Endorsers of "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021"

Alternatives for Community and Environment
GreenRoots
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Action St. Louis
Renew Missouri
Conservation Law Foundation
Climate Justice Alliance
National Black Environmental Justice Network
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
California Environmental Justice Alliance
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Moms Clean Air Force
Front and Centered
WE ACT for EJ
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Hawai'i Public Health Association
Evergreen Action
Data for Progress
Union of Concerned Scientists
National Wildlife Foundation
The Wilderness Society
American Forests
Sierra Club
Sunrise Movement
Friends of the Earth
Climate Reality Project of Coastal Georgia
Center for Biological Diversity
Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
CatholicNetwork.US
RapidShift.Network
Call to Action Colorado
Food and Water Watch
Climate Hawks Vote
Alderwoman, Heather Navarro, City of St. Louis, 28th Ward
Berks Gas Truth
350 Butte County
350 Deschutes
350 Conejo
350 Seattle
Oil Change International
Common Ground Community Trust
GreenLatinos

Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Climate Justice at Boston College
Catholic Divestment Network
Better Path Coalition
Rachel Carson Council
Gasp Group
Berkshire Environmental Action Team
No Fracked Gas in Mass.
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Colorado Democratic Party Energy & Environment Initiative
Zero Hour
EcoEquity
Western Watersheds Project
Healthy Gulf
Progressive Democrats of America
inNative
350 Hawaii
GreenFaith
Greenpeace
St. Louis County Branch of the NAACP
Greater Grand Rapids NAACP
Great Rivers Environmental Law Center
Surfrider Foundation
Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance
Marcellus Outreach Butler
The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Global Witness
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
198 methods
St. Louis DSA
Alderwoman, Heather Navarro, 28th Ward, City of St. Louis
Councilwoman Kelli Dunaway
Richmond Heights Councilman Maurice Muia
Dan Guenther: Alderman of the 9th Ward, City of St Louis
Alderwoman Shameem Clark Hubbard, 26th Ward, City of St. Louis

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
U.S. Senator
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

The undersigned represent prominent and widely published academic researchers and scholars of environmental justice. Collectively, we represent a wide range of disciplines relevant to the study and understanding of how racial and socioeconomic disparities in the distribution of environmental burdens occur, the health, economic, and quality of life impacts of such burdens, and the approaches needed to overcome inequality. These disciplines include sociology, public health, medicine, law, economics, urban planning, geography, political science, public policy, and others.

We write in strong support of the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021" and thank you for your leadership in championing this legislation. We believe this bill will aid in identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice. These variables will be necessary in the identification, mapping and prioritization of overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

In particular, we are pleased to see that this bill calls for the inclusion of information from impacted communities, and includes employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects identified environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments by allocating significant investments for a clean energy transition.

In addition, this legislation calls for updating data on an annual basis, at a minimum. This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the environmental justice identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

We firmly believe that these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue.

Sincerely (alphabetically),

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Assistant Professor of Professional Practice
Environmental Policy & Sustainability Management Program
Associate Director, Tishman Environment & Design Center (TEDC)
Milano School of Policy, Management and Environment
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Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy
Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
Texas Southern University
Co-founder, HBCU Climate Change Consortium
Co-Chair, National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN)
Houston, TX 77004

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Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Hurley Children's Hospital at Hurley Medical Center
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Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research
Research Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Medical School
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Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Co-founder, HBCU Climate Change Consortium
Co-Chair, National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN)
New Orleans, LA 70127

CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Senator Markey
255 Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021

Dear Senator Markey:

The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) is a statewide alliance of grassroots community-based organizations that are working together to advance environmental justice in California state policy. Our member organizations work directly with low-income communities and communities of color in some of the most polluted and socioeconomically burdened areas of our state. We unite the powerful local organizing of our members to create comprehensive opportunities for change at a statewide level.

CEJA is pleased to express our strong support for the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021." This bill would create a federal environmental justice (EJ) mapping tool, similar to California's state-level CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool, which can be used to advance important EJ priorities from across the country. We believe that it is important to establish a scientific tool that can comprehensively measure cumulative environmental burdens, socioeconomic vulnerabilities, health risks, and other EJ-related issues in order to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened, frontline EJ communities in the U.S.

