



March 20th, 2015

Cheryl Niemi  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Via email to: [swqs@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:swqs@ecy.wa.gov)

Subject: Rulemaking on chapter 173-201A WAC; Proposed Human Health Criteria and Implementation Tools Rule proposal

Dear Ms. Niemi:

We support the Washington State Department of Ecology's recent efforts to implement more realistic fish-consumption standards and recognize that this is a step in the right direction. We are dismayed, however, that Ecology has proposed to raise the acceptable level of cancer risk from one in a million to one in 100,000, especially after having used the lower risk level for more than 20 years. Why has Ecology chosen to do elevate the acceptable level of cancer risk for Washington State citizens—the very people that the State should protect?

We respectfully ask that Ecology keep the more realistic fish-consumption rate of 175 g/day, but not to increase the risk of cancer tenfold for members of the Snoqualmie Tribe or any other citizen of Washington State. We ask that Ecology set and enforce standards to regulate pollution such that Washington State residents are well protected, and not to increase allowable levels of pollution now or at any time in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Baerwalde", followed by a long horizontal line.

Matthew J. Baerwalde  
Water Quality Manager  
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