

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
United States House of Representatives
Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House of
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

We write in support of the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021). We commend Chairman Grijalva and Rep. McEachin for creating an inclusive and open process to develop legislation that concretely addresses vast and longstanding inequities in our environmental protections. In process and in substance, the Environmental Justice for All Act is a significant step forward to confront the legacy of environmental racism and disparate impacts affecting frontline communities nationwide. We urge committee members to support and advance this legislation as soon as possible.

The Environmental Justice for All Act is the result of a process that prioritizes the voices of the communities most harmed by environmental degradation. It represents a bold and necessary shift in the way we create federal environmental policy— it is the result of a serious and years-long effort to genuinely listen to the expertise and concerns of the very people experiencing the worst of pollution. Its drafters carefully and transparently crafted legislation that reflected those experiences and expertise while creating concrete and significant improvements to our environmental protections systems.

Environmental justice communities – communities of color, low-income communities, and Tribal and indigenous communities, as defined in the bill — continue to experience disproportionate levels of exposure and vulnerability to toxic pollution and environmental risks. To combat this reality, the bill would mandate bold actions that protect the health and safety of communities that are forced to carry the vast majority of the burden from our nation’s historical and current reliance on dirty fuels, toxic substances, and exploitative practices. It also would invest in the same communities so that they can have broader access to cleaner transportation, safer food and green spaces. Moreover, it would redistributes the burden by having the same exploitative industries— oil, gas and coal companies who have profited from poisoning our air and water— pay for these new investments with additional fees.

Notably, the bill would give communities the right to hold polluters accountable in court when these polluters’ actions result in a discriminatory impact. For far too long, polluters have been able to discriminate against people of color, forcing them to prove a discriminatory intent even when the impacts of their actions were clearly racist. The bill recognizes that front-line communities do not live with the intent of the polluters’ racist practices; communities are forced to live with the impacts of those practices and they should have the right to remedy the impacts of this racism in court.

Many attempts were made over the last few years to violate or dismantle bedrock environmental protections like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but this bill offers a counter by giving environmental justice communities a voice in infrastructure development. The bill restructures current permitting processes so that cumulative impacts are considered properly and consistently as new infrastructure develops in environmental justice communities. The bill also directs federal agencies to seek Tribal government input in the NEPA process, and to ensure that Indian Tribes are invited to hold the status of a cooperating agency for proposed actions that might impact their reservation lands and

sacred sites. Further, the bill codifies 2016 EPA guidance on consultation and coordination with Indian Tribes and 1997 Council on Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice under NEPA. Taking a page from the process used to create the bill, the legislation would ensure that environmental justice communities most impacted by infrastructure projects have influence over the permitting process.

Centered on the simple premise that everyone has the right to drink clean water, breathe clean air, and live without fear of the poisonous effects of toxic chemicals, the Environmental Justice for All Act and the process used to create it, stand as an example to follow and significant step to end environmental racism. Setting strong new norms, it makes significant investments to limit and clean up the toxic pollution that has plagued environmental justice communities for decades. Concurrently, it invests in the same communities so that they have equitable access to emerging resources and technologies that should be equitably available to them as our nation recommits itself to addressing our health, safety, and the climate crisis.

The undersigned organizations are proud to support the Environmental Justice for All Act. We urge all House Committees with jurisdiction over this legislation to support it as well and to act expeditiously in order to bring this important bill to the House floor. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Raul Garcia
Earthjustice

Donna Detweiler
Albuquerque Mennonite Church

Laura Neish
350 Bay Area Action

Katie Huffling
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Patricia Hine
350 Eugene

Peniel Ibe
American Friends Service Committee

Carolyn C. Barthel
350 Mass

Roxanne Blackwell
American Society of Landscape Architects

Emily Johnston
350 Seattle

Charles Robles
Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps

JL Andrepont, MPA, PhDc
350.org

Dori Peralta Baker
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition-YKM

Athena Christodoulou Adelante
Progressive Caucus

Heather Cantino
Athens County's Future Action Network

Kyle Crider
Alabama Interfaith Power & Light

Ted Glick
Beyond Extreme Energy

Pamela Miller
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Lisa Arkin
Beyond Toxics

Mark Hefflinger
Bold Alliance

Lisette van Vliet
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

Groger McNew
Cambio Inc.

Elizabeth Alex
CASA

Cathleen Kelly
Center for American Progress

Brett Hartl
Center for Biological Diversity

Dr. Sacoby Miguel Wilson
Center for Community Engagement,
Environmental Justice and Health

Thomas Fox
Center for Environmental Health

Darya Minovi
Center for Progressive Reform

Catherine Garoupa White
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Julie Waterman
City Parks Alliance

Kim Gaddy
Clean Water Action

Esteban Arenas-Pino
Climate Justice Alliance

Laura Gardner
Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast

Rabbi Daniel Swartz
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Ruth Santiago
Comite Dialogo Ambiental, Inc.

Elaine Cimino
Common Ground Community Trust

Sofia Martinez
Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and
Mora County

David Feinman
Conservation Lands Foundation

Naina Panthaki
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions

Karyn Bigelow
Creation Justice Ministries

Dahlia Rockowitz
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Kyli Wagner
Defend Our Future

Cameron Walkup
Defenders of Wildlife

Omar Sarabia
Defiende Nuestra Tierra

Hazel James
Dine' Centered Research Evaluation

Yolanda Whyte
Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics

Bianca Sopoci-Belknap
Earth Care

Mary Gutierrez
Earth Ethics, Inc.

