

Deborah Rudnick

I want to thank the Department of Ecology for a clear and compelling articulation of priorities to mitigate the damages inflicted by VW in their falsification of NOx emission systems. This settlement is an opportunity to mitigate these damages and I appreciate that Ecology also recognizes this as an opportunity to invest in systems and processes that move us along the path to a cleaner energy economy.

I find the priorities identified in the plan to be appropriate and relevant. I particularly appreciate the attention paid to priorities which directly address the disproportionate burden that is placed on lower income communities that are exposed to higher levels of particulate. Because this is a settlement for issues of particulate and associated material pollution it is especially important that we address where these types of pollutants are disproportionately found. I also appreciate the emphasis on the possibilities for electrification of our ferry system: this priority both directly addresses substantive emissions associated with our marine vessels and also represents a sensible investment in measures that will save both money and energy.

Finally, I want to applaud Ecology for recognizing possibilities where these funds can be leveraged for matching grants for these dollars to go further in investing our state in a transition to clean energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.