

HRES 479: Support the Environmental Justice Movement on the 20th Anniversary of the Executive Order

Current Cosponsors:

Reps. Hahn, Lee, Moran, Grijalva, Schakowsky, Holt, Christensen, Chu, Honda, Lewis, Nadler, Clarke, Jackson Lee, McCollum, Quigley, Cleaver, Huffman

Supported by: WE ACT for Environmental Justice (NY); The Sierra Club (DC); Green Door Initiative (MI); Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (WA); Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (LA); Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice (CT); Physicians for Social Responsibility (CA); Sustainability Development Group (DC); Border Agricultural Workers Project (TX); Kingsley Association (PA); Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CA); Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (IL)

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to become a cosponsor of a House Resolution 479 honoring the environmental justice movement on the 20th Anniversary of President Clinton's Executive Order on Environmental Justice, and recognizing the continued importance of addressing environmental justice concerns.

Low-income, tribal, and minority communities around the country continue to be disproportionately burdened by environmental degradation. Income and race are directly correlated with greater exposure to pollution from an array of toxic sites such as landfills, coal-fired power plants, and highways. African Americans across the country suffer higher rates of asthma, heart disease, stroke, and other diseases associated with exposure to airborne hazardous emissions.

For decades, advocates have worked to eliminate these injustices and increase community participation in regulatory decision-making. Now, however, environmental injustices are growing. As climate change impacts increase in severity and frequency, disadvantaged communities are more vulnerable due to a lack of adequate infrastructure, limited access to healthcare, and higher risk factors for heat and pollution-related diseases. This resolution reaffirms the commitment to the principles of environmental justice as we face new climate justice challenges.

In addition to this resolution, we are also sending a letter to President Obama urging him to specifically address environmental justice concerns in his Climate Action Plan. We hope you will also co-sign this letter.

To cosponsor this resolution or co-sign the letter, please contact Anne Christianson (Ellison) at anne.christianson@mail.house.gov, or 5-4755.

Sincerely,

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress