

United States Senate

December 5, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S.128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S.128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Kay Granger,

As you reconcile the House and Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, we urge you to maintain the \$9.554 million allocated by the House Committee on Appropriations for environmental justice program activities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This funding is necessary for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Program at EPA to build its internal capacity for environmental justice policy and decision making at the Agency. It will also ensure that environmental justice communities have access to EPA's capacity and skills and can benefit from specialized agency programs.

Environmental justice is a movement that seeks to address the unfair distribution of pollution that low-income communities and communities of color bear. As members who care deeply about environmental justice issues, we support EPA's EJ program which is working to make a difference in overburdened and vulnerable populations. Specifically, the EJ Program provides communities with the support needed in order to leverage and work in conjunction with Federal programs at EPA and across the Federal Government.

Environmental justice is an essential issue that demands our attention. By providing this funding, Congress can ensure that EPA, the Agency in charge of securing our public health, has the tools to protect our most vulnerable communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

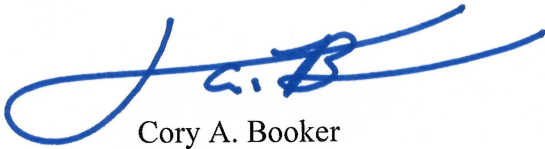
Sincerely,



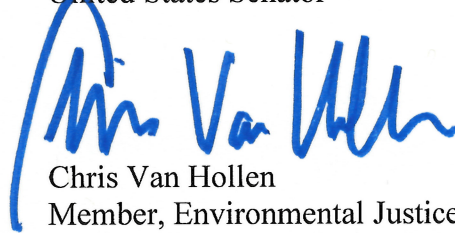
Tammy Duckworth
Co-chair, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Tom Carper
Co-chair, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
Co-chair, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



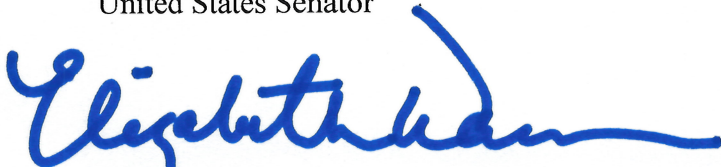
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Doug Jones
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
Member, Environmental Justice Caucus
United States Senator