

Marla Koberstein
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

September 27, 2023

Ms. Koberstein.

I am writing to **Oppose the adoption of Tier III Water Designation** language in chapters 173-201A WAC, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington.

The Department of Ecology (“DOE”), a non-elected body of government, is making recommendations that effect **both Private and Public land**, without an adequate public process to address the benefits versus the costs/impacts to our State and Local communities.

The DOE has failed to quantify the benefit (or what the problem is) as to why this designation is necessary, nor has it adequately quantified the cost to our State, but does acknowledge that it “WILL impact our economy”. There is no reason that the DOE should adopt this designation without allowing for other State and Local agencies to fully vet out the costs and impacts to taxpaying citizens.

Given the comments already posted, there seems to be a lack of communication between the DOE and other State and Local agencies as well as property owners, and certainly a lack of public disclosure.

The bottom line is, if we allow this Designation to be adopted without full public disclosure, meaningful and transparent data that supports the “need”, this will be precedent for further and more aggressive restrictions on our property rights.

Sincerely,

Steve Verbarendse