

Environmental Justice Council

Activities in Response to Potential HEAL Amendments

Council Activities

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| May 2026 | The Environmental Justice Council was contacted by Representative Kristine Reeves about her plans to amend the HEAL Act in the 2027 Legislative Session. |
| May 12, 2026 | Council staff and Co-Chair Tatiana Brown met with Representative Reeves to learn more about her plans. |
| May 14, 2026 | Representative Reeves convened a group of partners and asked everyone in attendance to help document HEAL successes, challenges, and policy solutions, and to come to the table with creative ideas to improve the law by making it more effective, efficient, and sustainable. The Environmental Justice Council Co-Chairs and staff were invited to this meeting. Representative Reeves shared her plan to convene partners monthly throughout the interim for these discussions. |
| June 11, 2026 | Council staff attended the second monthly partner meeting that Representative Reeves convened. The July meeting was cancelled. |
| June 19, 2026 | The Council created and shared a briefing document about legislative efforts to possibly amend the HEAL Act in order to inform Tribes, Communities, the public, and partners. |
| June 23, 2026 | The Council held a special meeting to inform Council Members, Tribes, communities, partners, and the public about efforts to possibly amend the HEAL Act and to obtain initial thoughts and perspectives on if and how the Council should engage in those efforts. The Council adopted a motion (PDF) directing staff and Council Members to participate in discussions on HEAL Act amendments to provide background on successes and challenges of HEAL implementation as well as ideas to address concerns as they see it. The motion also directs staff to work |

with Representative Reeves to meaningfully engage Tribes and frontline communities.

- July 28, 2026** Environmental Justice Council Manager, Sierra Rotakhina, emailed Representative Reeves to provide a [summary \(PDF\)](#) of the June 23rd special meeting and to request an update on the Tribal and community engagement Representative Reeves has already done as she considers possible changes to the HEAL Act, and what her engagement plans are moving forward.
- July 28, 2026** Environmental Justice Council staff and Co-Chair Tatiana Brown attended a meeting convened by Front and Centered where attendees shared updates they have been hearing about the efforts to amend the HEAL Act, ideas for possible amendments to consider, and ideas for how to support and strengthen the HEAL Act. Front and Centered has not firmed up their proposed amendments and will continue to engage the EJC and staff in their partner process.
- August 13, 2026** Council staff attended the third monthly partner meeting that Representative Reeves convened.

Opportunities to Engage and Next Steps

- The Council will be holding a Tribal Forum and a Community Forum in September to talk about the Council's 2027 budget recommendations and policy positions and the potential impacts, risks, and benefits of Representative Reeves' effort to consider possible changes to amend the HEAL Act. You can find more information about the forums on the [Council Meeting Page](#).
- You can also reach out directly to Representative Reeves' office by emailing Kristine.Reeves@leg.wa.gov and her legislative assistant Thalia.Corona@leg.wa.gov.