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RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Pacific Coast
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for Fisheries Resources*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER ALLIANCE,)
COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER, SPOKANE)
RIVERKEEPER, RE SOURCES FOR) No. 2:13-cv-01839-JCC
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES, PACIFIC)
COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN’S)
ASSOCIATIONS, and INSTITUTE FOR) DECLARATION OF JOHN GREEN
FISHERIES RESOURCES,) IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’
) MOTION FOR SUMMARY
Plaintiffs,) JUDGMENT

v.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY and GINA McCARTHY,)
Administrator, United States Environmental)
Protection Agency,)
)
Defendants.)

1 I, JOHN GREEN, hereby state and declare as follows:

2 1. I have resided in Longview, Washington for the past 12 years and before that, I
3 was a frequent visitor to Washington State for 20 years.

4 2. I am a member of Columbia Riverkeeper and have been since 2008. I support
5 Columbia Riverkeeper's mission of protecting the Columbia River, its marine and wildlife, and
6 the right of people to safely enjoy it.

7 3. Fishing has always been one of my favorite hobbies; I fished for salmon in rivers
8 as well as trout in streams and lakes. However, due to my concern about toxics in Washington's
9 waters, I have not fished for two years. I miss fishing and would probably fish more again but
10 for my new awareness of the toxins found in fish.

11 4. I used to fish approximately two times per month during season and ate the fish I
12 caught in Washington waters.

13 5. I have always enjoyed eating fresh fish and shellfish from the Columbia and other
14 Washington rivers, but I do so less than I once did. In the past, in addition to eating the fish I
15 caught in the waterways and lakes of Washington, I bought fish from local fishermen and
16 women. I continue to regularly buy fish and shellfish from local retailers who fish the Columbia
17 River and other Washington waters, and I primarily eat trout, salmon, sturgeon, oysters and
18 clams.

19 6. I have reduced my fishing and the amount of fish I eat because I am very
20 concerned that the amount of pesticides and other chemicals leaching into Washington's
21 waterways and lakes is not adequately regulated and that by consuming fish from our waters, I
22 am consuming harmful chemicals and toxins.

23 7. My understanding is that Washington's estimated fish consumption rate is about
24 one fish meal per month for an average of 6.5 grams per day. I estimate that I currently eat about
25 four fish meals per month, for a total of about two pounds of fish consumption per month—an

1 average of approximately 30 grams per day. I eat significantly more fish than the Washington
2 fish consumption rate, even though I have reduced my fish consumption from about six to seven
3 fish meals per month (or approximately 52 grams per day) before I became aware of the risk of
4 toxics in Washington waters.

5 8. When I eat fish, I worry for my health and the health of my wife with whom I am
6 eating. When I forego fish I am missing out on a favorite meal and a protein that should be
7 healthy. I believe I should be able to assume that fish caught in Washington—fish I would like
8 to resume catching through my own fishing—is safe to eat, but I do not feel I can do so.

9 9. One of the benefits of living in the Pacific Northwest is the bounty found in our
10 forests, our farmland and our waters. We should be able to harvest recreationally (and
11 commercially) without fear of ingesting harmful toxins.

12 10. By basing its water protection standards on estimates it knows to be wrong,
13 Washington State is failing to ensure that consumers of fish like me are safe from exposure to
14 toxics when we eat fish and shellfish. Washington has long known that people in this state eat
15 more than one fish meal per month, but it has not updated its standards to reflect that reality. My
16 understanding is that because Washington is failing to protect fish consumers it is failing to
17 comply with the law, and EPA has a responsibility to step in and issue a protective standard.

18 11. If the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not issue a fish consumption
19 rate, and if the Court does not order it to do so, I will continue to have to decide between eating
20 less fish or eating fish that exposes me to toxic chemicals. I am harmed by having to make that
21 decision, my reduced fish consumption, and loss of fishing as recreation.

22 12. I believe that an accurate fish consumption rate and related health standards
23 would protect not only fish but humans who occupy the top of the food chain.
24

1 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true
2 and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed this 7th day of February, 2014, in
3 Longview, Washington.

4
5 
6 JOHN GREEN