

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

INCLUDED IN DEMOCRATIC CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS AND INNOVATION ACT

House Democrats' Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (H.R. 4447) includes substantial portions of Natural Resources Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Rep. A. Donald McEachin's (D-Va.) landmark *Environmental Justice for All Act* (H.R. 5986).

Dating back to the 115th Congress, Grijalva and McEachin have championed the environmental justice movement and engaged in an extensive public engagement process with advocates and stakeholders to craft their bill, which enjoys broad support from members of Congress and environmental justice leaders and organizations.

The inclusion of these community-focused provisions in the Democratic energy package is based on the moral principle that all people have the right to pure air, clean water, and an environment that enriches life. Grijalva, McEachin and their allies have fought to extend that right to communities that have been denied a livable environment for generations.



THE DEMOCRATIC ENERGY BILL INCLUDES THESE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL ACT PROVISIONS

Strengthens the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Amends Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to strengthen legal protections against illegal discrimination based on disparate impact. The bill overturns the infamous *Alexander v. Sandoval* Supreme Court decision, which took away longstanding rights under the Civil Rights Act that allowed individuals and communities to have their day in court to challenge illegal discrimination. H.R. 4447 restores this right and strengthens existing legal protections.

Codifies Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice – Codifies and bolsters President Clinton's 1994 Executive Order by directing federal agencies to create a working group on environmental justice compliance and enforcement and to develop environmental justice strategies and annually report on implementation. It also ensures that federal agencies include diverse communities in public health research, data collection, and analysis.

Empowers Community Voices in Federal Decision-Making – Ensures that federal agencies provide early and meaningful community involvement opportunities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when they propose an action that can harm an environmental justice community. The bill ensures robust Tribal representation throughout the NEPA process for an activity that could harm an Indian Tribe, including activities harming off-reservation lands and sacred sites.

Authorizes Environmental Justice Grants – Offers \$75 million annually for grants to support research, education, outreach, development, and implementation of projects to address environmental and public health issues in environmental justice communities.

Creates an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Compliance and Enforcement – The working group will help federal agencies address disproportionate pollution and environmental hazards in environmental justice communities, provide direct guidance and technical assistance to environmental justice communities, and develop an interagency federal environmental justice strategy.

Establishes a National Environmental Justice Advisory Council – Directs the president to create a representative Environmental Justice Advisory Council to provide independent advice and recommendations to the EPA on environmental justice issues.

Invests in Environmental Justice Training at Federal Agencies – Authorizes \$10 million annually for a culturally and linguistically appropriate training program for environmental justice communities. The program includes hazardous substances training, including risk detection and reduction, and training on basic rights and safeguards currently afforded to individuals through policies and laws intended to help environmental justice communities.

Requires Public Meetings – Directs the EPA Administrator to hold biennial public meetings with senior officials in each regional office to solicit community input on the agency's environmental justice activities.

Creates an Environmental Justice Clearinghouse – Directs the EPA Administrator to create an online clearinghouse for environmental justice information, including training materials and a directory of experts and organizations with the capability to provide advice or technical assistance to environmental justice communities.