 - 40,000 dwt other than those engaged in bunkering operations. I appreciate your work, effort, and diligence on this long process and believe that the proposed rule changes meet the primary intent of ESHB 1578 and will add needed safety measures to the rising risk of an oil spill from the increased transportation of oil in the Salish Sea. We both know that even one large oil spill would be catastrophic to the highly endangered Southern Resident orca population, as witnessed with the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince Williams Sound in 1989 that resulted in a functionally extinct orca population. Our region, our Salish Sea Ecosystem, the Coast Salish Tribes, and our marine economies are too fragile for even one major oil spill. Of the four alternatives evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I support Alternative C (Expansion of Tug Escort Requirements) which provides the greatest assurances to protect Southern Resident orcas from an oil spill - the primary intent of this rule implementing legislation (ESHB 1578) and Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force recommendations.

Thank you.

Linda Carroll

Spokane, WA 992053178



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Thank you.

JoAnn Polley

Poulsbo, WA 98370



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Thank you.

Richie Mahoney

Longview, WA 98632