*The following comments:*

*Changed some of the language from active to passive, making it more engaging to the reader.*

*Deleted the reference to the TMDL since it is jargon.*

*Focused on the fact that funding is needed to continue the consensus process, which we have demonstrated to be successful.*

A report from Ecology shows that the SRRTTF has made measurable progress toward identifying, reducing and controlling PCBs and related toxic chemicals in the Spokane River. The report concludes that “the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force has removed 265 pounds of PCBs from soil, wastewater and stormwater, and eliminated the potential for another 18 pounds from reaching the river.” The past success of the SRRTTF has been possible largely as a result of state funding, which was matched by private dollars. As the SRRTTF leans more towards the implementation of control actions, continued progress depends upon direct funding of its efforts.

Our request is that you support an $800,000 biennium budget proposal to continue the progress that has been achieved in the Spokane River. Without state support, our ability to accomplish water quality improvements will be , negatively impacting NPDES permittees and the Spokane community. Continued funding supports our innovative consensus process which has shown to achieve large dividends in the region, addressing difficult environmental issues, by addressing both existing and future environmental problems.