



March 4, 2014

Joelle Gore Acting Chief  
Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3)  
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Email: [joelle.gore@noaa.gov](mailto:joelle.gore@noaa.gov)

Re: Proposal to Defund Oregon "Coastal Zone Management Act"

Dear Ms. Gore,

My name is Chuck Erickson and I have lived in Oregon my entire life, 58 years. I have been active on many advisory boards for fisheries and watershed groups. I am writing you because I strongly support the proposal to disapprove Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program. This action is needed to help awaken Oregon government officials to the reality of not protecting our environment. Oregon has a long history of good ole boy politics that give a nod and wink to those who pollute our waterways.

Many of Oregon State Parks are releasing contaminants from outdated and poorly designed septic systems. These contaminants flow into nearby creeks. In my area, the offender is Sunset Bay State Park. The State Park solution to this problem is to post signs that the area is unsafe. One of my favorite places to walk is Whiskey Run Beach between Coos Bay and Bandon Oregon. There is a small creek that comes from the direction of Bandon Dunes golf course. Many times when we get close to this creek I can smell sewage and I suspect another poorly designed system is to blame. This same scenario is happening along the entire coastline of Oregon. Oregon's solution to this pollution was to implement the Oregon beach monitoring program where only a fraction of these pollution sources are tested. All we get for this program is a notice in the paper.

I live near the Coquille River. Every year when we get our heavy rains the cities of Myrtle Point and Powers dump raw sewage into the Coquille River. The good ole boy system of a nod and a wink has turned this river into a municipal sewer system for our salmon and steelhead fisheries. No one can harvest clams anymore. Oregon lacks an invertebrate species plan for Oregon's many rivers and bays. This plan is needed so we can assess the health of these systems. We have asked our government many times for this plan and they have refused. We believe this is being done so pollution will be kept hidden and the polluters can keep on polluting.

In Coos Bay, superfund cleanup sites at the Charleston Boat Yard the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay did not perform the mandatory cleanup testing to confirm it had completed the cleanup per 1998 agreement with EPA and 2001 Oregon DEQ, EPA Record of Decision. These contaminates not only hurt our shellfish and finned fish they also can hurt human health. People have been continuously harvesting clams in this area before Oregon received its 1859 Statehood. Oregon DEQ did not notify the EPA when the Port became non-compliant in 2002. It is now 2014 and the Port remains out of compliance through the good ole boy nod and wink system. DEQ has kept quiet and not notified the EPA. This is an environmental crime and the guilty parties remain free and continue polluting Coos Bay.

It is for these reasons and many others, I ask that the EPA and NOAA recommend defunding Oregon monies through Coastal Zone Management Act.

Sincerely,

