

To Allison Hiltner, EPA:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Clean UP Plan for the Lower Duwamish River. My name is Max Vekich, a resident of West Seattle residing near the Duwamish. I am also a former State Legislator (1983-1991) with a history of involvement in water quality, land use, environmental cleanup and dredging issues including; Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Bremerton/Sinclair Inlet and Grays Harbor amongst others.

Currently I am the elected Puget Sound Representative of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Executive Board, which performs stevedore work on the Duwamish Estuary and throughout the State- representing over 3000 workers.

My background gives me a unique perspective on the long overdue plan to restore the Duwamish to a healthy waterway.

We work in and are part of the community. The environmental health and safety of our community are vital to my members and their neighbors. As a local maritime labor leader that is fundamental to the values and interests of my members and their families.

Allowing this pollution to remain creates an unstable and risky economic situation. This can only dampen investment in maritime activities, and threatens union jobs. Environmental cleanup is also economic activity that creates jobs, and those should be union jobs for local people who have traditionally worked on and near the water.

I fear that the legacy polluters and enablers, including government, who sacrificed the Duwamish to industrialize, fight wars and profit will somehow escape their responsibility to restore the Duwamish to environmental and economic health. They must pay for the legacy they left behind.

We support the most comprehensive cleanup that allows for the preservation of all the current Multiple Uses on the Duwamish River, including industrial and maritime jobs. Please move forward with a comprehensive clean up\*, and ensure that organized labor is at the table at every step of the way: including mitigation for existing jobs, and union jobs when it is time to do the work.

We applaud the efforts of the DRCC and the Duwamish Tribe. We are skeptical of the LDWG and EPA. We need a permanent solution not another half-assed approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Vekich

