From: (b)(6)
To: EastWaterWayComments <EastWaterWayComments@epa.gov>
Date: 8/7/2023 3:26:58 PM
Subject: Comment on the East Waterway Proposed Plan

Dear Ms. Laura Knudsen,

I write to you as a citizen deeply concerned with the current state of the Duwamish River and invested in its restoration. This cleanup is long overdue to protect fish and wildlife, water quality, and the health of Tribal Nations and community members.

I urge you to implement the cleanup plan that most aggressively protects health and the environment. I write in support of the Preferred Alternative, but strongly believe that the East Waterway Proposed Plan must be strengthened by incorporating the following:

Source control: The East Waterway source control plan should include data from the Pollution Loading Assessment and should be released for public review. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Proposed Plan included a Source Control Strategy document with an action plan summary. This information is necessary to make meaningful comments on sediment cleanup for the East Waterway and should be included in the Proposed Plan.

Environmental justice: The Proposed Plan states that recreational fishing is minimal in the East Waterway. This fails to recognize the significance of this area for Georgetown and South Park community members. The Spokane Street Bridge is one of the most popular fishing locations in the Duwamish River, especially for low-income communities, and communities of color. This should be accurately reflected in the Proposed Plan.

In addition, the Preferred Alternative proposes Enhanced Natural Recovery instead of removing contaminated mud around the Spokane Street Bridge or West Seattle Bridge. This is concerning. Unless that polluted mud is removed, resident fish and shellfish may continue to accumulate high concentrations of PCBs in this area. This poses health risks. Many community members consume fish caught from the Spokane Street Bridge, regardless of fishing advisories.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the East Waterway Proposed Plan and for listening to the voices of community members in selecting the Preferred Alternative. With your help, we can ensure that this plan protects current and future generations and accelerates ecosystem recovery.

Regards,
(b)(6)
Seattle, WA 98115