We also commend the bill for including language that calls for the inclusion of data and information that is provided by impacted EJ communities. By utilizing ground-truthing methodologies, EJ communities can verify and supplement existing data and can also self-identify as EJ communities in order to address any gaps in the data and the tool's formula.

This bill also connects the creation of a national EJ mapping tool with policy outcomes, such as programs to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

In addition, the bill ensures the inclusion of robust data by requiring frequent and regular updates to the tool. This would allow the tool to incorporate changes in community conditions relatively quickly, which is valuable in assessing whether or not policies to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, which allows the tool's maps to be continually improved and updated over time.

The "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021" is a groundbreaking step forward in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. Thank you, Senator Markey, for your incredible leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Eng
Green Zones Program Manager
California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership in advancing climate and environmental policy. Your commitment to centering science and data in environmental policymaking is critically important at this time.

The cornerstone of environmental policy is strong data. We have reviewed your bill, the *Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021,* and extend our support. We believe the bill will be tremendously helpful in providing communities with access to the vital data that will help grassroots advocates better articulate the disproportionate harms they experience each day.

The ability of WE ACT to influence the creation of environmental health policies can be attributed to the combination of persuasive data and the lived experience of more than 800 WE ACT members in Northern Manhattan . Understanding the capacity limitations and lack of data for the other environmental justice communities, we see great value in the *Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021*.

The inclusion of an "Environmental Justice Mapping Committee" with representation from a cross section of Federal agencies can ensure implementation of this mapping tool across the government. In addition, the comprehensive list of indicators represent several factors we believe to be essential - socioeconomic stressors, health related markers, and proximity to polluting facilities. Environmental justice communities have long demanded these indicators be considered in order to address and remediate legacy pollutants and cumulative impacts that have plagued their homes for decades.

This bill clearly demonstrates that your office listens to the concerns of environmental justice communities, and sees value in elevating our concerns amongst your colleagues in the United States Senate.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to working with your office during the 117th Congress to advance environmental and climate justice.

In Solidarity and in Health,

Peggy Shepard
Executive Director
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Dear Senator Markey,

The National Black Environmental Justice Network (NBEJN) has reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and lends it support. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

The bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them. This is an important and key part of the bill.

By connecting the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition"), which is important, the bill reflects the opportunity to identify and address systemic racism and overburden of impacts on communities that are bearing the brunt of it unjustly.

The bill calls for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"), this is also a key strength. This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the environmental justice identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

These are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. NBEJN is in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Ernestine (Tina) Johnson
Director

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey:

As President of the Hawaiʻi Public Health Association I am sharing our strong support for your bill, the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act". HPHA appreciates the introduction of Federal legislation that will result in measurable outcomes for overburdened and vulnerable communities. In Hawaiʻi, the history of colonialism and systemic racism has had significant adverse effects on both the environment of the islands and the people living in areas where the harms are most severe.

The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

The bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

In addition, the proposal connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the environmental justice identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

These are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. The Hawaiʻi Public Health Association is in full support of this bill.

Aloha,

Pedro Haro, MPH
President, Hawaiʻi Public Health Association

3903 S Congress Ave
P.O. Box 42278
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(512) 326-5655

3303 Lee Parkway
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Houston, TX 77098

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**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

January 25, 2021

Dear Senator Markey,

Environmental racism is, unfortunately, alive and well in the United States, particularly in Texas. We need more teeth in our policies to address this problem. The "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021" is a great step to get data that can bolster efforts to detail it so that progress can be made.

It is critical in that the legislation will:

- Identify various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice

- Use these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

- Gather information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities"

- Identify data gaps and take steps to fill them

- Connect the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

- Update data frequently ("not less frequently than annually") which would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working.

- Update the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

Our country needs to take concrete action to move closer towards environmental justice. Thank you for introducing "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021." Texas Campaign for the Environment fully supports this legislation.

Sincerely,

Robin Schneider
Executive Director
Texas Campaign for the Environment

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey:

In recent days, I have had an opportunity to review your bill, the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act", and strongly support it. In my support, I want to be clear that I am speaking as an individual with deep expertise in these issues, rather speaking on behalf of the University of Michigan. I have been researching and writing about environmental justice for over three decades. During this time, I have also served on a number of advisory committees, both state and federal, to provide advice on environmental justice policy.

