

June 18, 2026

Re: Proposed HEAL Amendment Briefing, Special Meeting

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, & Professionals,

In May 2026, the Environmental Justice Council (Council) received a request from Representative Reeves to meet to discuss potential amendments to the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act (chapter 70A.02 RCW) this legislative session. Following the initial meeting, the Council prepared a briefing which was reviewed by Representative Reeves and her Office for accuracy (attached). The Council wants to ensure we meaningfully engage with Tribal Nations early and throughout legislative session in alignment with its [Statement on Tribal Sovereignty; Self-Determination; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent](#). The Council has begun coordinating with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, State Agencies, and Representative Reeves to encourage broad alignment with the Centennial Accord, Executive Order 25-10, and associated laws, policies, agreements with Tribes. The Council has not taken a position in support or opposition of amending the HEAL Act at this time.

The Environmental Justice Council will be holding a special meeting on June 23, 2026, from 1:30pm-3:00pm on Zoom, to brief the full Council, Tribes, communities, partners, and the general public and begin early discussions. This will be a public meeting as required by the Open Public Meetings Act ([Chapter 42.30 RCW](#)). At this meeting, there will be a dedicated time to hear from Tribal Nations separate from the public comment period to provide initial statements. The link to join the meeting, agenda and any meeting materials will be sent to Tribal Leaders and available on our website Monday, June 22, 2026, and a recording of the meeting will be available on our website after the meeting.

While there are some limitations under the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), the Council works with Tribal Nations on an individual basis to engage directly with the Council.

We can arrange the following meetings:

- Dialogue with the Environmental Justice Council Executive Committee or another combination of Councilmembers (under a quorum)
- Full Environmental Justice Council membership in a listen and learn capacity (cannot discuss actions)

Contact Sierra Red Bow (Oglala), Tribal Community Engagement Strategist by emailing sierra.redbow@ejc.wa.gov or calling 564-669-5791 to engage with the Environmental Justice Council. Tribes can also contact Representative Reeves' office directly by emailing Kristine.Reeves@leg.wa.gov and her legislative assistant Thalia.Corona@leg.wa.gov.

This letter has been sent to the Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Tribal Council support staff at each Tribe with plans to forward to Tribal Natural Resource Directors, Health Directors, Lobbyists and other relevant staff and partners. Contact us to review, add, or update the points of contact for your Nation's Leadership & Staff.

Respectfully on behalf of our Executive Committee Members,

Jarred-Michael Erickson

Co-Chair, Eastern Washington Tribal Representative, Environmental Justice Council

Tatiana Brown

Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Council

CC: Senator Jeremy Wilbur (Swinomish Tribe), Council Member, EJ Council

Cristina González Torres, Executive Committee Member, EJ Council

David Mendoza, Executive Committee Member, EJ Council

Sierra Rotakhina, Manager, EJ Council

Sierra Red Bow, Tribal & Community Engagement Strategist, EJ Council

Gordon James, Acting Executive Director, GOIA

JT Austin, Natural Resources Policy & Legislative Affairs Director, GOIA