

We are your eyes on the water...and your voice at the table.

December 10, 2010

Dear Friend of Puget Sound:

Happy Holidays to you and your family! I am writing this holiday greeting and appeal for your support as the new Puget Soundkeeper and Executive Director of Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (Soundkeeper). Many of you know me previously as Soundkeeper's Pollution Prevention Director, a position I truly enjoyed for the past eight years.

As a lifelong resident of Puget Sound, I am committed to restoring the health of our amazing resource. *There is no other place in the United States where we can see orca whales, fish for five species of salmon, eat a local oyster and set sail in view of two snow-capped mountain ranges, all within sight of a major metropolitan city.*

Unfortunately, Puget Sound is threatened by toxic pollution and we are in danger of losing this treasure. We already know what to do and the laws are in place. Now is the time for implementation. The challenge remains great but Soundkeeper has achieved precedent-setting gains in controlling this threat.

As 2010 rolls to a close, Soundkeeper has accomplished much and is staying strong despite the current recession. By far, our biggest success has been to reduce toxic heavy metals in industrial stormwater flowing into Puget Sound up to 99%.

A few Soundkeeper accomplishments in 2010:

- **Removed over 18 tons of trash** from our waterways and shorelines with help from over 1,000 volunteers;
- **Reduced stormwater pollution on state highways** through an agreement with the Washington Department of Transportation;
- **Successfully settled 14 Clean Water Act cases** with eight industrial facilities, five boatyards and one housing development construction site. *Soundkeeper does not accept any money from Clean Water Act settlements.*

Our success over the past 20 years is important, but we still have work to do and your support is critical.

Our salmon are endangered, orca whales are dying, oyster beds are closing and our cultural heritage is threatened – all because of illegal pollution.

Soundkeeper is the *only* organization defending all of Puget Sound through a dual approach of pollution prevention and Clean Water Act enforcement. We are on the water every week monitoring Puget Sound, in the court room standing up for cleaner water and on the ground educating the people of the Puget Sound region.

In 2011, Soundkeeper asks for your support to sustain our work in:

- resolving the Industrial Stormwater General Permit appeal to reduce industry pollution in Puget Sound from over 1400 facilities;
- organizing shoreline and waterway cleanups throughout Puget Sound to remove harmful marine debris; and
- patrolling our waters by boat and kayak and enforcing the Clean Water Act with citizen lawsuits against illegal polluters.

**If Soundkeeper is not at the table or on the water,
no one will defend Puget Sound.**

As a supporter of Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, I know you value orca whales, salmon, oysters and the incredible scenic and recreational opportunities Puget Sound has to offer. I ask you today to continue your support of Soundkeeper's work to protect Puget Sound from illegal pollution with a gift of \$1000, \$500, \$250, \$100 or any other contribution you prefer.

Best wishes for a holiday season full of happiness and contentment!

Sincerely,



Chris Wilke
Puget Soundkeeper & Executive Director

P.S. You can also give your gift online at www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/get-involved/make-a-donation and fill out our volunteer interest form at www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities.

For a tax-deductible donation for 2010, gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2010. Gifts of stock should be transferred by December 18, 2010.