Lauren Pagel
Earthworks

Bianca Encinias
El Chante: Casa de Cultura

Kendra Hughes
Environmental Defense Fund

Ann Mesnikoff
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Thomas Wheeler
Environmental Protection Information Center-
EPIC

Mona Munroe-Younis
Environmental Transformation Movement of
Flint

Leah Redwood
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

Vernon C Butler
Families United for Education

John Peck
Family Farm Defenders

nayyirah shariff
Flint Rising

Shannon Smith
FracTracker Alliance

Louise Lears
Franciscan Action Network

Elaine Tanner
Friends For Environmental Justice

Michael Hansen
GASP

Christina Schlegel
Global Center for Climate Justice

Jerry Otero
Grand Canyon Trust

Adrien Salazar
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Shelley Silbert
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Mark A Dunlea
Green Education and Legal Fund

Barbara Carey
Green Faith Olympia

Amy Brooks Paradise
GreenFaith

Irene Burga
GreenLatinos

Deborah Jackson
Harambee House

Charlotte Brody
Healthy Babies Bright Futures

Lexi Tuddenham
Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah

naomi yoder
Healthy Gulf

Shanna Edberg
Hispanic Access Foundation

Laura Esquivel
Hispanic Federation

Camilla Simon
Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the
Outdoors

Cheryl Barnds
Honor the Earth

Marc Brenman
IDARE LLC

Tom BK Goldtooth
Indigenous Environmental Network

Krystal Curley
Indigenous Lifeways

Lance Kittel
Inland Ocean Coalition

Nadira Narine
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Tiffany Hartung
Interfaith Power & Light

Carson Barylak
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Kimberly Baker
Klamath Forest Alliance

Monica Kleimeyer
Laudato Si Circle

Madeleine Foote
League of Conservation Voters

Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate
League of Conservation Voters - Chispa

Dr. Terrie E. Griffin
League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

Dave Shukla
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy

Richard Moore
Los Jardines Institute

Molly Rauch
Moms Clean Air Force

Kera Panni
Monterey Bay Aquarium

Leslie Raff
Morristown United Methodist Church
Greenfaith Circle

Susan Gordon
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
Maggie Ostdahl
National Aquarium

Jesse Walls
National Audubon Society

Kyle Simpson
National Recreation and Park Association

Rebeca Villegas
National Wildlife Federation

Roberto Morales
Nature For All Coalition

Jodi Lasseter
NC Climate Justice Collective

Mariel Nanasi
New Energy Economy

Dr. Virginia Necochea
New Mexico Environmental Law Center

Sr. Joan Brown
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

Anthony Rogers-Wright
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Next 100 Colorado

Carol R. Foss, Ph.D.
NH Audubon

Carol Gay
NJ State Industrial Union Council

Fernanda Banda
NM Dream Team

Jerry Rivers
North American Climate, Conservation and
Environment

Timothy Judson
Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Cari Gardner
NYPAN Environ Committee

Cari Gardner
NYPAN Greene

Jeff Slyfield
Ocean Conservancy

Lara Levison
Oceana

NaTisha C. Washington
One Pennsylvania

Jackie Antalan
Operation HomeCare, Inc.

Emily Martin
Our Climate

Alexandra Merlino
Partnership for Responsible Business

Michael Malcom
People's Justice Council

Andrea Vidaurre
Peoples Collective for Environmental Justice

Deborah L. Lynch
PHE INC

Liz Robinson
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association

Tonyehn Verkitus
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania

Alexia Leclercq
PODER

Bishop Dwayne Royster
POWER Interfaith

Beatriz Soto
Protegete

Julia Bernal
Pueblo Action Alliance

César G. Abarca
Quelites Institute

Dr. Robert K. Musil
Rachel Carson Council

Donna Chavis
RedTailed Hawk Collective

Gabriel Thoumi, CFA, FRM, Founder
Responsible Alpha

Mustafa Santiago Ali
Revitalization Strategies

Linda Starr
Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads
for Wilderness

Michael Richardson
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith Circle

Nora Nickum
Seattle Aquarium

Elizabeth Perera
Sierra Club

Lauren Reliford, MSW
Sojourners

Nat Mund
Southern Environmental Law Center

Terry Sloan
Southwest Native Cultures

Nathan Taft
Stand.earth

Shoshana Hershkowitz
Suffolk Progressives

Jean Tepperman
Sunflower Alliance

Lauren Maunus
Sunrise Movement

Timothy Edward Duda
Terra Advocati

Hal Connolly
The Climate Reality Project

Rev. Michael Malcom
The People's Justice Council

Myke Bybee
The Trust for Public Land

Shayna Han
The Union for Reform Judaism

Tamanna Brar
The Wilderness Society

Anita Amstutz
Think Like a Bee

Christopher Ramirez
Together for Brothers

Gerry Seavo James
Together Outdoors - Outdoor Recreation
Roundtable

Connor Kippe
Toxic Free NC

Tina M Cordova
Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium

Taofik Oladipo
Union of Concerned Scientists

Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee
United Methodist Women

Diana Dorn-Jones
United South Broadway Corporation,
community partner

Wyatt G. Sassman
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Desiree Luckey
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

Kelsey Anderson
Voices for Progress

Odette Mucha
Vote Solar

Rachel Dawn Davis
Waterspirit

Susan Jane Brown
Western Environmental Law Center

Jennifer Byrne
White River Natural Resources Conservation
District

Aubrey Bertram
Wild Montana

Juli Slivka
Wilderness Workshop

Jamie McConnell
Women's Voices for the Earth

Amara Jones
Youth Emergency Auxiliary Service Sierra Leone
(YEAS-SL)

Seneca Johnson
YUCCA Youth United for Climate Crisis Action

Zanagee Artis
Zero Hour

Colton R. Dean

Bruce A. Rose