

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, organized environmental justice protests took shape as a national movement following demonstrations in Warren County, North Carolina, in 1982 to oppose the state's decision to dump hazardous waste in a predominantly African American neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, nine years after the Warren County protests, the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit took place in Washington, D.C., bringing together Black, Indigenous, Latino, Pacific Islander, and Asian American activists and delegates from across the country to recognize the effects of targeting marginalized communities for toxic waste disposal, and over the years, environmental justice activists and organizations have played a critical role in holding governments and businesses accountable for fixing environmental hazards that impact low-income communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, Washington took historic steps towards eliminating environmental and health disparities by passing the Healthy Environment of All (HEAL) Act—the first statewide law to create a coordinated state agency approach to environmental justice – and elected officials put environmental justice and equity at the center of climate policy and community health by passing the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which caps and reduces greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from Washington's largest emitting sources and industries and directs as much as 40 percent of resulting revenues into benefits for over-burdened communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognizing that air pollution and toxic diesel exhaust from transportation systems cause detrimental impacts to vulnerable communities, Washington is working towards a transition to all new car sales being zero emission vehicles by 2030, and has joined 18 other states to form plans and policies to rapidly advance electric truck and bus adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington state, along with its federal partners, acknowledges the importance of water quality, and has fought to restore protective federal water quality standards to better protect the health of Washingtonians and Tribal members who fish; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington state recognizes the institutional and structural discrimination that harms communities of color and low-income households and has taken incremental steps to ensure that environmental justice and equity standards are incorporated into state laws and agency decision-making, and recognizes the complexities of environmental justice and the importance of learning from and including communities in decision-making processes to ensure equal protection from environmental hazards and equitable access to clean air, water, and land;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby recognize August 29, 2022, as

### *Environmental Justice Day*

in Washington, and I encourage all Washingtonians to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee

