

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
United States

CC:
John Podesta
Assistant to the President & National Climate Advisor

Ali Zaidi
Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation

Brenda Mallory
Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality

Dear President Biden,

As leaders within the Environmental Justice movement, we write to express deep concern with the Administration's support of Senator Joe Manchin's (D-WV) Energy Independence and Security Act of 2022 . Black, Indigenous, people of color, and low-wealth communities are among the most ardent advocates of a clean, renewable energy transition that will reduce pollution burdens, achieve our domestic and international climate goals, and bring affordable energy to all Americans. A [recent poll by Green 2.0](#) found that three out of four people of color are worried about climate change. Clearly, addressing the climate crisis is a priority, especially for our communities. A Just Transition to renewable energy will be central in achieving a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable future for all.

Senator Manchin's legislation continues the distressing trend of putting industry interests over the lives of those most impacted by environmental injustices and climate change induced disasters. Deregulating landmark environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) is counterproductive to achieving environmental justice. Any legislation that encourages the development of fossil fuels, including the Mountain Valley Pipeline, would be a disaster for frontline communities and the planet. Quality environmental reviews, strong public participation, and meaningful community engagement must also apply to the build-out of large-scale clean energy projects, including transmission lines, to ensure that they do not cause unintended consequences, including perpetuating the history of environmental racism in the U.S.

We recognize the critical work that your Administration has done to embed environmental justice in the operation of the Federal government. This important work includes provisions

included in Executive Order 14008, which launched the historic Justice40 Initiative, establishing the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC), as well as the new Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

However, you must stand by these commitments to environmental justice communities by listening to our concerns. Senator Manchin's legislation is a harbinger for the permanent silencing of environmental justice communities in the permitting process, while also eviscerating the rights to due process in a court of law should they deem it necessary to protect their communities from harm. Members of environmental justice organizations across the United States, including members of the WHEJAC and environmental allies stand together in urging you to not support any so-called "permitting reform" that:

- Diminishes democracy by decreasing public comment periods and changing the judicial court system in a way that limits public participation;
- Prolongs our reliance on fossil fuels (such as methane gas/LNG) through the build out of new pipelines, LNG terminals, and expanded drilling and other fossil fuel activities;
- Expedites permits for unproven and environmentally hazardous technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and hydrogen combustion, as well as existing nuclear power;
- Infringes on the sovereignty of Indigenous and tribal communities by failing to respect treaty rights and offer protections from eminent domain;
- Increases the cumulative pollution burden in disadvantaged and other environmental justice communities; and/or
- Limits the quality of the scientific analysis and modeling conducted for a proposed project.

Instead, we urge your Administration to support the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021/S.872). The Environmental Justice for All Act is a comprehensive bill to reduce environmental inequities that includes provisions to protect and strengthen public participation and tribal consultation. The Environmental Justice for All Act also includes provisions to ensure the consideration of cumulative impacts in the permitting process as well as consideration of alternatives. In a [recent poll](#) conducted by Data for Progress and WE ACT 4 Change, they found 89% of Democrat voters surveyed support the Environmental Justice for All Act. Finally, the Environmental Justice for All Act followed the [Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing](#) in its development and reflects the inclusivity, solidarity, mutuality, and clarity required to produce community- and equity-centered policies and initiatives. We urge you to require this framework be applied to future environmental and climate justice initiatives that come out of your Administration or garner your support.

We look forward to continuing to work with your Administration in an effort to foster an equitable clean energy future that allows for the proliferation of regenerative economies and increased environmental and climate justice.

Sincerely,

7 Directions of Service
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
Africa Institute for Energy Governance
Alianza Americas
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas ok
Alternatives for Community & Environment
(ACE)
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Black Millennials 4 Flint
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Bold Alliance
Breathe Free Detroit
California Green New Deal Coalition
Center for Earth Energy & Democracy
(CEED)
Center for Coalfield Justice
Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy
Coalition of Community Organizations
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
CleanAirNow
Climate Justice Alliance
Deep South Center for Environmental
Justice
East Michigan Environmental Action Council
Energy Justice Network
Environmental Justice Health Alliance for
Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA)
Flint Rising
FreshWater Accountability Project
Fridays for Future Orange County
Fridays for Future U.S.
Greater Grand Rapids NAACP
Green Door Initiative
GreenLatinos
GreenRoots, Inc.
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Harambee House, Inc. / Citizens for
Environmental Justice
Hispanic Access Foundation
Ironbound Community Corporation

Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP)
Global Ministries
Kickapoo Peace Circle
Los Jardines Institute
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
Mi JustUs
New Mexico Climate Justice
NC Climate Justice Collective
NC WARN
North Carolina Climate Justice Collective
North Country Earth Action
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)
Pass the Federal Green New Deal Coalition
People's Action
People for Community Recovery
People Organized in Defense of Earth and
Her Resources (PODER)
Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
(PCUN)
POWHR Coalition
Presente.org
Protect All Children's Environment
Rogue Climate
Start:Empowerment
South Bronx Unite
Taproot Earth
Terra Advocati
TIAADivest!!
The Alliance for Appalachia
RedTailed Hawk Collective
Unite North Metro Denver
V Martin Environmental Justice
Waterway Advocates
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Inc.
West End Revitalization Association (WERA)
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
We Want Green Too
Wisconsin Green Muslims

Climate and Environmental Allies

10 Votes
198 methods
350.org
350NYC
350 Seattle
350 Triangle
350 Wisconsin
AFGE Local 704
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc
AU WCL Native American Law Students
Association
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Beyond Extreme Energy
Breast Cancer Action
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Concerned Health Professionals of
Pennsylvania
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Working Group
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth Action
Green New Deal Network
Greenpeace USA
Healthy Gulf
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy
Program
Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice
Interfaith Power & Light
International Marine Mammal Project of
Earth Island Institute
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
League of Conservation Voters
Locust Point Community Garden
MESA
Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Michigan Student Power Alliance
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social
Justice Network
MoveOn.org Hoboken
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
North American Climate, Conservation and
Environment (NACCE)
Oceana
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean Defense Initiative
Oxfam America
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania
Project Eleven Hundred
Rural Coalition
SanDiego350
Scientist Rebellion
SEVENTH GENERATION, INC.
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy Justice Team
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
(SEACC)
The Wilderness Society
Tishman Environment & Design Center
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local
Church Ministries
United For Clean Energy
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio
Vets for Peace
Waterspirit
Western Environmental Law Center
Winter Wildlands Alliance