



July 22, 2010

Margaret Norton-Arnold, Facilitator
Shoreline Master Program Task Force
Kitsap County Department of Community Development
619 Division Street M/S 36
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Dear Ms. Norton-Arnold:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the revised draft Shoreline Master Program Task Force Goals and Principles that you forwarded in your July 12, 2010 email:

Comments:

Health of the Shoreline Ecosystem:

Paragraph 4): Precautionary Principle: The proposed language you provided should be revised to read: "Consistent with WAC 173-26-201(3)(g), the Task Force will craft policy recommendations that reasonably assure that the existing shoreline ecological resources are protected in a manner to avoid unanticipated impacts."

Justification: The key word in this statement, which is taken directly from the WAC language, is "*reasonably*" -- as it is simply not possible, or even desirable, to take precautions against all potential risks, no matter how small, that could be associated with shoreline development.

Shoreline Economics and Development:

Paragraph 2): Request that the word "voluntary" be inserted into the proposed statement so that it reads: "Possible areas for "carrot incentives" include the permitting and construction of shoreline modifications such as bulkheads, docks and stairs. Where possible, the Task Force will develop recommendations that foster the use of financial and other incentive program that encourage property owners to *voluntarily* select construction methodologies for these modifications that also help to protect the shoreline."

"The small landholders are the most precious part of a state." - Thomas Jefferson

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Justification: To ensure clarity that these are “voluntary” provisions and not “requirements” for property owners who wish to develop or improve their property.

Other proposed changes:

KAPO has no comments on the remaining changes proposed in the highlighted sections of the draft.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Benze". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first 'B' being particularly large and stylized.

Bob Benze