Zain Dana Harper

Seattle, WA (Local / Hybrid / Remote Open) | zaindharper@gmail.com | harperz9.github.io
github.com/HarperZ9 | linkedin.com/in/zaindanaharper | orcid.org/0009-0001-7175-5393

Public Accountability, Environmental Operations & Technology Policy

November 26, 2026 | Application: Public-Sector Operations, Environmental & Technology Policy

Dear Hiring Manager,

Public institutions need people who can walk a physical site, listen carefully to residents, and verify whether a policy or technical system actually holds up under real-world scrutiny. For the past 11 years in the Seattle area, I have operated and led commercial tree-care crews under high-hazard conditions while teaching homeowners about tree biology, structural risk, and the plain-language reasons behind every safety intervention. Alongside that field work, I built an open public-interest research archive of 30 empirical studies across 13 fields (13 Zenodo DOIs) designed around transparent evidence and public accountability.

What sets my approach apart is insistence on honest verification over polished claims. Twelve of my 30 published studies are explicit null results, published openly so weak assumptions are retired instead of buried. I authored Who Knew First, an accountability investigation across nine AI-agent disclosure incidents, and built CMMNS (1,735 automated tests), a local-first web archival and provenance tool that requires no user accounts or tracking. On harperz9.github.io, I also shipped automated, data-driven accessibility descriptions across 148/148 public research charts so complex findings stay legible to everyone.

Because I work across both living ecosystems and technical systems, I bridge groups that rarely speak the same language: field crews, residents, policy analysts, and software maintainers. External maintainers across 34 open-source projects, including the Free Law Project (#820), have merged 41 of my pull requests, demonstrating practical collaboration inside established civic and technical teams.

I prefer to be evaluated on real work rather than abstract quizzes. Every study, public tool, and audit record is open for immediate inspection at harperz9.github.io and github.com/HarperZ9, and I would welcome a brief 15-minute conversation to walk through a concrete policy, environmental, or public-accountability work sample tailored to your agency.

30-Second Work-Sample Proof Strip

- **Field & Public Communication:** 11 years leading Seattle-area tree-care crews, high-hazard site control, and plain-language homeowner education.
- **Open Evidence & Civic Tools:** 30 empirical studies (12 honest nulls, 13 DOIs), CMMNS provenance archival (1,735 tests), and 148/148 accessible chart specs.

Sincerely,

Zain Dana Harper
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