

## Senator Judy Warnick

I am writing on behalf of the small Eastern WA communities that have been identified as overburdened communities regarding air quality.

Eastern Washington is often subject to thick, heavy wildfire smoke as well as high concentrations of dust, as well as inversions and other meteorological conditions which contribute to unhealthy air quality.

However, as much as these communities are interested in improving air quality, I am concerned that the cure may be worse than the affliction. These communities are also interested in economic development and the ability to sustainably pursue creative opportunities to make the agriculture they rely on profitable. I am concerned that the unintended consequences of this rulemaking will stymie that crucial development.

The air quality issues identified by Ecology are exacerbated by environmental conditions outside of the control of these communities. I am concerned that they will still be subject to emission reduction obligations that are unrelated to the actual causes of the air quality and that will prevent them from pursuing economic opportunity.

Please consider clarifying that communities without significant industrial sources not be subject to reduction obligations. Additionally, I would ask that the rule recognize the difference between external sources and local sources. Please focus the rules on actual sources of pollution, versus the communities affected by air quality issues. Additionally, when crafting emission reduction obligations, please allow for future development. Finally, the identification of the sources of pollution must be based on actual data regarding local emissions, not generalized assumptions about those communities.

Seven of the 16 communities identified are in areas that are seeking future prosperity through innovative economic development related to the agricultural economy. I am concerned that emissions regulation will prevent future development and progress for these communities. Please consider adopting regulatory structures that will continue to allow for development as the rule continues to be crafted.

Thank you for your consideration,

Senator Judy Warnick  
13th Legislative District