



March 31, 2021

House Appropriations Committee
John L. O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: Support for HEAL Act (E2SSB 5141)

Dear Committee Members:

PCC is writing to express our support for E2SSB 5141—an act to reduce environmental and health disparities and improve the health of all Washington state residents by implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force, also known as the HEAL Act.

PCC Community Markets is the nation's largest community-owned food market, with over 90,000 active members, 15 stores across the Puget Sound region and over \$300 million in sales. PCC's vision is to inspire and advance the health and well-being of people, their communities and our planet. It is our mission to ensure that good food nourishes the communities we serve while cultivating vibrant local, organic food systems. A critical part of PCC's work is to advocate for the policies that can help further this vision and mission.

For too long many in our communities have suffered the disparate impacts of environmental degradation, climate change, and toxic pollution. To correct these environmental injustices, it is imperative that we find ways to address not only the sources of the environmental degradation and pollution through proactive and protective legislation and regulations, but also prioritize ways to ensure that our state policies and government agencies are incorporating environmental justice principles into their budgets, fiscal processes, and implementation of agency functions.

Because the HEAL Act seeks to require this critical component of ensuring consideration of environmental justice principles and conducting environmental justice assessments for significant agency action, PCC encourages the House Appropriations Committee to move forward with this bill and provide full fiscal support.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our state and making it a safer place for our communities through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Aimee M. Simpson, J.D.

Director of Advocacy & Product Sustainability
PCC Community Markets