



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Washington State Board of Health

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

December 17, 2014

Michael Yost, MS, PhD  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
University of Washington  
1959 NE Pacific Avenue, Box 357234  
Seattle, WA 98195

Re: Center of Excellence on Latina Environmental Health Disparities

Dear Dr. Yost:

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities is pleased to provide this letter in strong support for the University of Washington Center of Excellence on Latina Environmental Health Disparities. The combination of research and outreach efforts that improve the health of Latinas in Washington state is a very important area for ongoing and new partnerships. Moreover, the Center's research collaboration with the UW Latino Center for Health distinguishes this as a culturally-responsive endeavor. The high rates of environmental health disparities, your previous research on environmental health in the Northwest, and the communities' prioritization and partnership around these issues make an impressive case for this new Center.

The Health Disparities Council is responsible for developing recommendations to eliminate the state's persisting health inequities. Environmental hazards and the resulting health inequities have been a priority for the Council. The proposed Center will provide the needed evidence on the complex relationships between air pollution exposures, environment, social and work-related stresses that the Council can use in developing its recommendations. We look forward to seeing the results of the Center's research translated into useful and practical information for the Latina communities in our state.

We enthusiastically endorse this project and look forward to working with you and your community and academic research team on this important and worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely,

Emma Medicine White Crow, Chair