



Washington State Senate

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May 13, 2019

Maia Bellon, Director
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive, SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: The EPA's Reversal of the November 15, 2016 Clean Water Act Section 303(c) Partial Disapproval of Washington's Human Health Water Quality Criteria and Decision to Approve Washington's Criteria

Dear Director Bellon,

I am writing to express my confusion over your recent public statements criticizing EPA's decision to reconsider its rejection of the water quality standards you proposed for approval in 2016. When EPA partially rejected Washington's proposed water quality standards, you publicly stated that you were disappointed in EPA's decision to overrule the state. But now you object to EPA's decision to change course and approve Washington's proposed standards. Why would you oppose a federal decision to approve the state standards you originally submitted for approval?

In accordance with our legislative oversight responsibilities, and due to our strong concerns with the regulatory consequences of a new water quality rule, the Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee extensively studied this issue, held work sessions, and offered legislative input in the run-up to the proposal of the final rule in 2016. I believe that the years of substantial work undertaken among legislators, the governor's office, the Department of Ecology, and many stakeholders that ultimately led to the development of the state's water quality standards should have been honored by the federal government when Washington sought approval of its proposed standards.

I now urge you to support EPA's decision to reconsider its rejection of the rules that were originally submitted for approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Ericksen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the senator.

Senator Doug Ericksen, Ranking Member
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee