



February 13, 2012

Exhibit	D
Port Commission	Regular
Meeting of	February 14, 2012

Amy Jankowiak  
Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
Water Quality Program  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
Via email: amy.jankowiak@ecy.wa.gov

**Re: Proposed Amendment to the Cruise Ship MOU**

Dear Ms. Jankowiak,

We are writing to support the amendment - *Ban the discharge of [treated or untreated] gray water and black water in MOU waters* - proposed by Friends of the Earth, People for Puget Sound and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing cruise ship discharges in Washington State waters and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Many of the cruise lines operating in Puget Sound already have strong environmental practices in place. The Port expects that the cruise ship industry in Puget Sound will increase over the next 20 year, possibly doubling, which adds more reason for taking action now. While in Puget Sound and the MOU waters, we believe that the cruise ships already have the ability to hold their wastewater and that many of the companies already adopt this practice.

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted a federal rule that will ban all ships (cruise, container, and other ships) from discharging their treated or untreated waste or gray water into the ocean within 3 miles of California's coast. We would like to see Puget Sound have a similar level of protection.

Agreeing to a ban on discharge of sewage or grey water in Puget Sound will be a terrific way for Ecology, the Port of Seattle and the Cruise Industry to show environmental leadership and to help fulfill one of the strategies in the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration. You can reach me at (206) 382-7007 (X172) or htrim@pugetsound.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Trim  
Director of Policy

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