

Lawrence Luton

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Dear Mr. Joshua Grice WA Dept. of Ecology, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical rule that will shape implementation I understand the awkward position the Department of Ecology (DoE) is in regarding incorporation of guidance from the Environmental Justice Council. That said, unless advice from the EJC is given extra weight and power (beyond that of other public comments) in affecting DoE's implementation of the Climate Commitment Act, the reason for creating the EJC is undermined. The statute clearly states that the program should benefit overburdened communities and not cause environmental harm. The rule should be revised to: Articulate DoE's responsibilities for engaging with the EJC Clarify the authority of EJC to request rule language and under what circumstances DoE needs to agree to that request Clarify DoE's responsibility for evaluating and reducing impacts on overburdened communities; and Establish an explicit review process for how the program is impacting overburdened communities and ensure Ecology has information required to conduct such reviews and the authority to fix problems identified by those reviews. Thank you, Lawrence Luton 1321 S Crestline St Spokane, WA 99202