

July 10, 2009

Jeff Killelea  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Killelea:

My family runs an auto recycling business and the proposed stormwater permit is will put most of the wrecking yards like ours out of business.

We dismantle, recover useable parts, and then scrap the junk cars after removing the hazardous items like anti-freeze, mercury switches, CFC ozone depleting gases, air-bag actuators, etc. The junk cars won't go away if you put us out of business. Who will handle them and how will they handle them if we're gone?

Our small wrecking yard has survived for over 30 years. We've done what we were required to do to comply with the law and protect the environment. We've provided living wage jobs to our employees. We've been a good business for Washington State.

The stormwater permit you are proposing may well end all of that. You are asking for the impossible.

The Auburn Public Water Utility reports, *"The 90th percentile result for copper was 0.24 and 1.05 mg/L (parts per million) for the two rounds of sampling."* That is equivalent to 240 and 1050 micrograms per liter (parts per billion) of copper. The new permit is requiring our stormwater to have less than 14 micrograms of copper per liter (parts per billion). The Auburn Public Water Utility also reports that the copper in our drinking water is coming from, *"Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives."* They say nothing about automobiles. The key point here is, that the copper that is occurring in the environment is 25 to 75 times higher than what we can have in the stormwater that runs off our property. How in the world are we supposed to accomplish that? The new level you are proposing for copper in our stormwater is absurd!

The vehicle recycling industry has a long history of providing jobs; collecting sales taxes for the state for FREE; paying local, state and federal business taxes; effectively managing the waste streams from junk vehicles; recycling used parts to keep repair costs and insurance costs for citizens down; and recycling about a half a million tons of steel a year.

What did this industry do to deserve the Department of Ecology trying to put us out of business via this stormwater permit?

If you put our industry out of business, where will all the old anti-freeze, CFC gases, lead, airbag explosives, mercury switches, and other materials we remove and properly dispose of, go?

I hope the Department of Ecology comes to its senses sooner than later and re-writes this permit. You will do so if you are truly interested in protecting the environment.

Respectfully,

*Darleen Thong*

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

JUL 14 2009

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

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cc: Governor Gregoire  
Senator Pam Roach  
Representative Dan Roach  
Representative Christopher Hurst