



Tips for Testifying

- **Arrive early.** You will need to sign up for your opportunity to comment. If you don't arrive early, there may be a long wait.
- **Prepare.** There is three-minute time limit, so you should prepare two or three key points and practice. Review background information about this issue to familiarize yourself with the facts.
- **Identify yourself.** Start by stating your name for the record.
- **Clearly state your position and request action.** Give a clear and concise description of your position on the issue, and what EPA should do. This might include saying things such as: "I am alarmed by this rule-making;" "I oppose this action;" "don't roll back our water quality standards;" and/or "please don't rescind EPA's 2016 water quality standards for Washington."
- **Speak from your own experience.** Talk about how the policy in question impacts, or might impact, you. Do you like to eat fish from Puget Sound? If so, you are or could be harmed by this action. You can also tell EPA why you care about clean water.
- **Be respectful and courteous.** Follow the golden rule. Treat the hearing as a professional setting.
- **Stay within the time limit.** Time your testimony so that it will fit within 3 minutes, otherwise, your comment will be cut off and incomplete. If time runs out, it can be useful to skip to your position and your requested action, or a final strong point to leave with the audience.
- **Thank the decision-maker.** Close your presentation with a thank you to the hearing officer.

Suggested Talking Points for September 25th, 2019

- **EPA should not cater to polluters.** EPA has agreed to a petition filed by industrial polluters that want to weaken protections against toxic pollutants and known carcinogens, yet EPA's core responsibility is to protect the environment and human health from pollution.
- **The State of Washington and Tribes were not given notice and an opportunity to weigh in.** Washington State, the Department of Ecology, Tribes and more, have strongly objected to this rule-making. Tribes were also not consulted before EPA took action.
- **This is bad for our health.** Toxic chemicals like PCBs, Dioxin, DDT and more, harm human health and can cause cancer. The EPA's proposal will allow for more incidences of cancer in Washington and more toxic chemicals in our water and fish.
- **This is an environmental justice issue.** Tribes and fisher-communities that rely on locally caught fish for subsistence are already exposed to more toxics and will experience greater harm as a result of this rulemaking. This is plain wrong.
- **This is bad for the economy.** The natural systems of Puget Sound contribute tens of billions of dollars per year in recreational and outdoor opportunities, including fishing and shellfishing.
- **We don't want or need more toxic pollution in our waters!** It is contrary to common sense to go backwards instead of forwards when it comes to pollution. We need more protection, not less!
- **EPA is fudging the science.** The original standards were based on strong science and pulled from years of public comment and input. The changes proposed are subtle, but dangerous.
- **EPA should extend the comment deadline.** In order to give more persons the opportunity to provide feedback and comments, EPA should extend the deadline.