

Good afternoon, thank you for providing members of Congress with the opportunity to address the Select Committee on Climate Change.

From sea level rise, to the location of power plants, to fossil fuel extraction, to the urban heat island effect, the inequities from our energy system and who bears its consequences are everywhere. People of color are on the front line of this issue. We are hit first and hit worst.

We need a climate bill that rises to the scale of both the climate crisis, and the damage from environmental racism that impacts my district, and the districts like it across the country. The best way for us to understand these challenges, and how to overcome them, is to meet environmental justice communities where they are. Not everyone can make it down to DC for a hearing or a meeting with their representative.

I appreciate that the select committee has conducted a field hearing in Boulder, Colorado on local and state solutions, and going forward I want to encourage you to prioritize field hearings in EJ communities. In particular, I have a couple of ideas for field hearings in my district that could both illuminate our local challenges and provide useful information for federal climate policy that can address these kinds of issues across the country.

One possibility is a hearing on a just transition away from fossil fuels, and what that means for communities like mine. We deal with pollution from oil refineries and ongoing urban oil drilling, which has a direct impact on the quality of the air we breathe. At the same time that the fossil fuel industry has a disproportionate footprint in minority communities, these industries often provide jobs, including union jobs, to my constituents. As we work to unwind the fossil fuel economy, we need insights on how to provide for a just transition for workers in the fossil fuel industry.

An additional possibility is to hold a field hearing with the Port of Los Angeles and community environmental leaders in my district. We have

one of the most ambitious ports in the country when it comes to reducing emissions. At the same time, the port is a significant source of air and climate pollution and environmental groups in my district have strong views on the best path forward for the port to achieve zero emissions as quickly as possible. These are challenges that face ports throughout our country.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Select Committee on these or other ideas for a field hearing in my district, as part of the process for crafting climate solutions that leave no community behind.

Thank you.