

Support the Environmental Justice for All Act

Congress has a duty and moral obligation to set aside partisanship and respond to the climate crisis. Not only is the changing climate creating immense environmental harm, but members of our society who have traditionally been marginalized—namely Black, brown, Indigenous, and lower income communities—bear a disproportionate amount of the impact.

Marginalized communities have historically been chosen as the sites for oil and gas infrastructure, landfills, and hazardous waste dumps. These institutions pollute and degrade the quality of the air, water, and land in these communities, and do immense damage to personal health. The federal response to this injustice has been poor, and limited resources have been directed to addressing this issue.

To correct this wrong, please co-sponsor and publicly support the Environmental Justice for All Act (S. 872/H.R. 2021). This bill, introduced by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (IL) and Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ-3), addresses current and historic environmental injustice through increased funding for federal environmental justice programs, and enhanced legal protections and enforcement.

The bill includes the following provisions:

- » Authorizes funding to invest in local and state organizations and Indigenous groups who are on the frontlines of efforts to address the degradation of community health and land as a result of environmental pollution.
- Establishes a Just Transition Advisory Committee to coordinate interagency efforts to promote economic revitalization, diversification, and development in communities that have depended on fossil fuel mining, extraction, and refining for their economic foundation.
- Strengthens the 1964 Civil Rights Act to allow persons to sue for intentional discrimination, and amends the Clean Air Act to require an analysis of air pollution on surrounding communities before permits are permitted.
- » Directs federal agencies to document the environmental and human health risks borne by populations identified by race, national origin, or income, and to use that information to determine whether their policies have a negative impact on human or environmental health.

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