

Marie Milo

Dear Ms. Marla Koberstein,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Ecology's Natural Conditions Proposed Rule under Chapter 173-201A WAC, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington. I am an individual person and I care deeply about maintaining protective water quality standards throughout Washington's waters.

First and foremost, we remind Ecology that under Chapter 90.48 of the Revised Code of Washington, "...it is the public policy of the state of Washington to maintain the highest possible standards to insure the purity of all waters of the state consistent with public health and public enjoyment thereof, the propagation and protection of wild life, birds, game, fish and other aquatic life, and the industrial development of the state..." Under no circumstances should Ecology weaken the state water quality standards for dissolved oxygen or temperature, which are both critical to the survival and future of salmon and other aquatic life. Ecology has been managing waters of the state using the human allowances of 0.2 mg/L dissolved oxygen and 0.3°C temperature using known and reasonable technologies for decades. Any increase in the allowance would be inconsistent with Chapter 90.48 RCW.

While some polluters may suggest a long process to make room for weaker standards, we cannot wait years for a decision. Ecology needs protective approaches for temperature and dissolved oxygen now. We urge you to reject any efforts that would delay implementation of stringent water quality standards across the state.

Thank you, Marie Milo
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