(b) (6) [redacted] | Portland, OR 97231

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE
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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

I have lived in Portland for twenty-six years, and I manage patents for a living. The EPA's Portland Harbor proposal should be revised based on the most current scientific information, which shows that forty percent of pollutants have already been eliminated by the natural flow of the Willamette River. There is no excuse for the level of dredging called for in this proposal, which is based on obsolete data, especially given the substantial damage it would do to the Portland economy.

The Portland Harbor cleanup is likely to cost well over a billion dollars. We don't have the money right now. Our budget is already stretched, and it is a bad economy. Shutting down large portions of the river for around-the-clock construction would be detrimental to the local economy. Tax revenue would go down because of the potential to lose jobs and businesses leaving the area, meaning taxpayers who remain would have to be squeezed tighter than ever. My daughter is starting college in a year, so money is definitely something I'm concerned about.

I would like to be around when the stigma of containing a Superfund site is finally removed from Portland, but it looks like I might not be, since this project could last for decades. Very few people want to invest in a place they associate with hazardous waste, and it is not fair to leave Portland stuck with this label when a more timely solution is available. Dredging should be applied only to the most highly contaminated areas, with nature given the chance to take care of the rest.

Sincerely,

(b) (6) [redacted]