

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 19, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

Thank you for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) continued monitoring and cleanup efforts at the Harbor Island Superfund Site. We write in support of the EPA's decision to pause the release of its Proposed Plan for cleanup of the East Waterway. We are also strongly urging additional community engagement measures beyond current plans.

Decades of industrial uses have led to high levels of pollutants in the East Waterway, including PCBs, arsenic, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), mercury, and tributyltin. The contamination poses ecological and human health risks. It has jeopardized tribal and community use of the East Waterway, including recreational and commercial fishing. The decades of industrial pollution and contamination have disproportionately impacted the predominately low-income communities of color that live around the Duwamish River.

The completion of a Proposed Plan, and ultimately the issuance of a Record of Decision, is an important step towards cleanup of the East Waterway. We strongly urge the EPA to set cleanup standards to the highest and most protective standards feasible. The Proposed Plan must also be developed with extensive community engagement, especially with frontline impacted communities. While we understand the complexities of this project, we are disappointed at the lack of sufficient community involvement thus far.

Community members throughout the Duwamish River face a multitude of environmental and public health challenges, including some of the worst air quality in the Seattle region, disproportionate health impacts, and shorter lifespans than surrounding areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges. In addition, they are navigating simultaneous new developments related to cleanup actions at the Lower Duwamish Superfund Site and the Harbor Island Superfund Site. Given the highly technical nature of the cleanup plans, we strongly urge the EPA to provide enhanced public participation and engagement throughout this process. This should include consideration of the EPA's Technical Assistance Grant program to enhance community members' ability to engage in the East Waterway plan.

We strongly support the EPA's decision to pause the release of a Proposed Plan until adequate community engagement and input can be completed. As the process moves forward, the EPA should use all the tools at its disposal to make information about its plans accessible to the community and public input as seamless as possible, including fact sheets and recorded videos in

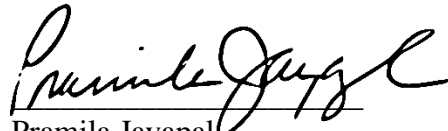
multiple languages, public meetings, and information presented in print and online. Further, we urge the EPA to include community input in the final Proposed Plan as those on the frontlines living in this area have a wealth of knowledge about what needs to be done. The community has expressed strong interest in working with you on the plan and we are available to facilitate those conversations if needed.

We applaud your focus on environmental justice and equity. We stand ready to work with you to ensure these principles are applied as cleanup plans are developed and advanced for the East Waterway.

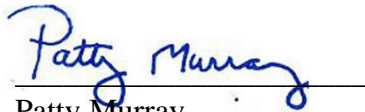
Sincerely,

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Adam Smith
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pramila Jayapal", written over a horizontal line.

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patty Murray", written over a horizontal line.

Patty Murray
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria Cantwell", written over a horizontal line.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator