

August 7th 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose the Washington Department of Ecology's proposed "cleanup" plan for the former Rayonier mill site in Port Angeles. The current plan—to pile up toxic waste over 10 acres along the Discovery Trail, cover it with a cap, surround it with a chain-link fence, and declare the job done—is wholly unacceptable.

This is not cleanup. It is containment, and it leaves future generations to deal with a hazardous legacy. The toxins at this site threaten our community's health, our environment, and our economy. Simply capping and fencing the waste will not prevent long-term contamination of the soil, groundwater, or marine waters of Port Angeles Harbor.

The Rayonier company is a profitable corporation and has the financial capacity to fund a complete cleanup. The Department of Ecology's claim that it cannot require full removal due to a "cost-benefit" provision in state law (RCW) is unacceptable. Public health, environmental integrity, and the future of this beautiful waterfront area must outweigh short-term cost calculations.

The Discovery Trail is a beloved public asset, drawing visitors from around the region and beyond. Placing a fenced toxic waste site directly alongside it will harm tourism, diminish our community's reputation, and send a message that industry can pollute without full accountability.

I urge the Department of Ecology to reject the current plan and require a **full removal of contaminated materials** from the site. We have one chance to restore this waterfront properly. Let's not settle for a temporary, unsafe, and unsightly solution that compromises our community's future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Sarmiento".

Nina Sarmiento, Port Angeles

*Founder & Guide
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