Last fall, I was very pleased to be asked to offer my insight and advice as you were drafting this legislation. Federal legislation that will result in measureable outcomes for overburdened communities is long overdue.

The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.
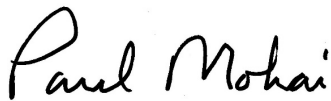
I also like that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

In addition, the proposal connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Best regards,

[signature: Paul Mohai]

Paul Mohai, Ph.D.
Professor
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University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
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UCLA FIELDING SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES
BOX 951772; 56-070 CHS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095

January 26, 2021

Dear Senator Markey,

I'm writing to express support for the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021". Identifying environmental justice communities is an important first step towards remedying long standing inequalities in exposure to health-threatening pollutants that disproportionately impact low-income communities of color.

Having worked to develop methodology for mapping environmental justice communities in California, I believe this bill takes an appropriate and thorough approach in identifying cumulative impacts resulting from environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors, and health risks at a reasonable geographic scale in order to prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

The establishment of an advisory committee and means for engagement of environmental justice communities called for in this bill are important in ensuring a transparent process and that the results of this bill are responsive to environmental justice concerns.

I support the inclusion of regional as well as a nationwide approach to the development of an environmental justice screening tool, given that particular indicators included in the tool will be more relevant in some regions than others. The inclusion of ground-truthing in this bill is also important as many secondary datasets have significant errors in reporting that can be corrected through local community expertise. I also am in support of including qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and identifying and remedying data gaps.

The provisions to update data frequently ("not less frequently than annually") and update the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years are additional strengths of this bill that will allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly and incorporating the latest scientific knowledge to continually improve the methodology.

This bill will provide actionable tools that can revolutionize federal regulatory efforts and public resource allocation in order to advance environmental injustices. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lara Cushing, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Environmental Health Sciences & Fielding Presidential Chair in Health Equity
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Northeastern University
Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute

318 International Village
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
617-373-7407

Dear Senator Markey,

I read your proposed "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and offer my strong support. Environmental Justice is a systematic problem and requires a systematic response. Pursuant to that I appreciate the attention to the composition of the EJ Mapping Committee, drawing from across the federal government while also creating spaces for community members, their advocates and data experts.

The vision of this Act is bold and it would be an important step forward to addressing the environmental disparities that are producing health and social disparities across the U.S. Improving environmental data is a necessary though not sufficient step toward Environmental Justice, it is foundation upon which equity can be built. Toward that end, I particularly applaud the provisions to direct Just Transition funding to overburdened communities.

Environmental Justice also requires procedural justice, therefore I support the Bill's attention to ensuring that materials are translated and available to communities in an accessible manner, I hope to see the same attention paid to the design and development of the mapping platform so that this vital data truly reaches the hands of those whose lives it describes and will shape. Communities also need to be engaged in the gathering and analysis of this data, Environmental Justice can not be built on a platform of extracting data from impacted communities in a way that dislodges decision making further from them. I urge your team to consult with the Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network and review their CARE and FAIR principles for research and data justice. Additionally, the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative is developing frameworks for Environmental Data Justice that may assist in the development of an EJ Mapping platform.

Finally as data platforms, monitoring techniques and knowledge of emerging contaminants evolve rapidly, I am glad to see the Bill's provisions requiring frequent and routine data updates as well as updates to indicators and methodologies at least once every three years.

This Bill would make groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. I offer my full support and thanks for your and your staff's efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara Wylie
Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology and Health Science
Northeastern University

SSEHRI
Social Science Environmental Health
Research Institute

January 21, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey:

At the request of University of Michigan's Dr. Paul Mohai, I took the time to review your bill, the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act", and heartily endorse it as benchmark legislation to address the environmental hazards that face our country's most vulnerable citizens.
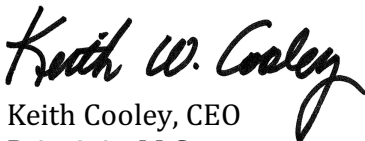
This support reflects my work over the past two decades focused on clean energy, sustainability, and environmental justice for underserved communities. Work with corporate, public sector and nonprofit organizations advocating to the Congressional Black Caucus on the impact of alternative fuel standards and harmful algal blooms on the nation's poor; working closely with Detroit nonprofits to deploy well trained urban workers on environmental remediation projects in and around the city; and working as a member of the Governor's Environmental Justice Advisory Group to assure fair and equitable enforcement of Michigan's environmental protections.

