



Many people remain unaware that low income communities and communities of color bear the brunt of our environmental burdens. Known as environmental justice, this movement remains less resourced than the mainstream environmental movement and at times has competing priorities. This movement is also less likely to engage Congress due to a perceived lack of experience or a real lack of resources.

Over the past year, the Senate's Environmental Justice Caucus has been working to address racial justice issues by assisting environmental justice groups that seek to engage Congress. Our 17 members develop policy, conduct oversight, hold briefings and connect staff to environmental justice leaders.

We are proud that this work has delivered concrete wins to the communities we represent. On World Environmental Day, we recognize that while our work is far from over, together we can and have secured wins for communities that need us the most. Together we have:

- Called on Congress to include historic investments for environmental justice communities in the next COVID-19 package. The Heroes Act, which was introduced in the House of Representatives, includes provisions from this letter.
- Sought major funding increases at Federal Agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). There are several programs at these agencies that directly benefit environmental justice communities that are severely underfunded and must be prioritized. This letter also urges Congress to ensure communities in areas known as "Cancer Alley" are protected.
- Requested technical changes for a rule titled Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (MON NESHAP). This rule disproportionately impacts black and brown communities and EPA's final rule adopted many of the Caucus's requests including strengthening equipment regulations and eliminating a general exemption for emissions during startups, shutdowns, and malfunctions.
- Requested and delivered historic wins in the Senate's Water Resources and Development Act and Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020. Combined, these two bills authorize the investment of more than \$18 billion in water resource development projects across the country and prioritize rural and low-income communities.
- Requested and delivered historic funding for environmental justice programs at EPA. This funding is necessary for the Environmental Justice 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.
- Convened the Senate's first-ever hearing on climate change and environmental justice. During this hearing, three brilliant women of color testified to the impacts climate change

is having on their communities right now, and what Congress must do to mitigate these impacts.

- Introduced several bills including S. 2642 Low Income Solar Energy Act, S. 3680 the EJ Grants Bill, S. 3633 the Mapping and Screening Tool. S. 3680 was included in WRDA 2020 which is awaiting floor action. S. 3680 was included in the HEROES Act, the House-passed COVID-19 package which is awaiting Senate consideration.

For more information, on how to join or support the work of the Senate's Environmental Justice Caucus please contact: Radha Adhar at Radha_Adhar@duckworth.senate.gov; Adam Zipkin at Adam_Zipkin@booker.senate.gov; and Kenneth Martin at Kenneth_Martin@epw.senate.gov