



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

February 12, 2007

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove, Chair
Select Committee on Puget Sound
Washington State House of Representatives
Post Office Box 40446
Olympia, Washington 98504-0446

Dear Representative Upthegrove:

I am writing to express the Board's support for HB 1928, also introduced in the Senate as SB 5778. HB 1928 is scheduled to be heard before the House Select Committee on Puget Sound on February 14. This is a bill requested by the Department of Health to help clean up shellfish growing areas. The Board also supports the concepts in HB 1595, being heard in your committee the same day. We understand that discussions are going on to resolve the differences between these two bills.

This Board has responsibility for developing rules for sanitary shellfish harvesting, recreational beaches, and on-site wastewater disposal systems. This bill would strengthen shellfish protection districts and help clean up marine waters degraded by non-point source pollution. Such cleanups would increase commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting and improve the safety of swimming and other water sports in these areas. It would also enhance the enforcement of the Board's rules for on-site sewage systems, which are contributors to non-point pollution when they fail.

Thank you for scheduling these bills for hearing and considering the public health benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Treuman Katz".

Treuman Katz, Chair
Washington State Board of Health

cc: House Select Committee on Puget Sound Members
The Honorable Fred Jarrett, Washington State House of Representatives
The Honorable Sherry Appleton, Washington State House of Representatives
Washington State Board of Health Members
Ms. Christina Hulet, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Mr. Brian Peyton, Department of Health
Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Washington State Board of Health