

From the Desk of Audie Huber

DEQ

MAR 21 2011

Water Quality

February 16, 2011

Andrea Matzke
Oregon DEQ
Water Quality Division
811 SW Sixth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Ms. Matzke:

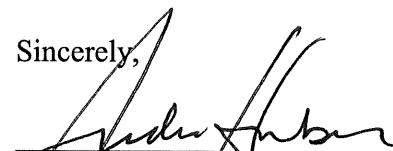
I would like to express my support for the ODEQ proposal to revise the state water quality standards based on a fish consumption rate of 175 grams per day. The current rate of 6 grams per day is woefully inadequate to protect even those who consume only moderate amounts of fish as was the proposal for 17.5 grams per day. Increasing the fish consumption rate is a long overdue step for Oregon to address contaminants in the food chain.

As a member of the Quinault Indian Nation, I believe that arbitrarily low fish consumption rates disproportionately impact tribal members raising significant environmental justice concerns. By allowing higher discharge rates of contaminants to the streams based on facially inadequate fish consumption rates, subsistence fishers are directly impacted by higher toxic exposures. To put it simply, more contaminants in the rivers find their way into the fish which the tribal members rely upon to survive. Increasing the fish consumption rate will decrease the pollutants in the rivers and improve the health of both the fish and the tribal members who rely upon them.

Less contamination in the rivers will also support the economy by increasing emphasis on tourism for fishing and returning Oregon to the forefront of environmental conservation rather than the butt of jokes regarding Portland Harbor. We all, as Oregonians, both tribal and non-tribal, want to see a healthy ecosystem with a healthy economy. However, if you neglect the poorest Oregonians who rely on hunting and fishing for subsistence you hurt the state from the ground up. By not promoting a healthy environment, people become unhealthy due to pollution, which increases health costs and decreases worker productivity and generally drives down quality of life. Oregon is a great state and improving water quality by increasing the fish consumption rate will move us towards a better future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Audie Huber, enrolled member, Quinault Indian Nation.
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