

## Elly McGahan

Dear Ms. Erin Torrone, Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed process to identify overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution. The Climate Commitment Act's directive to improve air quality in overburdened communities is critical to ensuring that the law functions as intended to reduce environmental health disparities. I appreciate Ecology's ongoing commitment to incorporating public input and developing a comprehensive framework. Identifying specific communities is a necessary step to ensure the focused and strategic allocation of resources. The Environmental Justice Task Force did the hard work of identifying at risk communities across the state and made it part of the WA Health Disparities Map: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>. I encourage the Department of Ecology to as much as possible, not narrow its definition of impacted communities to reduce scale, but think very broadly in terms of on-going impacts today and historical impacts. Living near highly traveled roads (I-5) and trucking corridors, industries, in wildfire and smoke storm areas which are now expanding, please think broadly and into the future on defining highly impacted. The identification cannot be static, as we continue to develop in response to increasing population, warehouse pressures that pair with increasing freight transportation needs, and growing into the WUI increasing wildfire and smoke risks. Consider the science of the impacts of climate change changing our atmosphere and wind flow patterns causing bad air to settle over regions. Who is impacted most by those conditions when we also institute backyard burn bans? Thank you for your consideration. Regards, Elly Claus-McGahan 4301 N Frace Ave Tacoma, WA 98407