

Memo

August 8, 2025

TO: Julie Robertson, Senior Policy Planner, Solid Waste Management Program, WA Dept. of Ecology

FM: Rebecca Singer, Director, King County Solid Waste Division

RE: Modernizing Washington's Litter Prevention and Cleanup Funding- Proposed Agency Request Legislation

The King County Solid Waste Division appreciates the opportunity to comment on Ecology's proposal to modernize the litter tax. We are supportive of increased funding for litter preventing and cleanup.

We would like to see the state pursue recommendations from Ecology's [2022 Statewide Litter Study](#), including an on-going, comprehensive litter prevention campaign. Additionally, the study shows that more than half of all roadside litter comes from unintentional littering – unsecured loads and vehicle debris. Ecology should prioritize the recommendations that address those issues such as requiring towing companies to remove all vehicle debris from accidents, promoting newer commercial waste collection trucks that minimize escaped trash, and improving enforcement for covered load requirements. We are interested in seeing these policy mechanisms included in the proposal.

We are supportive of increased funding for litter prevention and cleanup. That said, taxing construction and demolition materials will drive up the price for home and housing projects and taxing auto parts will drive up the price for vehicles. Taxing these categories will hit low-income community members hardest and won't penalize or provide a feedback loop for those causing the litter. Has Ecology considered other funding mechanisms or a temporary increase to ramp up litter enforcement programs and drive funding from the source of litter? We are interested in discussing a broad set of funding options for this issue.