

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1347

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2021

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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 Communities Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) communities of color, low-income commu-
9 nities, Tribal and indigenous communities, fossil

1 fuel-dependent communities, and other vulnerable
2 populations, such as persons with disabilities, chil-
3 dren, and the elderly, are disproportionately bur-
4 dened by environmental hazards that include expo-
5 sure to polluted air, waterways, and landscapes;

6 (2) environmental justice disparities are also ex-
7 hibited through a lack of equitable access to infor-
8 mation and data on potential exposure to environ-
9 mental hazards;

10 (3) communities experiencing environmental in-
11 justice have been subjected to systemic racial, social,
12 and economic injustices and face—

13 (A) a disproportionate burden of adverse
14 human health or environmental effects;

15 (B) a higher risk of intentional and struc-
16 tural discrimination; and

17 (C) disproportionate pollution burdens;

18 (4) the disproportionate burdens described in
19 paragraph (3)—

20 (A) are being exacerbated by the COVID-
21 19 pandemic; and

22 (B) will be addressed with resources pro-
23 vided to environmental justice communities in
24 the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public
25 Law 117–2); and

1 (5) citizen involvement and empowerment will
 2 be essential for environmental justice communities to
 3 protect themselves during the COVID–19 pandemic.

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

5 (a) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS.—The Ad-
 6 ministrators of the Environmental Protection Agency shall
 7 continue to carry out—

8 (1) the Environmental Justice Small Grants
 9 Program and the Environmental Justice Collaborative
 10 Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Pro-
 11 gram, as those programs are in existence on the date
 12 of enactment of this Act; and

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

16 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Not later than 30 days after
 17 amounts are made available pursuant to subsection (c),
 18 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
 19 cy shall make awards of grants under each of the pro-
 20 grams described in subsection (a).

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the programs
 23 described in subsection (a) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
 24 years 2022 through 2027.

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