

December 21, 2011

Margaret Glowacki
Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
700 5th Ave, Suite 2000
PO BOX 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Dear Margaret,

First and foremost I would like to thank you for working with us in regards to the SMP and the coming changes. We appreciate the additional time to address these issues with you.

I'm writing this letter on behalf of myself, all Houseboat/House Barge owners and all Seattle Liveaboards.

I moved from Portland, OR to Seattle because I was enticed by the idea of living in Seattle on a boat. This idea spurred an early retirement and I sold my home in Portland and became part of the liveaboard community in Seattle. I have lived on a Wooden Yacht for seven years now and worked on the ship canal and on Lake Union as well.

As a board member of the Lake Union Liveaboard Association I am deeply concerned over the proposed new regulations under the Shoreline Master Program. My intention with this letter is not to go over the facts which have been brought to your attention already. I intend to bring some basic logic, which is needed, to these confusing and convoluted changes that will impact our local community of liveaboards.

These new regulations have been put into play under the guise of ecological change and sustainability; however this is dubious at best. I feel that as a community we are all being singled out for reasons unknown to us. What is all too perplexing is that in every other city that was required to draft a shoreline program, liveaboards, houseboats and house barges was a non-issue. I would ask why then in Seattle which is known worldwide for its community of boat liveaboards are we essentially a target or considered a threat?

Our carbon footprint is minimal compared with the average land dweller. This, from a logical standpoint, is quite obvious. Since you are not allowing for an extensive scientific study of grey water, what ground do you really have to stand on?

How is someone that is simply living on their vessel, pumps their black water out regularly, uses environmental sound products, less water and electricity is any more detrimental to the habitat of the lake the average recreation summer boater, fisherman

and how can a houseboat or house barge have a worse impact than a liveaboard on a fiberglass, aluminum or wooden yacht¹. As a wooden boat owner I have to ask why are you specifically targeting that particular group?

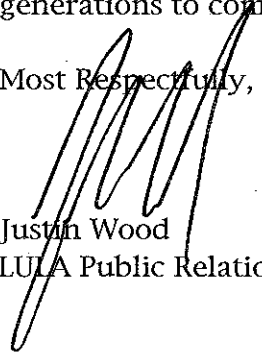
I consider myself a conservationist and environmentalist. I love living on the lake and as a liveaboard I'm the first responder to any environmental disaster or change in wildlife and I'm the first to report it. Most if not all liveaboards have a general concern for the marine environment and you would be hard pressed to find any using toxic chemicals being used or illegal dumping. I understand the need to regulate Grey Water and come up with intelligent solutions for the future of the lake and Puget Sound.

The approach the SMP has taken is wrong and from any way you look at it. It is ineffective to the overall goal to protect our waterways and save them from permanent and the possible sustaining effects of pollution. Allowing one group to dump grey water and not another is a double standard. An example would be fishermen and or recreation boaters that do not live but play on the lake².

My goal in this letter is not to target one group of boaters or another but to help you see the double-standard involved here and find a permanent and sustainable solution. As it stands now these changes will just cause more of an uproar and disturbance, create costly litigation for the city and take away from finding a productive and smart solution to a relatively simple program. It's just creating more bureaucracy

So I would ask you Margaret to please take into account what has been said and proposed to you from your community of liveaboards and know that we are on board with you in healing this precious lake of ours and keeping the Sound Clean for generations to come!!

Most Respectfully,



Justin Wood
LULA Public Relations

Notes:

¹ I dwell on a 1956 Ed Monk Designed wooden Cabin Cruiser with twin Chrysler Gas engines that burn 8 to 10 gallons of water an hour to run, each. A six hour cruise on the lake would effectively burn up to 60 gallons of gasoline, dump plenty carbon monoxide into the air and lake and could even result in some overspill of gas should I choose to fill

up at one of the lake gas stations. I rarely if ever use my yacht recreationally, pump my black water regularly and use organic products in my sinks for hygiene and cleaning.

²Typically most day boaters dump their black water and waste directly into the lake or don't have black water containment, dump their beer/soda and trash into the lake, burn through thousands of gallons of gasoline, create noise and wake for the wildlife.