I am most impressed with the drive this bill makes to identify the many environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors that point to environmental injustice … then using these data to isolate, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

I am most heartened by the fact that this legislation will require documentation of adverse outcomes driven by hard, quantifiable metrics in overburdened communities in a way that has been long overdue even allowing communities to self-identify as regions of environmental injustice.

Large urban cities like Detroit as well as small, poor rural communities around the country will benefit from these groundbreaking steps that advance environmental justice. I wish you Godspeed in moving this bill through the legislative process.

Respectfully,

Keith W. Cooley

Keith Cooley, CEO
Principia, LLC

January 22, 2020

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey,

I was gratefully made aware of your "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act", through my network of environmental justice and public health professionals. I have expertise in what we sometimes call 'vulnerability mapping', having worked with the U.S. EPA and Washington State on this topic, in particular how it relates to both environmental health issues and the impacts of climate change. I have recently reviewed the bill and I *strongly* support it.

The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying historical and emerging environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors relating to existing inequities, and health risks. The acknowledgement of prior environmental justice mapping efforts is key as well, since many of those efforts have included 'ground-truthing' and voices from EJ communities that should not be overlooked.

Some strengths of the bill are its efforts to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as targeting overburdened communities for enhanced investments and "set-asides for technical assistance and capacity building". Additionally, thoughtful language like ensuring "…that existing issues are not exacerbated and new issues are not created," as well as including relevant stakeholders (e.g. environmental justice community members) on the committee are important to achieve successful results.

From the description of the tool the committee will establish, the bill highlights the flexibility to include new indicators of vulnerability as they become available and may support the inclusion of qualitative data, such as risk perception of environmental issues. Another key feature is the environmental justice data repository, which will be a boon for researchers and community members alike to be able to examine data and for advocacy. This includes the bill's call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working.

This type of legislation is long overdue and I am eager to see this bill come to fruition. I am in full support.

Kind regards,

Michael T. Schmeltz, MS, DrPH
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617-610-7126

Amy Schulz, Ph.D.
Professor
Health Behavior & Health Education
Leader, Michigan Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease (M-LEEaD)
Center Community Engagement Core

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January 20, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey:

I have had an opportunity to review your bill, the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act", and am writing to voice my strong support for it. I want to be clear that I am speaking as an individual with deep expertise in these issues, and am not speaking on behalf of the University of Michigan. I have been researching and writing about environmental justice for over a decade, with a focus on measurement of environmental justice concerns and their health impacts. My work has focused most explicitly on measurement of health inequities associated with environmental exposures, and strategies for addressing them.

The federal legislation proposed here is essential in identifying communities overburdened by environmental exposures and their associated health outcomes. Federal legislation that will result in measurable outcomes for overburdened communities is long overdue. The adverse health impacts experienced by communities that experience the cumulative impacts of multiple environmental exposures, often combined with economic disinvestment and limited resources with which to protect from harms, importantly contribute to persistent health inequities within the U.S.

The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice. Using these metrics to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S. for action to reduce those exposures and their adverse health impacts is essential to efforts to address longstanding inequities.

The bill's emphasis on including information directly from impacted communities is also critical. In many instances, publically available data can play an important role in assessing environmental injustices, but where those data are lacking or insufficient, it is essential to provide opportunities for community members to identify the environmental injustices that they are experiencing. These opportunities can help to fill gaps in available quantitative data, and play an important role strengthening future metrics for assessing such inequities.

Most importantly, the proposed legislation connects the identification of environmentally disadvantaged communities with specific policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and focusing on those communities for enhanced investments in, for example, transitioning to clean energy.

