

Kenneth Zirinsky

Comment to the Washington State Department of Ecology
Attention: Marian Abbett

Dear Ms. Abbett,

I am writing to express my strong support for Alternative 5, the complete removal of contaminated soil and sediment at the former Rayonier pulp mill site in Port Angeles.

Alternative 5 is the most protective option for the environment and public health. By fully removing the contamination rather than capping it, we can ensure that future generations are not left to manage or bear the risks of industrial pollution. Partial measures may appear less costly in the short term, but they will inevitably carry long-term environmental and health costs that far outweigh initial savings.

It is vital that Ecology prioritize long-term impacts over immediate costs. Protecting our environment, our fisheries, and our communities demands a comprehensive cleanup. In particular, I urge Ecology to safeguard fishing rights, salmon habitat, and marine ecosystems, which are integral not only to local tribal and community life but also to the broader ecological health of Washington State.

I ask that Ecology reject capping as a primary solution wherever possible. Capping only delays and transfers the burden of contamination management to future generations, rather than resolving the problem now.

Please also commit to the restoration of Ennis Creek and natural shorelines, which will help recover critical habitat for salmon and improve ecological resilience in the region.

Finally, I encourage Ecology to remember that the decisions made in Port Angeles will set precedents for other areas in Washington, including Tacoma. Strong, protective action here will strengthen trust in future cleanup efforts statewide.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering these points as you move forward with this crucial decision.