



February 3, 2011

Ms. Andrea Matzke  
Water Quality Division  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
811 SW 6th Ave  
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Proposed Rulemaking – Revised Water Quality Standards and Revised Water Quality Standards Implementation Policies – Request for Extension of Comment Period

Dear Ms Matzke:

As noted in the Department's public announcement of January 6, 2011, the Department is proposing to revise Oregon's water quality standards and to adopt new and revised rules on implementing water quality standards through various water quality control programs, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and nonpoint source pollution programs.

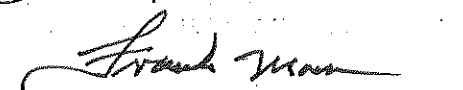
These rules are the most far reaching water quality regulation changes proposed in decades. They may well be the most stringent in the nation and can be expected to have great, possibly unforeseen, impacts on this state for years to come. It is imperative that all parties have an ample and full opportunity to review, assess and, comment to the maximum extent possible.


Accordingly, the undersigned members of the Oregon State Senate respectfully request that the deadline for submittal of comments be extended from February 23, 2011 to a date no sooner than March 18, 2011.


Additionally, what specific Oregon statute, or what specific federal public law, confers authority to the Environmental Quality Commission to adopt the proposed Revised Water Quality Standards and Revised Water Quality Standards Implementation Policies? Please provide the specific statutory or public law authority for both the proposed point source and non-point source Standards and Implementation Policies.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Ted Ferrjoli  
Senate Republican Leader

  
Senator Frank Morse  
Deputy Senate Republican Leader

  
Senator Bruce Starr  
Deputy Senate Republican Leader

  
Senator Jeff Kruse  
Senate Republican Whip

*Chris Telfer*

Senator Chris Telfer  
Assistant Senate Republican Leader

*Jason A. Atkinson*

Senator Jason Atkinson

*Larry George*

Senator Larry George

*David Nelson*

Senator David Nelson

*Chuck Thomsen*

Senator Chuck Thomsen

*Douglas K. Whitsett*

Senator Doug Whitsett  
Assistant Senate Republican Leader

*Brian Boquist*

Senator Brian Boquist

*Fred Girod*

Senator Fred Girod

*Alan Olsen*

Senator Alan Olsen

*Jackie Winters*

Senator Jackie Winters