

Leda Zimmerman

Dear Washington State decision makers:

I am concerned about the destructive impact of the cruise industry on the sensitive ecosystem off the coast. Please: Ban scrubbers. There is a yawning loophole that allows cruise ships to burn one of the dirtiest fossil fuels on earth - heavy fuel oil - by 'scrubbing' the exhaust and discharge the toxin-laden wastewater directly into the ocean. That's why I support amendment #2 to ban scrubbers.

I want to point out that this offers a huge opportunity for the cruise sector to show that they are committed to changing their polluting ways by agreeing to end the dumping of all scrubber wastes in Puget Sound. Please approve amendment #2 and ban scrubbers.

There is great urgency in addressing this issue as we build back from Covid-19. The marine ecosystem needs a healthy home to survive. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing tragedy on a global scale, but the resulting cessation of cruise vessel traffic in the Puget Sound has been a welcome reprieve from the water pollution these ships create. That's why scrubber dumping cannot return to the Sound. I support amendment #2.

Thanks very much for your attention to this matter.