



H.R. 5986 Environmental Justice For All Act

Environmental Justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people—regardless of color, culture, national origin, or income—with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies to ensure that each person enjoys 1) the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and (2) equal access to federal resources needed to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

EJ Support

The Environmental Justice initiative has received numerous statements of support from a broad and diverse group of organizations and individuals from around the country. Below are some of the comments received from organizations via POPVOX, an online public comment and input platform.

To view all statements, please visit: <https://www.popvox.com/us/federal/bills/116/hr5986>

<p>Virginia Interfaith Power & Light</p> <p>“...applauds the work of Chair Raúl Grijalva and Rep. Donald McEachin on the landmark Environmental Justice for All Act. This bill upholds our sacred commitment to be stewards of the gift of Creation by actualizing loving our neighbors in tandem with caring for the Earth.” - Kendyl Crawford, Director, VA Interfaith Power & Light</p>	<p>Climate Justice Alliance</p> <p>“During this challenging time for human rights and the environment, it is heartening to see a bill that honors and reinvigorates past achievements like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, while linking them to current environmental justice initiatives and solutions.” - Angela Adrar, Executive Director, Climate Justice Alliance</p>
<p>Environmental Defense Fund</p> <p>“EDF would like to thank House Natural Resources Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) and Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D-VA) for their leadership on the EJ for All Act. America’s low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities are especially vulnerable to air and water pollution, and to the damages caused by climate change. The engagement process piloted by these Members has been critical to receiving direct input from vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The work they have put into this bill is an incredible reflection of transparency and inclusivity...”</p>	<p>Earthjustice</p> <p>“We commend Chairman Grijalva and Representative McEachin for the proposal they released today and the landmark process they used to create it. It represents a bold and necessary shift in the way we create federal environmental policy — it is the result of a serious and years-long effort to put the expertise and concerns of the people experiencing the worst of pollution and climate change first. Earthjustice commends all of the environmental justice advocates who contributed to this legislation and looks forward to similar efforts in the future.”</p>
<p>Creation Justice Ministries</p> <p>Creation Justice Ministries applauds the historic Environmental Justice for All Act put forward today by US House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.).</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Foundation</p> <p>“Everyone has a right to clean water and air, no matter who you are or where you live. Congressmen McEachin and Grijalva are taking important steps towards meaningful action on environmental justice. This will protect our most vulnerable communities from pollution and ensure healthier local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.</p>

Creation Justice Ministries affirms the dignity of all God's children, and therefore we lift up our moral imperative to seek environmental justice for people of every race, economic status, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious affiliation.

– Chesapeake Bay Foundation Federal Executive Director Jason Rano

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services



"For too long we have struggled with an unjust system that complicated the efforts of addressing environmental issues in low-income and Communities of Color. We firmly believe this is a huge step forward in addressing the needs of communities who have a history of being dumped on. We feel confident that this legislation will surely benefit all of us in the future." - Juan Parras, Director and Ana Parras, Co-Director, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.)

Moving Forward Network



"On behalf of the Moving Forward Network, we applaud Chairman Grijalva and Representative McEachin for working to address environmental racism – both through their environmental justice initiative and now through the introduction of the Environmental Justice for All Act..." - Angelo Logan, Campaign Director, with Moving Forward Network

Black Millennials 4 Flint



Black Millennials is in full support of the Environmental Justice for all Act. We were honored to have an opportunity to provide feedback on this legislation where 100% of our recommendations were included.

Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice

"...We aren't waiting around for someone to save us. We have solutions and we thank the sponsors and staff for including our community expertise and solutions into this legislation." - Larry Lambert, resident of Claymont, DE and member of Delaware Concerned Residents for Environmental Justice—an affiliate member of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform

Western Environmental Law Center



"The bill recognizes that environmental justice, climate justice, and health equity are deeply intertwined. Along those lines, it's important to incorporate disparate and cumulative impacts, including health and climate impacts, and the social and structural factors that influence them, in permitting and other decision-making," said Ally Beasley with the Western Environmental Law Center.

Union of Concerned Scientists



"The importance of this historic and greatly needed Act cannot be overstated. Chairman Grijalva and Representative McEachin were intentional in working with environmental justice communities and advocates over the last year, gathering comments and insight from them." – Dr. Adrienne Hollis, senior climate justice and health scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS).

Sierra Club



"We applaud Chairman Grijalva and Rep. McEachin for introducing this significant legislation to address some of the barriers to getting outdoors many Americans face," said Joel Pannell, Associate Director of Sierra Club's Outdoors for All campaign. "...the Environmental Justice for All Act will help close the equity gap in outdoor access."

National Wildlife Federation



"Environmental injustice anywhere is a threat to environmental progress everywhere." said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "Chairman Grijalva and Congressman McEachin's Environmental Justice for All Act is a critical first step to establishing environmental justice as a top national priority, as part of our march toward revitalizing communities, improving public health, recovering wildlife, and confronting the climate crisis."