

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3680

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

MAY 11, 2020

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) communities of color, low-income commu-
6 nities, Tribal and indigenous communities, fossil
7 fuel-dependent communities, and other vulnerable
8 populations, such as persons with disabilities, chil-
9 dren, and the elderly, are disproportionately bur-

1 dened by environmental hazards that include expo-
2 sure to polluted air, waterways, and landscapes;

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

7 (3) communities experiencing environmental in-
8 justice have been subjected to systemic racial, social,
9 and economic injustices and face a disproportionate
10 burden of adverse human health or environmental
11 effects, a higher risk of intentional, unconscious, or
12 structural discrimination, and disproportionate en-
13 ergy burdens;

14 (4) those disproportionate burdens are being ex-
15 asperated by the COVID–19 pandemic;

16 (5) the Environmental Protection Agency has
17 announced a nonenforcement policy under all envi-
18 ronmental laws during the COVID–19 pandemic for
19 monitoring and recordkeeping requirements;

20 (6) that policy is likely to increase the pollution
21 burden in environmental justice communities and de-
22 crease access to monitoring data and information;
23 and

1 (7) citizen science will be essential for environ-
2 mental justice communities to protect themselves
3 during the COVID–19 pandemic.

4 **SEC. 2. 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 those programs
15 were in existence on January 1, 2012.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR GRANTS IN RESPONSE TO
17 COVID–19 EMERGENCY.—

18 (1) DISTRIBUTION.—Not later than 30 days
19 after amounts are made available pursuant to sub-
20 section (c), the Administrator of the Environmental
21 Protection Agency shall award grants under each of
22 the programs described in subsection (a).

23 (2) PRIORITY FOR FUNDS.—In awarding grants
24 under the programs described in subsection (a) pur-

1 suant to this section, the Administrator shall
2 prioritize projects that will—

3 (A) monitor pollution in or near environ-
4 mental justice communities; or

5 (B) investigate or address the dispropor-
6 tionate impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic in
7 environmental justice communities.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the programs
10 described in subsection (a) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year
11 2020.

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