A further strength of this bill is the emphasis on annual updates of data. The use of current data is essential for detecting changes in community conditions, which can evolve rapidly. This is particularly important in determining whether actions taken to reduce environmental injustices are having a positive impact. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and

methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

The steps outlined in this bill are essential to advancing environmental justice in the U.S. and to addressing persistent health inequities linked to excess environmental exposures and impacts. These steps are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Amy J. Schulz, Ph.D.
University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor
Professor, Department of Health Behavior & Health Education
Community Engagement Core Leader, M-LEEaD Core Center
University of Michigan School of Public Health

Theresa Landrum
Detroit, MI. 48217

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. Let me tell you "why" this robust bill is so vital. I live in a (predominantly African-American and low-income) area that has been deemed the "most polluted," zip code in Michigan. My community is surrounded by more that twenty-six heavily polluting industries; Marathon Oil Corporation, Cleveland Cliffs, DTE Energy, Zug Island and many more. Moreover, my zip code of Southwest Detroit 48217 is home to more than half of them. My neighborhood is in non-attainment for Sulfur-dioxide (SO2) and Ozone. Our children suffer with the highest rates of asthma in Michigan. The present laws and statues in my opinion do not adequately address Environmental stresses/pollution that impact human health.

The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

I also like that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength, of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Respectfully,

Theresa Land_rum_

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S. I also like that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them. The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition"). Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not

less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process. I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional support.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Birnbaum

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S.
Scientist Emeritus and Former Director
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program
Scholar in Residence, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University
Phone: 919-280-2884
Email: birnbaum.tox@outlook.com

Brett Zeuner
MS '19 – Environmental Justice
University of Michigan – School for Environment and Sustainability

January 26th

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey:

As an environmental justice advocate and practitioner with experience in creating an EJ screening tool[1] as well as implementing policies and programs that draw upon EJ mapping and data collection, I strongly support the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021." The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize communities who have been most impacted by systems of oppression and disparate injustices in the U.S.

The bill also connects the effort to identify communities most impacted by environmental injustice with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce localized pollution and intentionally prioritizing investments for those communities ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition"). I have seen the implementation of similar work at the state-level here in California. There are limitless opportunities to invest in disparately impacted communities, including funding a transition away from fossil fuels in both our transportation and energy systems.

It was essential for me to see the bill include input and feedback directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them. Without this commitment to recognizing and acknowledging the communities' perspectives, I would be unable to offer my support for the bill.

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

I truly believe that these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S Steps that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill, and I do hope to see this bill on the desk of President Biden.

Sincerely,

Brett Zeuner

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senator for Massachusetts

Dear Senator Markey:

We, Delia Mayor and Laura Grier, have had an opportunity to review your bill, the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act," and strongly support it. We are speaking as individual researchers with expertise in environmental justice mapping and screening tools, and as authors of the study "Assessing the State of Environmental Justice in Michigan*," which we wrote alongside Brett Zeuner and under the advisement of Paul Mohai, PhD. In this study, we compared current environmental justice screening tools used by the US EPA, CalEPA, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and built an environmental justice screening tool for the state of Michigan. We also interviewed thirty environmental justice leaders in the state.

Last December, we were asked by Dr. Paul Mohai to review and provide feedback as you were drafting this legislation. We were pleased to see a bill that addresses cumulative impacts and will result in advancing environmental justice in affected communities.

The bill is very thorough and comprehensive and includes best practices from existing tools and processes. We like that the bill identifies numerous factors that contribute to environmental injustice in the categories of social vulnerabilities, environmental exposures and effects, and health risks and outcomes to develop a tool to map and identify environmental justice communities. Another strength of the bill is the investigation of additional factors, such as climate change, as potential indicators, as well as a process for communities to self-identify as environmental justice communities. We appreciate that the bill requires annual review of data.

A strength of the bill is that it requires the committee to directly engage impacted communities, including gathering information directly from impacted residents, collecting qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking, and developing "virtual training sessions for environmental justice communities." Finally, we support the stipulation that the mapping tool should be used to "correct for historical and current environmental injustices" by heavily investing and reducing pollution in the communities identified.

The establishment of a committee tasked with using data-driven solutions to address environmental injustice at a Federal level is of paramount importance and we are in full support.

Best regards,

Delia Mayor, MS
deliamd@umich.edu

Laura Grier, MS
lagrier@umich.edu

*"Assessing the State of Environmental Justice in Michigan," available at
https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/handle/2027.42/149105

January 22, 2021

Senator Ed Markey
255 Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

I am a social science researcher who has spent more than a decade working with environmental justice communities across the U.S. in their efforts to use data and mapping resources to bring attention to disproportionate environmental burdens of many kinds. From 2016-2018, I served on the Environmental Justice Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Prior to that I spent several years employed for a non-profit technical service provider generating maps and data analysis for energy justice advocacy organizations. I also spent the first thirty years of my life in Massachusetts.

