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There are few things that every human has in common -- but we share a climate and our very survival as a species is at stake as we strive to curb climate change.

The Climate Commitment Act (CCA) could bring great benefits to our state and the greater world if it achieves deep reductions in climate pollution, improved air quality, investments in clean transportation and clean energy, and community benefits with investments in overburdened communities. To do those things, CCA rules must do the following:

CCA rules must maintain the integrity of the cap. The cap is a critical element to this act and any compromises to the cap would defeat the purpose of the bill -- and result in further resentment and cynicism from the communities most harmed by emissions.

CCA investments must prioritize significant improvements in air quality of overburdened communities, especially Black, Indigenous and communities of color. The CCA requires that a minimum of 35% of overall investments directly benefit these communities. These investments must be thoughtfully designed with meaningful community input.

CCA's implementation process must collaborate with the Environmental Justice (EJ) Council and with overburdened communities. The rule should provide more clarity on how the Council and communities will be engaged in the development and implementation of the full program. Ecology should work with the EJ Council to determine the best processes for collaboration.