

**From:** [zack gold P.4](#)  
**To:** [DOH WSOBH Health Disparities Council](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE 9/11/2020  
**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 12:40:03 PM

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Dear Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities Environmental Justice Task Force,

My name is Dr. Zachary Gold and I am a research scientist at the University of Washington and member of the local UAW 4121. Myself and the UAW 4121 work in solidarity to advocate for equity, fair working conditions, and to orient Washington's higher education institutions toward racial and environmental justice. I wish to proproviding my personal support for the proposed EJ Task Force recommendations:

Ensure the state studies and reports environmental health disparities, together with communities, to determine areas of highest burden and greatest need of pollution reduction

Remove barriers to community engagement and participation in environmental justice with adequate resources which may include childcare, food, access to broadband, bilingual materials, and other accessibility measures

Ensure that environmental spending which includes work projects, whether private or public, have high labor standards and contract with women, veteran, and/or minority-owned businesses

Investments, grants, and revenue related to environmental projects should support a reduction in environmental health disparities

Incorporate environmental justice into state environmental laws, including the Growth Management Act

enhance efforts to engage and communicate with communities in thoughtful and meaningful ways accounting for barriers to participation for impacted communities.

Recognize that environmental health disparities are a result of historic and present-day white supremacy. Establish a task force or committee, together with BIPOC communities, to develop policy proposals to repair multigenerational harms.

Addressing environmental justice during the COVID pandemic and ongoing climate change is critical to ensure health equities in the state of Washington. The time to take bold decisive actions is now. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Gold