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June 13, 2013

Allison Hiltner
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900 ECL-111
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Ms. Hiltner:

Washington Environmental Council is a nonprofit statewide advocacy organization working to protect, restore, and sustain Washington's environment. We have recently taken on the mission of People For Puget Sound, incorporating Puget Sound recovery as a foundational element in our drive towards positive change to solve Washington's most critical environmental challenges.

The health of the Duwamish, Seattle's only river, is an integral part of the health of our Puget Sound region – from an ecological and public health standpoint. It is critical that the cleanup plan adequately address the needs of the river and the communities along the Duwamish as part of this broader effort for Puget Sound recovery. A thorough cleanup of the lower Duwamish Superfund site is important to restoring Puget Sound, one of America's last great estuaries. We support the comments made in the letter by the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition and recognize their deep technical and community leadership in this effort. As a partner organization to DRCC, we wanted to also provide our own comments to the Proposed Cleanup Plan. We urge you to:

- 1) Focus on permanently removing all highly and moderately contaminated sediments instead of relying on capping or the highly risky process of monitored "natural recovery";
- 2) Control ongoing pollution sources, including those from upriver;
- 3) Ensure fishing restrictions are done in a culturally-appropriate way and protect public health;
- 4) Establish a long-term funding source for the cleanup, including the persistent health impacts felt by the affected communities; and
- 5) Hire locally to directly benefit the local residents.

It is important that we invest our cleanup dollars in a reliable and permanent solution so that we can get the job done correctly and adequately on the first attempt rather than waste taxpayer dollars on a plan that does not address the full scope of the cleanup needs.

We recognize the large task ahead to successfully implement the Cleanup Plan in a way that results in a clean, healthy, and safe river for all. We believe that a greater investment today will result in long-term savings and better environmental and health outcomes tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (206) 631-2601 or joan@wecprotects.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joan Crooks".

Joan Crooks
Executive Director
Washington Environmental Council