



Kalispel Tribe of Indians
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April 7, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Upcoming Revisions to Human Health-Based Water Quality Standards

Dear Governor Inslee:

It has come to the attention of the Kalispel Tribe that you are considering a revision to state water quality standards that would allow ten times more Washingtonians to develop cancer if they consume fish at the state-determined fish consumption rate. The Tribe opposes this option because it has no valid public health justification, particularly for those who will not be adequately protected in the first place because they eat significantly more fish than any fish consumption rate the State is now considering.

The Tribe appreciates the economic concerns associated with the costs of attaining more stringent water quality standards, but these concerns must not be allowed to distort the public health imperative underlying the revision of human health criteria. That imperative is to make it safer for Washingtonians to eat fish, and that imperative is clearly turned on its head if the State decides that safety can be achieved by lowering safety standards.

Protecting fish consumers requires increasing the fish consumption rate to at least 175 g/day and maintaining current safety standards. Accounting for economic concerns requires a reasonable implementation plan. A rule that protects public health without unduly harming the regulated community depends on both.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen Nenema".

Glen Nenema
Chairman, Kalispel Tribe of Indians