

Brenda S. Rule
1109 NE 98th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98664
brenneslechatea@yahoo.com
360-944-5930

January 15, 2006

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Assessment
Region 10 - OEA-095
Martha Lentz
1200 Sixth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101

David Michael Bertish, Chairman
Rosemere Neighborhood Association

Re: Support for the Petition to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Federal Recognition and Designation of the Troutdale Aquifer System as a Sole-Source Aquifer.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I submit this letter as a declaration of my support and endorsement for the federal recognition and designation of the Troutdale Aquifer System as a sole-source aquifer. I applaud the hard work and coordination of the many individuals and groups responsible for bringing forth this petition in the interest of all living things the aquifer currently serves, and of all living things it will serve for generations to come.

Knowledge can be an exceedingly heavy burden, demanding action from those whom shoulder their newfound wisdom. To understand the repercussions of failing to monitor and protect our groundwater then choosing not to do so would be unfathomable for it is not a matter of whether or not groundwater contamination will prove to be hazardous to the citizens and wildlife of this area, but when if we do not proceed with this critical request.

According to the Washington Department of Ecology there are "216 active cleanup and 12 federal Superfund sites in the proposed aquifer service area..." Federally-funded documents show there is a plume of ammonium perchlorate-contaminated groundwater emanating from an excavated landfill of what once held, among other things, illegally burned and detonated confiscated consumer fireworks at Camp Bonneville, a local past military site. How far the contamination has migrated no one quite knows for sure as is most likely the case with these other defiled sites. Who amongst us may fall victim to disease caused by careless and sheer disregard for our natural resources, and moreover, who already has?

The time to act is now. The time for responsible stewardship over our groundwater - the fundamental life-giving source of every living organism on Earth - is now. The time to leave a beneficial legacy for those yet to come is now.

I stand shoulder to shoulder with those whom have gone that extra mile to petition the United States Environmental Protection Agency requesting that the Troutdale Aquifer System be recognized and distinguished as the vital sole-source aquifer that it is, and hope that we will be found by future generations as a responsible community for having done so.

Thank you for your earnest consideration and subsequent action,

Brenda S. Rule