

From: [Ethel Branch](#)
To: [ECY RE SWQS](#)
Subject: Comments on the proposed WQS for Surface Waters
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:59:20 PM

Dear Cheryl,

I, Ethel Branch, submit these comments in my individual capacity.

I trust my public officials to protect me as a member of the public. Now is the time for you to stand up for me and my fellow Washingtonians. Our health and human rights are at stake here. No one is--or at least no one should be--entitled to dump toxic materials into state waters and poison state residents. Please, do the right thing and protect fish consumers like myself, but more importantly, please protect those in our state who are most vulnerable to the toxics transmitted to their bodies when they ingest fish. Some of our state residents do this as a matter of centuries old cultural practices, and those practices will not change. Please, match the standards to the reality, and don't require cultural practices to occur at the expense of health or human rights. Please set the fish consumption rate to 175 g/day, and please reject the increase in my cancer risk level from 1 in a million to 1 in 100,000.

I understand that it is cheaper for industry and public utilities to dump toxic pollutants into our public waters with few limitations. But we live in a world of dwindling resources and an increasing population. There is decreased leeway for environmental mistakes. Industry and government have a responsibility to protect human lives and to respect basic human rights.

We can have healthy waters and a healthy economy. Oregon is implementing a fish consumption rate of six ounces a day with a cancer risk level of one in a million — and that is not shutting industry or cities down. Now is the time for utilities and businesses to step up and take responsibility for their actions and to internalize the costs of their activities, rather than shift the costs to the public and the environment. Our culture and economy, our lives and our health depend on it.

If you are not up to this task, please step aside and let the EPA protect Washingtonians.

Respectfully,
Ethel Branch

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