



The CURB Pollution Act

Communities that have historically borne the worst effects of pollution due to redlining and institutional racism shouldn't continue to bear the ongoing harm being inflicted on their health, well-being, and even life expectancy today. Yet under current laws, the process that permits businesses to pollute is not required to consider the effects of our history of environmental racism and the cumulative health risk and burden the most impacted communities face. We all suffer when we allow these environmental injustices to continue, but we can do something about it:

The CURB (Cumulative Risk Burden) Pollution Act



Requires the consideration of health impacts that are caused by certain pollutants and which currently go unaddressed by the permitting process.



Specifies communities that have been disproportionately harmed by pollution for specific protections.



Requires a lead agency to conduct a **detailed environmental justice impact statement** that analyzes what cumulative effects a potentially impactful project would have on a pollution burdened community. This information would be used in any decision making related to permitting said project.



Elevates voices of community members through frontline **community participation in the permit evaluations process.**



Requires the denial of certain air pollution permits for a limited number of new facilities seeking to build in communities ranked 9–10 on the [Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map](#).

Applying the Principles of HEAL in Permitting

Washington State recently passed the Healthy Environmental for All (HEAL) Act, which embeds environmental justice into state agency policies, budgets, and plans. CURB builds on HEAL by requiring that environmental justice be directly applied to pollution permitting.

Multiple states are now adopting legislation that adds stringency to and enhances public participation in the pollution permitting process, all with the express acknowledgment that cumulative impacts must be dealt with. **Washington has a chance not only to join these states, but to help lead the path going forward for the nation.**

Front and Centered is a diverse coalition of Washingtonians who come together to advance equity, climate justice, and environmental justice. Through our capacity building, leadership support, research and development, policy analysis, and advocacy, we are the largest and most powerful coalition of “frontline communities”—i.e. communities of color, Indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, and people with lower incomes—who are advancing climate and environmental justice in Washington and ensuring a Just Transition for all.

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