

The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Office of the Administrator, Mailstop 1101A
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt;

On March 16th, 2017, the White House's proposed budget cuts for EPA were released. President Trump stated that his proposed budget would put "America first". That is NOT the case, unless the proposed budget is designed for middle class and above white Americans. The proposed EPA budget cuts simply translate to fewer protections for people of color, those with low socioeconomic status, vulnerable populations – those AMERICANS most susceptible to hazardous exposures and most at risk for ongoing and worsening health conditions – such as asthma and other respiratory diseases, cancers, lead poisoning, to name a few.

The proposed budget cuts to EPA have environmental justice communities enraged – and rightly so. According to the [Washington Post](#), EPA's proposed budget details will include the elimination of its Office of Environmental Justice, an office most environmental justice communities are quite familiar with. Another program in the crosshairs deals with brownfields. Brownfields are properties that may have hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants present. Currently, EPA has a Brownfields Program which provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to address (safely clean up and reuse) those properties. In 2005, there were more than 450,000 brownfield sites across the United States. That number has most likely doubled in the 10+ years since that report. The majority of those brownfields are located in environmental justice communities.

Proposed cuts to Superfund, environmental education, climate change initiatives and needed funding for communities – particularly Alaskan native villages will detrimentally affect millions of Americans. Impacts to children are of particular concern, as globally, 1 in 4 deaths occur in children 1 to 5 years old as a result of air pollution and other preventable environmental factors. Lead contamination, poor indoor and outdoor air quality, water contamination are all issues inherent to environmental justice communities.

EJ 2020 and other programs designed to address the disproportionate impacts from environmental contamination on environmental justice communities are necessary and should not be sacrificed to increase the military's \$600 billion budget.

Instead of adding money to a budget to fight war on foreign soil, additional funding is needed to fight a war here in the United States that environmental justice communities fight every day - the war against environmental racism, air and water pollution, soil contamination, unsafe drinking water, environmental degradation, and most important, increased adverse health effects and premature death. The war is here...at home.

Sincerely,

Drew Hudson
198-methods

Sarah James
Arctic Village *

Dr. Cecilia Martinez
Center for Earth, Energy &
Democracy*

Brad Johnson
Climate Hawks Vote

Sharon E. Lewis
Connecticut Coalition for
Environmental Justice*

Raul Garcia
Earthjustice

Mike Ewall
Energy Justice Network*

Dr. Rose Brewer
Environmental Justice
Advocates of Minnesota*

Dr. Mary Finley-Brook
Environmental Studies
Program, University of
Richmond
Mark Magana
GreenLatinos

Pamela Miller
Alaska Community Action on
Toxics*

Miya Yoshitani
Asian Pacific Environmental
Network*

Brent Newell, Esq.
Center on Race, Poverty & the
Environment*

Jose Bravo
Coming Clean*

Dr. Beverly Wright
Deep South Environmental Justice
Center *

William Copeland
East Michigan Environmental
Action Council*

Diane Takvorian
Environmental Health Coalition*

Michele Roberts
Environmental Justice Health
Alliance for Chemical Policy
Reform*

Jill Mangaliman
Got Green*

Dr. Mildred McClain
Harambee House*

Aaron Mair
Arbor Hill Environmental
Justice*

Nelson Carrasquillo
CATA (The
Farmworkers Support
Committee) *

Hilton Kelley
CIDA, Inc.*

Byron Ramos Guidel
Communities for a Better
Environment*

Guy O. Williams
Detroitters Working for
Environmental Justice*

Edward Davis
Emory & Henry College

Judith Anderson
Environmental Justice
Action Group of Western
New York*

Helen Kang
Environmental Law and
Justice Clinic, Golden
Gate University School
of Law*

Donele Wilkins
Green Door Initiative,
Inc.*

Tom Goldtooth
Indigenous
Environmental Network*

Dr. Charlotte L. Keys
Jesus People Against
Pollution*

Burt Lauderdale
Kentuckians for the
Commonwealth*

Leo Woodberry
Kingdom Living
Temple*

Savi Horne
Land Loss Prevention
Center*

Kimberly Wasserman
Little Village Environmental Justice
Organization*

Richard Moore
Los Jardines Institute
(The Gardens Institute) *

Terry
McGuire
Earthjustice

Joe Womack
Mobile Environmental Justice
Action Coalition*

Nashid A. Rushdan
Mobile Environmental
Justice Action Coalition*

Lauren Boles
New Jersey Environmental
Justice Alliance*

Nicky Sheats
New Jersey Environmental Justice
Alliance*

Douglas Meiklejohn
New Mexico
Environmental Law
Center

McGregor Smyth
New York Lawyers for the
Public Interest

Huy Ong
OPAL Environmental Justice
Oregon*

Susana Almanza
People Organized in
Defense of Earth and Her
Resources*

Martha Dina Arguello
Physicians for Social
Responsibility – Los
Angeles*

Jennifer R. Clarke
Public Interest Law Center

Devon J Hall Sr.
Rural Empowerment
Association for
Community Help*

Leslie Fields
Sierra Club

Kirtrina Baxter
Soil Generation*

Dr. Erica Holloman
Southeast Care
Coalition*

Deeohn Ferris
Sustainable Community
Development Group*

Juan Parras
TEJAS*

Dr. Robert Bullard
Texas Southern
University*

Robert Garcia
The City Project*

Brendolyn Jenkins Boseman
The Imani Group, Inc.*

Tammy Bang-Luu
The Labor/Community
Strategy Center*

Kendyl Crawford
VA Interfaith Power & Light

Joe Szakos
Virginia Organizing

Peggy Shepard
WE ACT for
Environmental Justice*

John Heil

Mary Ihsaan

David Underhill*

***Denotes an Environmental Justice Organization/Advocate**