



## **Inclusive Louisiana Joins Fight for Environmental Justice For All Legislation**

St. James the Baptist Parish and the town of Convent are home to Inclusive Louisiana, an environmental justice group fighting for cleaner air, safer communities, and stronger federal regulation of petrochemical companies and heavy industry. Over the past 60 years, hazardous facilities with dangerous chemicals and emissions have engulfed the majority Black residents that live in the town. Inclusive Louisiana believes that the Environmental Justice For All Act, Sponsored by Chair Raul M. Grijalva and Representative A. Donald McEachin,” will address the urgent pollution emergency and climate crisis that has negatively impacted them and their families. The legislation is rooted in the moral principle that all people have the right to pure air, clean water and an environment that enriches life.” According to Gail Lebouf, codirector of Inclusive, our local government treats us like we’re expendable. We’ve been crying for 60 years and our cries are going unheard. If there’s any place that cries out for Environmental Justice, it’s St. James Parish.

The legislation will amend and strengthen Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which will prohibit discrimination based on the disparate impact we endure as Black, fenceline communities. The act will also hold companies accountable by allowing those of us impacted to seek legal remedy when they discriminate. Another key feature of the legislation includes cumulative impacts, which requires consideration of the cumulative impacts in permitting decisions under the clean water and clean air act and ensures that permits will not be issued if the project cannot demonstrate reasonable certainty of no harm to health.

*Inclusive Louisiana is a grassroots community advocate organization with deep beliefs in our christian faith, and passionate about the injustices we see imposed everyday on our health, air, water, and soil. Our mission is to spread enlightenment and hope to all people to create a fairer and more inclusive society.*