



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

December 28, 2007

Ms. Liz Luce, Director
Department of Licensing
P.O. Box 9020
Olympia, WA 98507

RE: Regulation of Wetland and Soil Scientists

Dear Director ^{Liz}Luce:

Thank you for your letter of December 6, 2007, asking about the Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) position regarding the regulation of wetland and soil scientists. Ecology supports the voluntary state certification of wetland and soil science professionals in the State of Washington under a title act.

I understand that a group of wetland and soil science practitioners have requested a voluntary regulatory program that would:

- Set minimum standards for education and experience, and require ongoing education.
- Provide consumers with a listing of certified practitioners.
- Bind practitioners to a code of ethics.
- Establish an advisory board to provide regulatory oversight.

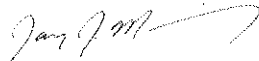
The credentialing of wetland and soil scientists will help provide consistency and accuracy in the field of wetland delineation and management by requiring practitioners to possess a minimum level of education and experience. It will also help consumers find qualified scientists who meet those minimum standards, and provide them with a venue to address poor or unprofessional work. Under the proposal, public employees would be exempt from the credentialing requirements.

We have reviewed the draft report. Ecology recommends that the final report and associated legislation clearly address the concerns expressed by some geologists, engineers, agronomists, and others regarding potential overlaps and conflicts with related professions.

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We look forward to tracking the issue as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay J. Manning", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jay J. Manning
Director

cc: Tom Clingman
Keith Phillips
Gordon White