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support this bill. Its language is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying the many dimensions of environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors that produce marginalization, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice. Using maps and data to identify and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S. is an important step in alleviating these conditions. Of particular, importance is the bill's intent to use qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking, in order to establish "a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them. The bill also connects efforts to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them as sites where we can imagine transitions to more just and sustainable futures. This bill also allows for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working.

In short, this bill introduces a long overdue agenda that embraces the power of data and mapping in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. I am in full support of this bill. Please feel free to contact me to assist in any way I can to help see it towards successful passing into law.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kirk Jalbert
14 W. Erie Drive
Tempe, Arizona 85282

January 23, 2021

Dr. Kyle Whyte
George Willis Pack Professor
School for Environment and Sustainability
University of Michigan
Dana Building, 440 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
kwhyte@umich.edu

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

I also like that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
440 Church Street, Ann Arbor MI 48109-1041
seas.umich.edu

Please recycle

Dear Senator Markey,

Thank you very much for your pioneering work on the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021."

The "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021" is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying environmental burdens -- especially risks and cumulative burdens in relation to socioeconomic factors and environmental injustice. Identifying, mapping, and setting priorities to protect vulnerable communities will benefit these communities and all communities by making environment, health, justice, and equity into visible and concrete priorities.

The bill calls for direct engagement with affected communities thereby including the right to just regulatory processes as part of environmental justice. The bill also calls for "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities," further enhancing social inclusion and protecting access to transparent and democratic processes. The decision to use qualitative data where quantitative data are insufficient or unavailable is an important step forward and is well supported by the academic literature on environmental justice. See, for example, work by my colleague Professor Krista Harper in Anthropology and the School of Public Policy at UMass Amherst.

Identifying and dedicating resources to fill data gaps is another important component of the bill. The bill also calls for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process. I hope that you and the US EPA and other regulatory authorities will not hesitate to engage environmental justice scholars, such as Robert Bullard, Paul Mohai, Mary B. Collins, Manuel Pastor, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Jacqueline Patterson, and others to discuss the lessons learned about effective data for environmental justice over decades of study.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy, for example, policies that will tightly link pollution reduction in overburdened communities with decarbonization programs. Targeting burdened communities for enhanced investments, e.g., dedicating "at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition" to such communities, is a critical step to ensuring that the energy transition will build durable and equitable structures for decades to come. Research by my colleagues in the Energy Transition Institute at UMass Amherst observes that we have an enormous opportunity for an equitable energy transition, and getting it right the first time will be better and cheaper than trying to retrofit equity onto an inequitable system afterwards.

The "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021" is a groundbreaking step in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. I hope that my comments are useful, and I would be happy to discuss the issues with you if it were helpful. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Ash, Professor of Economics and Public Policy
Member of MSP/MTA/NEA, the union of faculty and librarians
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. I am an assistant professor at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. I teach courses in energy justice and direct the Urban Energy Justice Lab, which conducts research on spatial, racial and socioeconomic disparities in energy access, affordability, and policymaking. While my work in energy justice began within the last decade, issues of environmental justice have been intricately woven throughout my upbringing in rural South Carolina and my professional life whether in state or local government agencies, transportation design firms, or as a US Army officer in Iraq.

In October 2020, I testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy hearing on "Generating Equity: Improving Clean Energy Access and Affordability." An important part of my testimony was to implore Congress to develop a national framework for targets, measuring and tracking equity progress on energy justice, which includes targeting environmental justice communities with incentives and investment. I like that your bill connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

The proposed bill brings together top-down and bottom-up derived data and information. The bill is comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S. It also calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

I believe these are foundational steps toward advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Tony G. Reames, PhD, PE
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan School for Environment & Sustainability

Dear Senator Markey:

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.
I support how the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

These are groundbreaking steps to advance environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I fully support this bill.

Christina H. Fuller, SM, ScD

Dear Senator Markey,

The Climate Reality Project of Coastal Georgia has reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021",and strongly supports it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

it is important that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition"), which is important.

