

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4482**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECOMMENDING THE CITY OF TACOMA ASSESS THE IMPACTS OF LARGE  
PROJECTS THROUGH HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, assessing public health starts by examining where we live, learn, and work, and environmental and socio-economic factors play a significant role in determining our health; and

**WHEREAS**, large industrial projects, such as the Northwest Innovation Works' methanol plant currently proposed in the Port of Tacoma, can have unintended consequences on both the environment and public health that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process may not adequately address or evaluate; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments are a nationally and internationally accepted practice to evaluate the potential health effects of a project before it is built; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments can identify cumulative impacts on the community and public health, including potential impacts to vulnerable and underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments bring potential public health benefits and impacts, and mitigation of potential impacts, into focus for thoughtful consideration and deliberation during the decision-making process; and

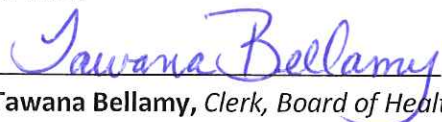
**WHEREAS**, established best practices and nationally-known professionals are available to conduct Health Impact Assessments, and multiple Health Impact Assessments have been successfully conducted in Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of all Pierce County residents, particularly vulnerable and underserved communities, is affected by environmental threats and socio-economic factors; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:**

- A. The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health encourages the City of Tacoma to require completion of a Health Impact Assessment for the proposed Northwest Innovation Works methanol plant and for all future large projects either as part of, or in coordination with, the environmental impact statement (EIS).

ATTEST:

  
Tawana Bellamy, Clerk, Board of Health

  
Victoria Woodards, Chair, Board of Health

April 6, 2016  
Date of Adoption

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4483**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECOMMENDING PIERCE COUNTY, AND THE CITIES AND TOWNS THEREIN, USE  
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REVIEW OF  
PROPOSED ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.**

**WHEREAS**, assessing public health starts by examining where we live, learn, and work, and environmental and socio-economic factors play a significant role in determining our health; and

**WHEREAS**, private and public projects, regulations, policies, or plans can have unintended consequences for public health which may not be adequately assessed under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RWC) and implementing rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC); and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments are a nationally and internationally accepted practice to evaluate the potential health effects of proposed projects, regulations, policies and plans; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments can identify cumulative impacts on the community and public health, including potential impacts to vulnerable and underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments bring potential public health benefits and impacts, and mitigation of potential impacts, into focus for thoughtful consideration and deliberation during the decision-making process; and

**WHEREAS**, established best practices and nationally-known professionals are available to conduct Health Impact Assessments, and multiple Health Impact Assessments have been successfully conducted in Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of all Pierce County residents, particularly vulnerable and underserved communities, is affected by environmental threats and socio-economic factors.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:**

- A. The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health hereby determines that the potential impacts of projects, regulations, policies and plans on community members and public health should be fully assessed and addressed prior to approval or adoption; and
- B. The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health recommends that Pierce County and the cities and towns therein, require the use of a "Health Impact Assessment Screening Tool" in coordination with the SEPA checklist to identify the magnitude and scope of probable social, economic and environmental health impacts to the general population as well as to vulnerable or underserved communities; and

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- C. The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health recommends that Pierce County and the cities and towns therein, require completion of a Health Impact Assessment for projects, regulations, policies and plans either requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or identified by the Health Impact Assessment Screening Tool as actions likely to pose significant impacts to the general population or to vulnerable or underserved communities.

ATTEST:

  
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Tawana Bellamy, Clerk, Board of Health

  
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Victoria Woodards, Chair, Board of Health

April 6, 2016  
Date of Adoption

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4484**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECOMMENDING THE LEGISLATURE REVISE STATE LAW TO MANDATE THE USE  
OF HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REVIEW OF  
PROPOSED ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.**

**WHEREAS**, assessing public health starts by examining where we live, learn, and work; and environmental and socio-economic factors play a significant role in determining our health; and

**WHEREAS**, private and public projects, regulations, policies, or plans can have unintended consequences for public health that the existing review process under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C RCW) and implementing rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC) may not adequately address or evaluate; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments are a nationally and internationally accepted practice to evaluate the potential health effects of proposed projects, regulations, policies and plans; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments can identify cumulative impacts on the community and public health, including potential impacts to vulnerable and underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Health Impact Assessments bring potential public health benefits and impacts, and mitigation of potential impacts, into focus for thoughtful consideration and deliberation during the decision-making process; and

**WHEREAS**, established best practices and nationally-known professionals are available to conduct Health Impact Assessments, and multiple Health Impact Assessments have been successfully conducted in Washington State, and

**WHEREAS**, the health of Washington residents, particularly vulnerable and underserved community members, is affected by environmental threats and socio-economic factors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:**

- A. The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health hereby determines that the potential impacts of projects, regulations, policies and plans on community members and public health should be fully assessed and addressed prior to approval or adoption; and
- B. The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health requests the Legislature amend Chapter 43.21C RCW to require (1) consideration of potential community and public health impacts when making a threshold determination under RCW 43.21C.033, either by use of a "Health Impact Assessment Screening Tool" or equivalent approach, and (2) require completion of a Health Impact Assessment for proposed projects, regulations, policies and plans either requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or identified by the Health Impact Assessment Screening Tool as likely to pose significant health impacts to the general population or to vulnerable or underserved communities.

ATTEST:

  
Tawana Bellamy, Clerk, Board of Health

  
Victoria Woodards, Chair, Board of Health

April 6, 2016,  
Date of Adoption