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As a mother and educator in Washington state, nothing is more important to me than restoring our climate to a livable state. The Climate Commitment Act is a very good piece of legislation, and it must be implemented effectively. In order to do that, please take heed of the following:

CCA rules must maintain the integrity of the cap. The ultimate goal of this law is to achieve our greenhouse gas limits and improve air quality, especially in overburdened communities. Ensuring that emissions do not exceed the cap is critical. When designing program details, maintaining the cap should be one of the primary goals.

CCA investments must prioritize significant improvements in air quality of frontline communities, especially Black, Indigenous and communities of color. For too long, these communities have been subject to racist planning, policies, and practices that place us at risk for chronic disease and lower our quality of life. The CCA requires that a minimum of 35% of overall investments directly benefit these communities. These investments must be community led and maximize cobenefits, including thriving, ecologically sound economies, tribal sovereignty, Black liberation, and cultural autonomy.

CCA's implementation process must collaborate with the Environmental Justice (EJ) Council and be led by 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 trusted community-based organizations, and community leaders to determine the best processes for collaboration.

We have no time to lose. The changes we make to decarbonizing can also address deeper social inequalities and public health issues, and we should take full advantage of this transformational moment in our way of life.