

**My name is Dallas Baker, I have been a resident of King County for over 20 years. I have been a Plumber for 35 years, and licensed in the State of Washington as a Commercial Journeyman Plumber. I am licensed as a Steam Engineering Boiler Operator in the City of Seattle; I am Buildings Operations Certified, and also certified as Program Manager, for Inspections, Repairs, Maintenance, Ordinance and Organization, and Cross Connections for Backflows.**

**The proposed fees and monitoring of septic systems are redundant and unnecessary.**

**There are already codes and laws in place to do this, but King County and/or the Local Jurisdiction are not enforcing the existing laws. I am happy to provide you with the sections of the Uniform Plumbing code that address these issues. The Plumbing code supercedes most all other codes, due public health and safety concerns.**

**Before installing a septic system (which is considered part of the Plumbing system), a permit must be obtained from the local jurisdiction. For permitting, the system must be**

**designed by a licensed State Certified Architect Engineer, the land must be 'perked', and the plan must be reviewed and approved by and fees paid to the local jurisdiction *before* the septic system is installed or a building is erected – it must also be inspected *after* installation.**

**Per the UPC (used by WA state): “A Plumbing system shall be maintained in conformance with the code under which it was installed; the OWNER or the OWNERS DESIGNATED AGENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE for maintenance of the plumbing system. The local jurisdiction carries out the functions of this code and when necessary makes an inspection to enforce the code for violations that make the premises unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous and/or hazardous”**

**So, the local jurisdiction ALREADY has the AUTHORITY to enter your premises or building to inspect, would already have approved the plans and any modifications, and would already have remedies under existing law for egress, inspection and fines for violations**

**Thank you.**

**OPTIONAL: As a Plumber, I've seen other issues that may more affect public health and safety than monitoring rural septic systems.**

**Here are two examples: (1) The State promotes the use of waterless urinals by city municipalities, presumably to save water. These use cartridges that are non biodegradable and thousands of these are currently disposed of in regular landfills – though they can contain human pathogens - but they are not treated or disposed of as hazardous waste.**

**These can pollute landfills, the results of which could also end up in Puget Sound. (2) As I mentioned, I have Certifications in Backflow prevention; for those not familiar with backflows – these prevent non-potable water from contaminating potable water. Backflow preventers need to be installed at the water meter, typically in commercial buildings. Failure to have working backflow preventers can cause things like Legionnaires disease and other waterborne diseases. I have seen commercial businesses in Issaquah, with backflow preventers**

that have not been inspected since their installation and there *ARE* supposed to be inspected annually.

Before the Health Department determines that annual inspections are needed to monitor septic systems as *potential* polluters, the Health Department should look into these other issues, and simply enforce existing codes and laws for which we already pay fees for plan reviews and inspections and approvals, and already pay property taxes.

Thank you.