

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1889

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to carry out certain programs relating to environmental justice, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2021

Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. McEACHIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to carry out certain programs relating to environmental justice, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Environmental Justice
5 for Coronavirus Affected Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Communities of color, low-income commu-
2 nities, Tribal and indigenous communities, fossil
3 fuel-dependent communities, and other vulnerable
4 populations, such as persons with disabilities, chil-
5 dren, and the elderly, are disproportionately bur-
6 dened by environmental hazards that include expo-
7 sure to polluted air, waterways, and landscapes.

8 (2) Environmental justice disparities are also
9 exhibited through a lack of equitable access to infor-
10 mation and data on potential exposure to environ-
11 mental hazards.

12 (3) Communities experiencing environmental in-
13 justice have been subjected to systemic racial, social,
14 and economic injustices and face a disproportionate
15 burden of adverse human health or environmental
16 effects, a higher risk of intentional, unconscious, and
17 structural discrimination, and disproportionate en-
18 ergy burdens.

19 (4) These disproportionate burdens are being
20 exacerbated by the COVID–19 pandemic.

21 (5) Citizen science will be essential for environ-
22 mental justice communities to protect themselves
23 during this pandemic.

1 **SEC. 3. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS.—The Ad-
3 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall
4 continue to carry out—

5 (1) the Environmental Justice Small Grants
6 Program and the Environmental Justice Collabo-
7 rative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Pro-
8 gram, as those programs are in existence on the date
9 of enactment of this Act; and

10 (2) the Community Action for a Renewed Envi-
11 ronment grant programs I and II, as in existence on
12 January 1, 2012.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANTS IN RESPONSE TO
14 COVID–19 EMERGENCY.—

15 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
16 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
17 year 2022—

18 (A) \$50,000,000 to carry out the programs
19 described in subsection (a); and

20 (B) \$50,000,000 for grants and activities
21 authorized under subsections (a) through (c) of
22 section 103 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.
23 7403) and grants and activities authorized
24 under section 105 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
25 7405).

1 (2) PRIORITY FOR FUNDS.—In awarding grants
2 under the programs described in subsection (a) pur-
3 suant to this section, the Administrator shall
4 prioritize projects that will—

5 (A) monitor pollution in or near environ-
6 mental justice communities;

7 (B) investigate or address the dispropor-
8 tionate impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic in
9 environmental justice communities; or

10 (C) address disproportionate environmental
11 or public health harms and risks in minority
12 populations or low-income populations under—

13 (i) section 103(b) of the Clean Air Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 7403(b));

15 (ii) section 1442 of the Safe Drinking
16 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1);

17 (iii) section 104(k)(7)(A) of the Com-
18 prehensive Environmental Response, Com-
19 pensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
20 U.S.C. 9604(k)(7)(A)); and

21 (iv) sections 791 through 797 of the
22 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
23 16131 through 16137).

24 (c) DISTRIBUTION.—Not later than 30 days after
25 amounts are made available pursuant to subsection (b)(1),

1 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
2 cy shall make awards of grants under each of the pro-
3 grams described in subsection (a).

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