



February 14, 2022

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Chairman
The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman:

I am writing on behalf of River Network to express our strong support for the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021). Embedded in our mission and values is the belief that all people have a right to clean and ample water that sustains life. Unfortunately, biases and disparities disproportionately burden communities of color, Indigenous communities, and low-income communities with environmental damage and on-going harm that limits access to healthy, life-sustaining waters for all. Addressing and repairing these environmental injustices is essential to ensuring everyone's right to clean water.

We commend Chair Grijalva and Representative McEachin for their approach to developing this legislation. By collaborating with communities impacted by environmental racism and oppression, extensive community perspectives and input were used to craft this the bill. This process led to a comprehensive bill with a clear set of policy solutions, informed by those most impacted by environmental injustices.

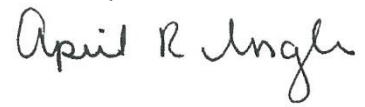
In particular, we commend the inclusion of the following provisions to strengthen the impact of the Environmental Justice for All Act, inspired by the feedback received from impacted communities:

- Requiring federal agencies to consider cumulative health impacts under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act in making permitting decisions, and ensuring that permits will not be issued if projects cannot demonstrate a reasonable certainty of no harm to human health;
- Providing \$75 million in annual grants for research and program development to reduce health disparities; and improve public health in environmental justice communities;
- Strengthening the Civil Rights Act to permit private citizens and organizations facing discrimination to seek legal remedies;
- Creating an energy transition economic development assistance fund – paid for through new fees on oil, gas and coal companies – to support communities and workers as they transition away from greenhouse gas-dependent economies;
- Strengthening the National Environmental Policy Act to ensure that communities have a meaningful opportunity to engage in NEPA processes that will impact them.

River Network commends this process, supports the legislators and community members who identified these policy solutions, and fully supports the Environmental Justice for All Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "April R. Ingle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

April Ingle, Policy Director
River Network