

Allison Hiltner
Environmental Protection Agency
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June 13, 2013

Re: Draft Duwamish River Clean-up Plan

Dear Ms. Hiltner,

As a lifelong resident of Seattle and environmental activist, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the EPA's preferred option for cleaning up the Lower Duwamish River ("Alternative 5C+"). My father used to tell me endearing stories from his childhood, when his family lived along the banks of the Duwamish and he and his brother enjoyed fishing canoeing and swimming along the banks of the river. A dream shared by myself and many others is to see the health of the river, its waters, fish habitat and riparian zone fully restored.

An economic impact study commissioned by King County states that the *timely and effective implementation* of cleaning up the Lower Duwamish could create up to 1,000 new environmental jobs and spur increased economic investment in our Duwamish industrial area. This is welcome news for the Seattle and the region!

However, comments by the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG), which represents community, environmental, tribal, and small business organizations in the Duwamish Valley and greater Seattle area, indicate that the preferred alternative will not result in a lasting cleanup that successfully meets the goals of protecting the river environment, its fish and wildlife, and human health. This concerns me, particularly as the preferred plan does not address continuing up river pollution from

specific and nonspecific point sources that could result in the recontamination of the Lower Duwamish and ultimately prove to be much more costly to taxpayers in the long run.

I strongly urge a more robust plan be adopted to address ongoing up river pollution sources. If we're going to tackle the clean up Seattle's Duwamish river, then let's commit to doing it right, now. We must not be "pennywise and pound foolish", especially when it comes to the health and safety of underserved neighborhoods and residents who live near and use the river for recreation and fishing.

I urge you to consider adding strategies that address up river pollution prevention in your final plan for the Lower Duwamish. Additional dollars spent now preventing the future recontamination of the Lower Duwamish will save us all time and money, and lead to better environmental and community health.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Steinbrueck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "S".

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