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the environmental justice identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

These are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. **The Climate Reality Project of Coastal Georgia is** in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ionno
Chair, CRP/Coastal Georgia

Dear Senator Markey,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021." As an Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Colorado School of Public Health, my research focuses on measuring environmental justice and examining impacts of policies on environmental, health, and social outcomes. Through this work, I can verify that environmental injustice persist across the country, and that a strong, coordinated, evidence-based approach is badly needed in order to advance environmental justice for all. I have reviewed the draft legislation and find it to be a crucial step in this direction.

The bill references multiple ongoing efforts to address environmental justice at the state level, and this is certainly true here in Colorado. One environmental justice concern in our state involves oil and gas development. In 2017, the state approved permits for Extraction Oil and Gas to drill wells less than 700 feet from the playground of the majority-minority Bella Romero Academy. The site for these wells was originally proposed to be next to a more affluent charter school; when parents at that school organized in opposition, the site was moved to Bella Romero. Our research team has received funding from the National Science Foundation to look at broader patterns of oil and gas development and proximity to communities of color across the state. In 2019, the state passed legislation changing the mission of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to prioritize protecting public health and the environment, prompting new rulemakings that have defined "disproportionately impacted" communities and begun to put protections in place to enhance participation of these communities in decision making. I provided testimony in support of these rules, and am now working with state legislators to define environmental justice more comprehensively at the state level.

While I am happy about the changes I see happening in Colorado, I also know that environmental justice issues are widespread across the country, and likely particularly egregious in states that have a deep history of environmental racism that are not taking the needed actions to repair these damages today. A national-level policy is badly needed to support and bolster the work that Colorado is doing, while also providing crucial support and voice to communities in states across the country.

I am grateful for the work you are doing to advance this legislation, and am fully in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Katherine L. Dickinson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health
Colorado School of Public Health
University of Colorado Anschutz

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.
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I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Respectfully,
Jennifer D. Roberts

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.
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I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Chunrong Jia, Ph.D., M.S.
Associate Professor of Environmental Health
School of Public Health

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

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I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Jyotsna S. Jagai, MS, MPH, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division
School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dear Senator Markey:

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.
I support how the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

These are groundbreaking steps to advance environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I fully support this bill.

Christina H. Fuller, SM, ScD

Dear Senator Markey,

I have worked on the issue of unequal exposures to environmental hazards and unequal action among communities and workers for thirty years, in Louisiana, at the level of the U.S., and globally. In all these, having quality spatial data, provided consistently and accurately, has been a severe problem. For example for years we were forced to use the Environmental Defense Fund's EJ mapping tools, which were then suspended when their foundation funding ran out. EPA's EJ data was inconsistently updated and became nearly impossible to find and use.

I have just read the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and I am strongly in support. By identifying and quantifying environmental injustice and mapping overburdened communities in the U.S. and those unable to cope with such exposures, the act could be a game-changer. These are core issues to our efforts to address our nation's structural racism and inequality by other dimensions, like ethnicity, gender, and income.

I appreciate your work on this bill, and hope to see its immediate passage.

Sincerely,

Timmons Roberts

Dear Senator Markey,

I am from the Kanawha River Valley in WV. It is popularly referred to as the Chemical Valley due to a century of chemical production here by the likes of Union Carbide, DOW, Dupont, Monsanto, FMC, Bayer Crop Sciences, and ClearOn, just to name the big ones. Due to those same actors the river is polluted beyond repair and unusable for drinking water by EPA standards. There are many unregistered pre-regulation dumps, superfund sites, toxic brownfields, cancer and autoimmune disease hotspots, and ongoing air quality issues that need to be addressed or at the very least studied before they are added to by any proposed "buildout" that the industry and our politicians seem hell bent on promoting.

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

I also like that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.
Sincerely,
Alex Cole, Community Organizer
OVEC – Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

Dear Senator Markey,

I strongly support the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021". We all know that the most vulnerable and marginalized communities are essentially used as the nation's dumping grounds; places where polluting industries can either locate themselves or their waste products, sometimes both.

The Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021 would finally provide a mechanism to both quantify and qualify damage done to these vulnerable communities, a way for said communities to voice their concerns and needs, and a means for addressing their concerns.

Thank you for introducing this bill. It has my full support.

