

November 27, 2002

The Honorable Mark Doumit
House Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative Doumit:

As Chair of the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Task Force, I am pleased to send you the group's final report. The HPA Task Force was convened to respond to legislative direction in Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6387, Section 307 (23) for a thorough review of the HPA program and to recommend a fee structure and schedule for HPAs. Additionally, at the Governor's request in his partial veto of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2866, the Task Force addressed the issue of stormwater regulatory overlap.

In forwarding the Task Force's report to you, I want to express my appreciation to all Task Force participants for their impressive dedication to carrying out the group's charge. The Task Force was composed of members of Washington's business community, HPA project proponents, environmental interests, and government agency representatives, and developed our recommendations during the course of eight meetings between July and November 2002. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with recommendations on how to improve the management of Washington's environmental resources and, in particular, how to better protect fish life in our state through the HPA program. We hope these recommendations will be useful in future decision making.

Sincerely,

Russ Cahill, Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Enclosure: Hydraulic Project Approval Task Force Report to the Washington State Legislature

cc: Members, Senate Natural Resources, Parks and Shorelines Committee
Members, House Natural Resources Committee
Ron Schultz, Governor's Executive Policy Office
Jim Skalski, OFM
Jeff Koenings, WDFW