

# What is Environmental Justice?

Far too many people remain unaware that low income communities and communities of color bear the brunt of our environmental burdens. Known as environmental justice, this movement addresses the adverse effects of unequal treatment in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental policies and environmental risks.

## What is the Senate Environmental Justice Caucus?

The Senate's first-ever Environmental Justice Caucus was created on Earth Day 2019 to call Congress' attention to the many environmental justice issues affecting our nation. The Caucus aims to help communities adversely affected by environmental justice issues advocate for themselves with the Federal government by providing expertise and assistance, generating legislation and organizing hearings and events.

The Senate Environmental Justice Caucus coordinates with the House Environmental Justice Task Force, which consists of members from the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Asian Pacific American Caucus.

## Who is a part of the Senate Environmental Justice Caucus?

Our ambition is that every Senator will join the Caucus. Currently, it is led by co-chairs Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Tom Carper (D-DE). Additional members include Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Ed Markey (D-MA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tina Smith (D-MN), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Brian Schatz (D-HI), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Bob Casey (D-PA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Gary Peters (D-MI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ron Wyden (D-OR).

### What does the Caucus work on?

The Caucus promotes organized collaboration with environmental justice groups and our constituents who are seeking congressional support in making their air cleaner, their water safer and holding polluters accountable who threaten these goals. The Caucus develops policy, holds briefings, conduct field hearings and connect Senate staff to environmental justice leaders.

### How can I connect with the Caucus?

We want to work on what is important to you and your community. You can contact the Caucus by emailing: <u>Chelsea\_McDonald@duckworth.senate.gov</u>; <u>Kenneth\_Martin@epw.senate.gov</u>; and <u>Adam\_Zipkin@booker.senate.gov</u>