

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2696

To establish the Office of Environmental Justice in the Executive Office
of the President, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. McEACHIN, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Office of Environmental Justice in the
Executive Office of the President, 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 “Executive Office of
5 Environmental Justice Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE; DUTIES.—There is
8 established in the Executive Office of the President an Of-

1 fice of Environmental Justice, which shall have the fol-
2 lowing duties:

3 (1) Liaise with the Administrator of the Envi-
4 ronmental Protection Agency.

5 (2) Complete an environmental justice assess-
6 ment of each Executive order, to be made public on
7 the White House website.

8 (3) Discuss an assessment with the President
9 before an Executive order is signed. Any such as-
10 sessment shall be made available to the public not
11 later than 15 days after the Executive order is
12 signed.

13 (4) Attend the Interagency Working Group
14 meetings established under Executive Order 12898
15 (50 Fed. Reg. 7629; relating to Federal actions to
16 address environmental justice in minority popu-
17 lations and low-income populations) and meet, not
18 less frequently than annually, with the members of
19 the Interagency Working Group described in section
20 1–102 of such Executive order to review progress
21 being made on implementing the environmental jus-
22 tice goals of the Interagency Working Group within
23 the applicable agency or office.

24 (5) Coordinate roundtables with stakeholders
25 and hold public meetings.

1 (6) Ensure that the goals of Executive Order
2 12898 (59 Fed. Reg. 7629; relating to Federal ac-
3 tions to address environmental justice in minority
4 populations and low-income populations) are being
5 actively implemented through science-based regula-
6 tions in the White House and the Environmental
7 Protection Agency.

8 (7) Represent the executive branch in the com-
9 munity and regularly engage in frontline commu-
10 nities, including communities of color, low income
11 communities, people with limited English pro-
12 ficiency, indigenous peoples, and people living with
13 disabilities.

14 (8) Serve as a member on the Domestic Policy
15 Council, established by Executive Order 12859 (58
16 Fed. Reg. 44101; relating to establishment of the
17 Domestic Policy Council).

18 (b) DIRECTOR.—

19 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Direc-
20 tor of the Office of Environmental Justice who shall
21 head the Office.

22 (2) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be ap-
23 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and
24 consent of the Senate. The first such appointment

1 shall not be later than 60 days after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act.

3 (3) DUTIES.—The Director shall serve as the li-
4 aision with the Office of Environmental Justice of
5 the Environmental Protection Agency.

6 (4) PAY.—The annual rate of basic pay for the
7 Director shall be the rate payable under level III of
8 the Executive Schedule (section 5314 of title 5,
9 United States Code).

10 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5314 of
11 such title is amended by inserting after the item relating
12 to “Director of the Office of Emergency Planning” the
13 following new item:

14 “Director of the Office of Environmental Justice.”.

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