

August 3, 2021

Dear Chairmen Sanders and Yarmuth:

As you work to assemble the topline figures for the Senate Environment and Public Works and House Energy and Commerce titles of the American Jobs Plan, our organizations write to urgently request that sufficient funds for new equipment and resources requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to expand fenceline monitoring requirements and our nation's ambient air quality monitoring networks be included in the allocations. We provide some recommended investments at the end of this letter and would also draw your attention to a March 2021 letter circulated by The Equitable and Just National Climate Platform, which advocates for at least \$500 million to expand air quality monitoring and better protect fenceline communities.

We ask that you support bold and quick action to invest in fenceline air monitoring at facilities that endanger neighboring communities, and ambient monitoring networks to better protect the broader public and our parks and ecosystems. Major investments are needed to adequately protect frontline communities, workers, and the environment. Air quality monitoring that produces publicly accessible, actionable data is critical community health infrastructure. Communities cannot wait any longer for these basic and fundamental improvements – which must come in the form of monitoring and action to assure stronger health protection.

Environmental Justice communities around the country are currently facing a double emergency from air pollution and COVID-19. Clean and healthy air is a fundamental human right, and yet millions of Americans are regularly exposed to unhealthy air pollution. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and compounded deep underlying societal inequities and injustices. This respiratory virus is disproportionately harming communities of color and lower-income families, who are more likely to live in areas that fail to meet federal clean air standards, and who are consequently experiencing disproportionate rates of sickness and death. This is outrageous and unacceptable in a nation of our wealth and ability.

We ask for your support and leadership in addressing these cumulative impacts and legacies of environmental racism through new fenceline monitoring and ambient monitoring funding directed to EPA. Obtaining accurate air quality information and data is a critical first step to protecting public health. For example, requiring fenceline monitoring has worked effectively to identify and address some of the pollution problems at petroleum refineries. Unfortunately, EPA has failed to require this yet at any other similar sources. We know from existing EPA modeling data that there are industrial plants around the country currently emitting toxic pollution that contributes to extraordinarily high threats of cancer and sickness in neighboring communities. Yet our government has failed to ensure installation and maintenance of basic industrial safety infrastructure and processes at most facilities, including fenceline air monitoring equipment and requirements that data be made readily available to the public, so people can take action to protect themselves from a release, and used to target effective air pollution controls where most urgently needed. Too many areas also lack ambient air quality monitors that would tell whether, for example, residents are exposed to dangerous levels of deadly fine particulate matter pollution. The data these ambient monitors provide are vital to ensuring the Clean Air Act's promise is realized—clean, healthy air for all Americans.

We appreciate inclusion of funds and recognition of the importance of air monitoring in overburdened communities in the American Rescue Plan, but now meaningful action is urgently needed to show fence-line communities help is on the way. In the American Jobs Plan, we ask that funding directed to expediently require fence-line monitoring and health-protective corrective action in air toxics rules go to EPA to ensure communities in hot spots receive long overdue protection from chemical, petrochemical, and other pollution sources – including from ethylene oxide, chloroprene, benzene, and other highly hazardous air pollutants. And we ask that funding for ambient air monitoring projects go to EPA to expand the air monitoring network to maximize the effectiveness of air quality monitoring in protecting overburdened communities against pollutants like fine particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead. We need more fence-line and ambient air monitoring deployed in ways that have teeth in holding polluters accountable to federal health and environmental standards.

Expansion and improvements to our nation's air quality monitoring data and networks are commonsense, technologically feasible measures that will keep communities informed and better protected from dangerous air pollution at a time when the need for clean air could not be greater.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and all that you do to protect our air and environment.

Respectfully,

Appalachian Mountain Club
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Earthjustice
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air
Mothers & Others for Clean Air
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club

cc Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi

Recommended investments:

- \$150 million to fund deployment and maintenance of continuous fence-line air monitoring at 100 highest priority industrial sources emitting hazardous air pollutants using the best available technology (including National Air Toxics Trend Stations) while prioritizing compliance with the Clean Air Act, accident prevention, and the protection of those communities most impacted by hazardous air pollutants.
- \$18 million to ensure fence-line monitoring and continuous emission monitoring are core components of national emission standards for chemical, petrochemical, and other sources of fugitive toxic air pollution to assure compliance with pollution limits, and so that communities never again have to wonder what is in the air they breathe.
- \$75 million to require a rapid expansion of the NAAQS or national ambient air monitoring network through the addition of at least 80 new NCore multipollutant monitoring stations in communities where this is most needed to protect people with asthma and other health conditions, and to require EPA to assess and report on the status of the entire network and

submit a plan to address all failing monitors and perform repair and maintenance at broken or failing monitors.

