April 2021

*"The Creator of the earth is the owner of it. [This creator] gave us being thereon, and our nature requires nourishment which is the produce of it. [God] is kind and merciful, we as [God's] creatures, while we live answerable to the design of our creation, are so far entitled to a convenient subsistence that no [one] may justly deprive us of it." --*[John Woolman](http://legacy.earlham.edu/~birkemi/birkel_3.html)

[–Vanessa Julye](https://quakerspeak.com/video/quakers-racism-blessed-community/)

Dear Friends,

There is a divine ecology at work in the world that calls us to live in accordance with the “design of creation,” as John Woolman puts it. FCNL believes that legislation supporting [environmental justice for all](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-03/advocating-healthy-environment-everyone) can bring us closer into alignment with that sacred ecology. It will return the right to a healthy environment for low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, who have been unjustly deprived of that right for decades.

As FCNL’s lead environmental lobbyist [Clarence Edwards wrote](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2021-03/advocating-healthy-environment-everyone) last week, “…fossil fuel infrastructure and hazardous waste incinerators have been built in and near communities of color and low-income communities…the racial composition of a community is a strong predictor of which areas are chosen as sites for hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.”

On March 18, Rep. Donald McEachin (VA-04), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03), and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (IL) reintroduced the [Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021)](https://act.fcnl.org/go/110861?t=13&ak_proof=1&akid=16431%2E137639%2EbSLOS8), which aims to advance environmental justice and health equity for all underserved communities.

Among other provisions, the [bill authorizes](https://act.fcnl.org/go/110862?t=14&ak_proof=1&akid=16431%2E137639%2EbSLOS8) $75 million annually for environmental justice grant programs; requires agencies to include meaningful community involvement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and supports more equitable access to the outdoors. [Urge your legislators to co-sponsor the Environmental Justice for All Act today.](https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32303/)

Please act using the accompanying letter template, call script, and this [email template.](https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32303/)

Add 2‐4 sentences letting your member know why you are personally concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202‐224‐3121 to be connected to your representative’s and senators’ offices. Leave a message if they do not pick up or if you are calling after office hours.

You can also use this [link to submit a letter-to-the-editor to your local paper](https://act.fcnl.org/lte/lte/)!

Your letters, emails, phone calls to Congress, and letters-to-the-editor matter now more than ever. We ask Friends to continue contacting elected officials using the materials we provide. Please share this call to action with your community email lists and organize virtual gatherings for collective advocacy. Learn more and get training from FCNL staff at [fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome](https://www.fcnl.org/updates/lobby-congress-from-home-2666).

Ever faithfully onwards,

Bobby Trice

Quaker Engagement Associate

rtrice@fcnl.org

*PS. Join us for FCNL’s April Quaker Changemaker Event, “*[How Quakers are Working for Climate Justice](https://www.fcnl.org/events/how-quakers-are-working-climate-justice)*,” on April 28 at 6:30 p.m. EDT!*[Register here](https://act.fcnl.org/event/quaker-welcome-center-events-watch-home/2168/?source=fcnlweb) *to join online or by phone.*

***Call Script***

Hello, I am calling for **Representative/Senator** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am a resident of **[city, state]** in district **[number]**. I urge you to support the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021). As a person of faith, I believe that everyone has right to unpolluted air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

**(My story)**

Congress has the responsibility to advance legislation that will promote public health, prevent the destruction of the natural world, and protects vulnerable communities. Please support the Environmental Justice for All Act.

[Letter/Email Template](https://fcnl.quorum.us/campaign/32303/)

April 2021

Dear\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I urge you to support the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021).

As a person of faith, I believe that everyone has right to unpolluted air, clean water, and a healthy environment. To me, environmental justice means ensuring that every person has the right to an equal degree of protection from environmental and health hazards in the communities where they live, work, and play. However, communities of color, rural communities, tribes, and low-income communities have long borne a disproportionate burden of the environmental and health impacts of pollution and waste.

**(My story)**

The Environmental Justice for All act aims to advance environmental justice and health equity for all underserved communities. Among other provisions, the act funds research grants to address the use of chemicals linked to adverse health impacts in childcare products, promotes more equitable access to the outdoors, and supports communities that depend on the fossil fuel industry.

Please support the Environmental Justice for All Act and take seriously Congress’ responsibility to advance legislation that promotes public health, prevents the destruction of the natural world, and protects vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)