



## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

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Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Martha Hankins  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Washington Department of Ecology  
360.407.6864  
martha.hankins@ecy.wa.gov

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RE: Letter of support for *Fish Consumption Rates Technical Support Document: A Review of Data and Information About Fish Consumption in Washington* (Publication no. 11-09-050)

Dear Ms. Hankins,

I am writing this letter from the following perspective. As professor of toxicology in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and the Director of the Pacific Northwest Center for Human Health and Ocean Studies, I am writing to enthusiastically support the Washington State Department of Ecology's *Fish Consumption Rates Technical Support Document: A Review of Data and Information About Fish Consumption in Washington* (Publication no. 11-09-050).

Because I also direct the Institute for Risk Analysis and Risk Communication, my comments support the Department of Ecology's use of established and well recognized risk assessment approaches. The increase in fish consumption is well documented with Pacific Northwest relevant references. In addition to the points that I covered in my presentation titled "What's the Public Health Issue, and Why Is It Important?" at the Department of Ecology's Fish Consumption Rate Workshop held December 12, 2011 at the University of Washington, there are even more recent recommendations by the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010* that further promote increased levels of fish into healthy diets. For example, they recommend Americans "Increase the amount and variety of seafood consumed by choosing seafood in place of some meat and poultry." The dietary guidelines further recommend for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding to consume seafood each week from a variety of seafood types. These recommendations emphasize the importance of fish consumption, and, taken together with actual fish ingestion levels in the Pacific Northwest, point to the need for the scientifically-based documentation provided by the Department of Ecology's *Fish Consumption Rates Technical Support Document*.

I am highly supportive of the effort undertaken to recognize that fish ingestion is much greater than previously acknowledged. I am likewise highly supportive of the philosophy behind this report and the quantification methods employed. Having been knowledgeable in this topic and the scientific and technical aspects involved, I can say that this report represents a robust, scientific-based assessment that is both clear and transparent. This

report provides an invaluable contribution and major step forward in the protection and preservation of fish and shellfish resources for the people of Washington State.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine M. Faust". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elaine M. Faustman, Ph.D. DABT  
Professor and Director  
Institute for Risk Analysis and Risk Communication  
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
University of Washington  
4225 Roosevelt Way NE, Suite #100  
Seattle, WA 98105-6099