- \$3 million to deploy at least 1,000 new low cost air quality sensors in communities disproportionately affected by air pollution to boost and complement the NAAQS monitoring network and increase communities' access to information about local air quality, and to direct EPA to promulgate a rule that provides criteria and procedures for the certification of sensors for use in comparing the air quality measured by the sensors to the applicable national ambient air quality standards.

8/12/2021

Dear Chairmen Carper and Pallone:

As you work to assemble the Environment and Public Works and Energy and Commerce titles of the American Jobs Plan, our organizations write to urgently request that funds for new equipment and resources requiring the Environmental Protection Agency to expand fenceline monitoring requirements and our nation's ambient air quality monitoring networks be included in the final package. We provide some recommended investments at the end of this letter and would also draw your attention to a March 2021 letter circulated by The Equitable and Just National Climate Platform, which advocates for at least \$500 million to expand air quality monitoring and better protect fenceline communities.

We ask that you support bold and quick action to invest in fenceline air monitoring at facilities that endanger neighboring communities, and ambient monitoring networks to better protect the broader public and our parks and ecosystems. Major investments are needed to adequately protect frontline communities, workers, and the environment. Air quality monitoring that produces publicly accessible, actionable data is critical community health infrastructure. Communities cannot wait any longer for these basic and fundamental improvements – which must come in the form of monitoring and action to assure stronger health protection.

Environmental Justice communities around the country are currently facing a double emergency from air pollution and COVID-19. Clean and healthy air is a fundamental human right, and yet millions of Americans are regularly exposed to unhealthy air pollution. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and compounded deep underlying societal inequities and injustices. This respiratory virus is disproportionately harming communities of color and lower-income families, who are more likely to live in areas that fail to meet federal clean air standards, and who are subsequently experiencing disproportionate rates of sickness and death. This is outrageous and unacceptable in a nation of our wealth and ability.

We ask for your support and leadership in addressing these cumulative impacts and legacies of environmental racism through new fenceline monitoring and ambient monitoring funding directed to EPA. Obtaining accurate air quality information and data is a critical first step to protecting public health. For example, requiring fenceline monitoring has worked effectively to identify and address some of the pollution problems at petroleum refineries. Unfortunately, EPA has failed to require this yet at any other similar sources. We know from existing EPA modeling data that there are industrial plants around the country currently emitting toxic pollution that contributes to extraordinarily high threats of cancer and sickness in neighboring communities. Yet our government has failed to ensure installation and maintenance of basic industrial safety infrastructure and processes at most facilities, including fenceline air monitoring equipment and requirements that data be made readily available to the public, so people can take action to protect themselves from a release, and used to target effective air pollution controls where most urgently needed. Too many areas also lack ambient air quality monitors that would tell whether, for example, residents are exposed to dangerous levels of deadly fine particulate matter pollution. The data these ambient monitors provide are vital to ensuring the Clean Air Act's promise is realized—clean, healthy air for all Americans.

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Expansion and improvements to our nation’s air quality monitoring data and networks are commonsense, technologically feasible measures that will keep communities informed and better protected from dangerous air pollution at a time when the need for clean air could not be greater.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and all that you do to protect our air and environment.

Respectfully,

16th Representative District Democratic Committee – New Castle, DE
Achieving Community Tasks Successfully – Houston, TX
Air Alliance Houston
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Appalachian Mountain Club
As You Sow
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Black Millennials 4 Flint
California Safe Schools
Center for Environmental Policy and Management – Louisville, KY
Cherokee Concerned Citizens – Pascagoula, MS
Citizens Coal Council
Civic League for New Castle County – New Castle County, DE
Clean Water Action
Collins Park Civic Association, Inc. – New Castle, DE
Coming Clean
Concerned Citizens of Wagon Mound and Mora County – Wagon Mound, New Mexico
Downwinders At Risk – Dallas, TX
Dunleith Civic Association – Wilmington, DE
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental Protection Network
Fight For Zero – Brevard County, Florida
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Glynn Environmental Coalition – Brunswick, GA
Hamilton Park-Eden Park Civic Association – New Castle, DE
Investor Advocates for Social Justice

League of Conservation Voters
Los Jardines Institute – Albuquerque, NM
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air
Moms Clean Air Force
Moms for a Nontoxic New York
Mothers & Others for Clean Air
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Castle Prevention Coalition – New Castle, DE
NY/NJ Environmental Watch
OVEC – Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
PODER – Austin, TX
Public Citizen
Rosegate Civic Association – New Castle, DE
Rose Hill Gardens Civic Association – New Castle, DE
Sierra Club
Texas Campaign for the Environment
texas environmental justice advocacy services – Houston, TX
Union of Concerned Scientists
Until Justice Data Partners
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Women's Voices for the Earth

cc Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi

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