

Den Wichar

Regional Haze Rule (RHR) is very powerful tool to achieve clean air and other co-benefits, when well implemented. Used to its fullest potential, the rule can bring clean air protections to Washington national parks, wilderness areas and communities. Very same pollutants that degrade views in Olympic and Mount Rainer national parks have significant respiratory and cardiovascular health impacts in many communities, and cause harm to fish, vegetation, and birds.

Considering Ecology's understanding of RHRs importance and significance, I am incredibly concerned that you may be working toward not requiring emission controls during this round of Regional Haze process for refineries, smelters, glass facilities, or pulp and paper industry.

Avoiding emission controls for these haze-polluting facilities that also drive other air and climate problems is unacceptable!

Inaction is irresponsible. We know that many sources of pollution are harming air quality in Washington's protected parks and wilderness areas, driving climate change and causing environmental injustices in communities that have borne the brunt of pollution for far too long. Regional Haze Rule is current best opportunity for Ecology and state of Washington to make good on its promises to lead on these issues.

I urge you, please, do not delay or avoid requirements of air pollution controls for haze-polluting facilities.