



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

April 21, 2014

Washington Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Attn: Amy Jankowiak
3190 160th Ave SE, Bellevue WA 98008

Dear Ms. Jankowiak:

The Washington State Board of Health supports the Washington State Department of Ecology's petition to establish a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for Puget Sound.

Protecting and restoring Puget Sound is vital to Washington's public health, economy, and environment. Climate change and human activity are challenging the Sound's ability to sustain the life that makes Puget Sound and Washington state such a beautiful place to live. All of us must do our part to help protect the Sound from needless pollution.

Although federal law currently permits direct discharge of treated sewage from marine sanitation devices into Puget Sound, we know that this practice contributes to pollutant and contamination levels in Puget Sound. Marine sanitation devices are not monitored to ensure that treatment standards are achieved before sewage discharge. Studies have shown that most marine sanitation devices do not achieve the targeted treatment levels before discharge and human sewage contains many chemicals that marine sanitation devices are not designed to treat.

Eighty NDZ's are already established in twenty six states around the country. Conspicuously missing from this list is the Puget Sound. It is time to do the right thing to protect our own front yard, and join the twenty six other states that have already determined that it is not appropriate to discharge inadequately treated sewage into our waterways when there are other reasonable means to handle our sewage appropriately.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chair
Washington State Board of Health

Cc: Martha Kongsgaard, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council