



Association
of Washington
Business

Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

April 20, 2015

Patrick Lizon
Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Request for time extension of public comment period for proposed Water Quality Assessment and 303(d)

Dear Mr. Lizon:

On behalf of the Association of Washington Business (AWB), I am writing today to ask for an extended public comment period on the proposed Water Quality Assessment and 303(d) list for Washington State using fresh water data.

AWB serves as the state's Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturing Association, representing more than 8,100 employers throughout the state, including many NPDES permittees.

In recent discussions with the AWB members of our Water Quality Committee, members expressed a desire for more time to review the proposal, and better understand some key issues. Based on our discussions, changes likely include:

- Drastic increases in the number of Category 5 listings;
- Changes to the delineation protocol; and
- Newly released data information.

As you know, these are significant changes that provide real challenges to the current assessment and 303(d) list.

ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON BUSINESS

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For these reasons, we would ask the Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, to provide an additional 30 days for public comment. Providing additional time will allow for AWB, and our member companies, the needed time to perform a thorough review of all information being provided by Ecology and to formulate substantive comments and feedback.

We appreciate your willingness to work with the broader permitted community, providing adequate and timely review. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding our request for additional comment time. We look forward to your reply, and working with you in the development of a workable Industrial Stormwater permit.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Houskeeper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brandon Houskeeper
Government Affairs Director
Association of Washington Business

Cc – Heather Bartlett
Denise Clifford