Stephanie Ulmer
Chair, Edgewood Shade Tree Committee, Edgewood, PA

Dear Senator Markey,

We at Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science ([Public Lab](#)) have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021," and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

We also like that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities, including employing qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishing a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities", and for comprehensively identifying data gaps and taking steps to fill them.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, a valuable step in determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating the EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing process.

We think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue and are in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Stevie Lewis
Senior Program Director, Public Lab

Dear Senator Markey,

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice and using these to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S.

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I think these are groundbreaking steps in advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. I am in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Shapiro
Assistant Professor
UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics

Dear Senator Markey,

We, a group of graduate students in the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021," and strongly support it. The bill is thorough and comprehensive, identifying various environmental burdens, socioeconomic factors related to hardship, health risks and outcomes, and other factors related to environmental injustice. These criteria are then used to identify, map, and prioritize overburdened and vulnerable communities in the U.S. As students, we are working to highlight domestic and foreign environmental justice (EJ) issues and advocate for action on these issues; supporting this bill aligns with the values that we strive to uphold at our own institution and beyond.

We appreciate that the bill calls for including information directly from impacted communities. This employs qualitative data where quantitative data are lacking and "establishes a mechanism by which communities can self-identify as environmental justice communities." Such a method comprehensively identifies data gaps and takes steps to fill them. We hope that this bill will promote engagement with community organizers and provide platforms for their work to drive the conversation surrounding EJ.

The bill also connects the effort to identify environmentally disadvantaged communities with policy outcomes, such as taking steps to reduce pollution in overburdened communities and targeting them for enhanced investments ("at least 40% of the funds provided for a clean energy transition").

Another strength of the bill is the call for updating data frequently ("not less frequently than annually"). This would allow for detecting changes in community conditions relatively quickly, which is integral to determining whether policies intended to reduce environmental injustices are working. The bill also calls for updating the list of indicators and methodology at least once every three years, another valuable step in continually improving and updating EJ identification, mapping, and prioritizing processes.

We believe these are groundbreaking and critical steps to advancing environmental justice in the U.S. that are long overdue. We are in full support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Unnati Mehta
Jessica Lin
Marjorie Segule
Himaja Nagireddy
Kathryn S. Tomsho
Melissa Fiffer

Dear Senator Markey,

I am a Professor of Environmental Science at Ferrum College in Ferrum, Virginia. I teach GIS at a college with 48% students of color. Every semester my students are required to work on a project with the EPA's EJ Screen so that they learn how to use this data. I also lead The Episcopal Church's working group on Environmental Racism and Asset Mapping.

I have reviewed the "Environmental Justice Mapping and Data Collection Act of 2021", and strongly support it. One of the challenges in both of these arenas is the lack of coordination between federal agencies with their Environmental Racism & Justice mapping resources. It is very difficult to bring together data from the EPA, CDC, Department of Agriculture, Census Bureau, etc. to get a full picture of what is happening across the US. Many of the Map Servers and REST services are listed but not working or kept current. As a professional working in both Higher Education and a faith community it is extremely frustrating.

Having a data repository that is accessible for a wide variety of uses would be tremendous, especially if it integrated with current mapping technologies such as ArcGIS online. Having data dispersed, in difficult to access ways or which require high levels of technical skills, means it is not helpful for the communities it is intended to reach.

Your bill is thorough and comprehensive in terms of identifying various factors which impact vulnerable communities in our country. It also combines both qualitative and quantitative data which gives voice to communities that have long been marginalized and over-looked. Solutions to many of the most pressing problems can often be found or are already known in these communities if we just bother to ask and bring people to the table. As we continue to feel the impacts of climate change, those we have contributed the least to its causes will increasingly bear the costs.

Mapping environmental racism makes it exceedingly clear how public policy has failed our country. Engaging in this process makes it very clear. I've attached some photos of maps I made using the Episcopal Asset Map tool showing the connection between redlining in Greensboro, NC and PM 2.5 levels today. These maps show how racist policies of the last century are playing out today and causing harm to generations of people. Education institutions and faith communities stand ready to support this bill and the work that you are calling for our nation to undertake.

I am in full support of this bill and am grateful for your work to introduce it.

Sincerely,

Delia Heck

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Delia R. Heck, PhD
Professor of Environmental Science
Natural Science Division Chair
Environmental Science & Environmental Studies Program Coordinator
Assessment Coordinator
Smith Mountain Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program Director