

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

August 22, 2022

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Environment

Fr: Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Effective Environmental Enforcement: Tools and Strategies to Protect Vulnerable Communities”

On **Thursday, August 25, at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the Subcommittee on Environment will hold a hybrid field hearing in **the Cooper Room at Wayne County Community College’s Eastern Campus and on the Zoom video platform**. The hearing will examine gaps in current laws and regulations that leave environmental justice communities vulnerable to compounding sources of pollution, and the policy changes necessary to safeguard public health and the environment.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will give Members an opportunity to receive testimony from people living in frontline and environmental justice communities. These communities typically have numerous polluting industrial facilities concentrated within residential areas. While each individual facility’s pollution output may not cause severe environmental and health impacts on its own, the compounded pollution from numerous facilities in a small geographic area results in devastating environmental and public health impacts.¹ Frontline and environmental justice communities are disproportionately communities of color and lower-income areas that have been historically neglected and under-resourced as a result of structural racism and discriminatory policies.²

As part of the hearing, Members will also have the opportunity to examine gaps in current laws and regulations that leave environmental justice communities vulnerable to compounding sources of pollution. The hearing will highlight policy changes necessary to safeguard public health and the environment.

¹ CEQA Portal, *CEQA Portal Topic Paper: Cumulative Impacts* (Dec. 18, 2020) (online at https://ceqaportal.org/tp/AEP%20CEQA%20Portal_Cumulative%20Impacts.pdf).

² Aneesh Patnaik et al., *Racial Disparities and Climate Change*, Princeton Students Climate Initiative (Aug. 15, 2020) (online at <https://psci.princeton.edu/tips/2020/8/15/racial-disparities-and-climate-change>).

II. WITNESSES

Panel I

Robert Shobe

Stellantis Pollution Impact Zone
Detroit, Michigan

Pamela McGhee

U.S. Ecology Pollution Impact Zone
Detroit, Michigan

Daeya Redding

U.S. Ecology Pollution Impact Zone
Detroit, Michigan

Panel II

Nicholas Leonard

Executive Director
Great Lakes Environmental Law Center

Jamesa Johnson-Greer

Executive Director
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition

Eden Bloom

Public Education and Media Manager
Detroit People's Platform

Additional witnesses to be announced.

Staff contacts: Katie Thomas, Aria Kovalovich, and Kevin Fox at (202) 225-5051.