



WASHINGTON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Washington State Department of Ecology
August 5, 2025

Re: Washington State Department of Ecology Environmental Justice Assessment - Funding Account Agency Request Legislation; Comments submitted electronically

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Ecology's environmental justice assessment for proposed agency request legislation to create dedicated funding accounts for the Laboratory Accreditation and Landfill Methane Reduction programs.

As an organization of health professionals, WPSR supports this proposal to move existing fees for the Laboratory Accreditation and Landfill Methane Reduction programs into dedicated funding accounts. We understand this proposal maintains current fee structures without changing fee calculation or payer responsibility. We appreciate the Department's intent to provide stable, predictable funding for these important environmental health programs. Stable funding for these programs ensures the Department can execute these programs in an equitable, consistent manner over time. Most importantly, stable investment in programs like these that help to create positive health outcomes demonstrates a commitment to the health of Washingtonians. WPSR supports this proposal because both programs provide significant health benefits:

- **Laboratory Accreditation Program:** This program's work to develop reliable environmental laboratory data is essential for monitoring air and water quality, detecting contamination, and protecting public health, particularly in vulnerable communities that often face disproportionate environmental burdens.
- **Landfill Methane Reduction Program:** This program's methane reduction efforts are critical for protecting both local air quality and global climate stability, with particular benefits for communities living near landfill facilities.
- **Stable health and environmental justice benefits:** Dedicated funding helps ensure consistent operation of programs that protect environmental and public health and supports consistent environmental monitoring and methane reduction efforts that particularly benefit overburdened communities, who often face higher exposures to health hazards.

We support sustainable funding mechanisms that allow these health-protective programs to fulfill their missions effectively and serve as reliable components of environmental health infrastructure.

On behalf of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility,
James Moschella
Climate and Health Program Manager

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility is a health professional-led advocacy organization of 6,000 members working to create a healthy, just, peaceful and sustainable world. We take on the gravest current threats to human health and survival - nuclear weapons, economic inequity, and the climate crisis.

