

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 18, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

I am writing to respectfully request House floor consideration of the *Environmental Justice For All Act*, the most comprehensive, community-driven environmental justice legislation in history. The Natural Resources Committee successfully marked up the bill in July and the bill is now co-sponsored by 108 members of the House.

For decades, low-income communities, communities of color, and Indigenous communities across our country have suffered disproportionate, undue harm at the hands of polluting industries. These communities have been repeatedly denied their rights to clean air, water that is safe to drink, and an environment that enriches their lives. These environmental impacts are exacerbated by an inequitable distribution of federal funding for environmental justice communities. The *Environmental Justice For All Act* recognizes these injustices and provides meaningful solutions—designed and selected by the communities themselves—to rectify them.

Over the past few years, Rep. McEachin and I have spoken to and visited environmental justice communities and advocates in every corner of the country to better understand their needs as we drafted this legislation. Through an innovative, transparent, and inclusive process, we gathered and incorporated their input into the bill. Although each community described unique challenges, three common federal legislative solutions emerged as fundamental in their fight for environmental justice:

1. **Strengthening the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).** NEPA is one of the strongest tools for ensuring that community input is included in federal decision-making. The *Environmental Justice For All Act* will strengthen the law by requiring federal agencies to provide meaningful opportunities for public input and appropriate consideration of adverse cumulative impacts when considering actions that may further harm environmental justice communities. The bill will also ensure robust Tribal representation throughout the NEPA process when a proposed action could impact a tribe, including impacts to off-site reservation lands and sacred sites.

2. **Stronger Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.** The *Environmental Justice For All Act* empowers individuals to legally challenge discrimination—including environmental discrimination—prohibited under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin by federal funding recipients, which can include siting and permitting decisions that disproportionately burden particular communities with higher pollution levels.
3. **Requiring consideration of cumulative pollution impacts in federal permitting.** Currently, there are no cumulative pollution limits under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, causing polluting facilities and related health impacts to be concentrated in environmental justice communities. The *Environmental Justice For All Act* would establish cumulative pollution limits to better protect human health.

In addition to these critical provisions, the *Environmental Justice For All Act* will build upon the Biden administration’s efforts and codify certain initiatives to advance environmental justice, including establishing environmental justice strategies and offices in federal agencies. The bill will also support equitable access to green spaces, authorize grants to address environmental and public health issues in environmental justice communities, and establish a just transition fund to support communities and workers as they transition away from fossil-fuel dependent economies.

Throughout the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, individual provisions of the *Environmental Justice For All Act* have successfully passed the House. However, to comprehensively address the needs of environmental justice communities, it is imperative that we fully consider the bill in its entirety. Thank you for your consideration of this critically important request.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
Committee on Natural Resources

cc: The Honorable James E. Clyburn, U.S. House Majority Whip  
The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries, U.S. House Democratic Caucus Chair