



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

July 27, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

SUBJECT: Department of Health Implementation of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5141—
Implementing recommendations of the environmental justice task force

In accordance with Chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, the Department of Health (DOH) collaborates with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people. Therefore, please be advised we are developing a plan to implement Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5141 – Implementing recommendations of the environmental justice task force, the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act.

Purpose

In its 2021 session, the Washington State Legislature passed the [HEAL Act](#) and Governor Inslee signed the bill into law. This legislation was not requested by DOH as part of our policy/budget package for the session. However, DOH was mandated by the legislature to implement the HEAL Act. This implementation will include DOH staffing the Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council). Our implementation of this bill will happen concurrently with the Governor's Office and Governor's Office of Indian Affairs as they work with tribal leaders to appoint tribal representatives to the EJ Council (see Craig Bill's letter from July 16, 2021). DOH anticipates the first EJ Council members will be appointed in the fall of 2021, and its first meeting will be convened by January 1, 2022.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations

We would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share, including whether the implementation of this legislation will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native people, Indian Health Program, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copies, Comments, and Questions

Our division will make copies of materials related to the implementation of this legislation upon your request as they become available. To request a copy of the materials specific to the action, or to provide comments, please contact me by telephone at 360-236-3325 or by email at laura.johnson@doh.wa.gov.

Please contact Tamara Fife, our agency's Tribal Relations Director, by telephone at 360-870-8903 or by email at: tamara.fife@doh.wa.gov if you would like to request a formal consultation with the agency or if you have tribal-affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Johnson', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Laura Johnson, Office Director, Environmental Public Health Sciences

cc: Lauren Jenks, MPH
Umair Shah, MD, MPH
Tamara Fife, MPH