

From: Steven Pelayo <stevepelayo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 5:19 PM
To: Abbett, Marian L. (ECY) <MABB461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: A Deeper Look Port Angeles' Past and Future

My name is Steven Pelayo, and I serve as Treasurer of the Port Angeles Waterfront District Board, which is leading revitalization efforts for the downtown waterfront.

My family has deep roots here — my wife's ancestors arrived in Port Angeles 135 years ago and played a foundational role in shaping the city. Her grandfather, a former City Engineer, helped design everything from the road tunnels leading to Hurricane Ridge to the breakwater in Sekiu.

I'm writing today to share my strong concern about the proposed cleanup options for the Rayonier Mill site. While I won't reiterate all the technical arguments that others have made, I will say this: Option 3 is not the right answer for Port Angeles. It limits the long-term potential of our community and fails to match the scale of opportunity that a full and thoughtful cleanup could unlock.

What I can offer is context—critical context about what's at stake. I urge you to take just 15 minutes to watch my presentation titled "*Trends and Consequences - A Port Angeles Analysis of Where We Live and How We Grow.*" Link: <https://youtu.be/lRH9qEJmuQ>.

I've presented this data to the Port Angeles Business Association, the Clallam County Economic Development Council, Rotary, Kiwanis, and the local Association of Realtors. It outlines how Port Angeles compares to 10–15 other counties and cities in Washington across key indicators: job growth, wages, school enrollment, housing, crime, economic activity, and more. The data is compelling—and sobering.

Since the closure of the paper mill that left us with toxic waterfront, our community has struggled across nearly every measurable dimension. We've seen stagnation and decline in ways that other communities have avoided. The root of these challenges is economic. We

need growth, opportunity, and a clean, usable waterfront to help create a vibrant future.

Port Angeles has incredible assets—our gateway to Olympic National Park, nearby timberlands, a deep-water port, and a stunning natural harbor. But without a full and future-oriented cleanup of the Rayonier site, we are squandering the chance to leverage those advantages.

Please don't settle for a half-measure. This community deserves more than a Band-Aid on a 30-year wound. We are ready to rebuild. We just need your help.

Regards,

Steven Pelayo

Steven C. Pelayo, CFA

email: stevepelayo@gmail.com

mobile: 1 (360) 808-5154