



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47890 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7890

Tel: 360-236-4030 • 711 Washington State Relay

May 11, 2023

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader, Urban Indian Health Organization, Recognized American Indian Organization, Public Health Officials, and Indian Country Professional:

SUBJECT: *Consultation on Environmental Health Disparities Map Closure*

Please be advised, consultation for the [Environmental Health Disparities map](#) held May 4th, 2023, has closed. Consultation in response to the passage of the [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act](#), including [RCW 70A.02.100\(2\)](#), required the Washington State Department of Health to offer [RCW 43.376 Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian tribes](#) on the development of the Environmental Health Disparities map under RCW [43.70.815](#).

The need for consultation was also raised by the [Environmental Justice Council](#) councilmembers serving in Tribal seats. As a result of the consultation, and the many months of conversation, collaboration, and tribal roundtables, our commitment to ongoing collaboration on this issue is unwavering.

The Washington State Department of Health looks forward to continued collaboration on this important issue. In consultation we committed to incorporate feedback and mitigating concerns as shared in the enclosed presentation. As the map is being improved iteratively, there are many opportunities to guide its development and provide input.

We will ask that you engage in ongoing collaboration and consultation as we work to improve the Environmental Health Disparities map as intended by the Healthy Environment for All, [Climate Commitment](#), and [Clean Energy Transformation](#) Acts. This includes providing input on current measures and development of new measures that reflect tribal values, recommending prioritization of new measures, and reviewing draft guidance that the map team develops for state agencies and others using the map to guide funding decisions and programmatic work.

If you should have any questions, please contact Candice Wilson, our agency's Tribal Policy Director, by telephone at 260-819-7626 or by email at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov.

Best,

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health

Enclosure: Environmental Health Disparities map consultation presentation

cc: Patrick DePoe (Makah), former Environmental Justice Council Co-Chair
The Hon. Sylvia Miller, Puyallup Indian Tribe
The Hon. Misty Napeahi, Tulalip Tribes
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health, Department of Health
Laura Johnson, Office Director, Environmental Public Health Sciences
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health