



July 5, 2024

Climate Justice Alliance Strongly Opposes the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee Appropriations Bill that would Derail Decades Long Progress on Environmental & Climate Justice

Climate Justice Alliance stands in firm opposition to the [House Appropriations Committee Fiscal Year 2025 bill for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee](#) which mandates new oil and gas leasing at a time when the climate crisis and extreme weather are accelerating with disastrous effects; rolls back agency ability to regulate polluters, putting our communities' health at risk; and sacrifices our communities and public lands for the oil and gas industries' bottom line, among other harmful measures.

As an organization that has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to implement comprehensive, systemic change to the climate crisis we must voice our vehement opposition to this bill, set for mark up by the full House Appropriations Committee on July 9, 2024, for the following reasons that run counter to any sensible approach to climate policy in these areas:

Runs Counter to Combating Climate Change

- Blocking the Administration's NEPA rules will essentially end any consideration for climate change and its impacts in new permitting processes, favoring dirty industry over community health and well-being at every turn.⁽¹⁾
- By prohibiting funds for the EPA's Clean Power Plan 2.0 ⁽²⁾ and regulatory overreach regarding ozone emissions and steam electric power plants, the EPA will no longer have the funds needed to limit emissions from power plants, effectively halting progress already underway to ameliorate community health consequences from pollution.
- Rejecting eight of the Administration's climate change executive orders would ensure the Environmental Justice Executive Order that acknowledges the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and aims to address it will no longer be funded. ⁽³⁾

- Prohibiting agencies from using the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) in cost-benefit analyses and blocking the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases is a big step backwards in understanding the real cost on human lives from pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and addressing them. This measure will tip the scales in cost-benefit analyses by federal agencies in favor of industry. (4)

Puts Big Oil and Gas Over Everyday People & Community Well-being

- Requiring the Secretary of the Interior to resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales will only accelerate climate change and extreme weather at a time when the global community has already acknowledged a transition to green and clean energy is imperative. This only keeps the US in a position of having to catch up, not lead.
- Prohibiting funds to cancel oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska reverses protections to the Arctic and will further exacerbate community and environmental devastation.
- Stopping the Bureau of Land Management's Conservation and Landscape Health rule to ensure continued access to public lands for grazing, recreation, and energy development opens up public land for "energy development" which will only benefit a dying oil and gas industry over the public good. (5)

Cuts Chemicals and Toxics Regulations, Sacrifices Vulnerable Communities

- Ensuring chemical and pesticide manufacturers do not have to abide by requirements that they assert would drive business overseas and threaten U.S. competitiveness simply reduces toxics' regulations and ensures a higher health cost will be paid by everyday people.

Ensures Harmful Transportation Emissions Will Continue to Rise

- This bill essentially aims to wipe out emissions regulations by blocking the EPA's car regulations on light, medium, (6) and heavy-duty vehicles.(7)
- In particular, prohibiting the EPA from allowing California to exercise its right as a state to require new small off-road engines, such as lawn care equipment, be zero-emission, (8) would reverse advanced emission reduction policies that are successful and could provide a model for other states.

Expanding Mining Favors Corporate Interests Rather than Community

- Stopping the Administration's 30x30 initiative to ensure access to federal lands for mineral exploration and development (9) simply opens up federal land for mining which will only worsen the climate crisis and further degrade our nation's natural resources.

- Expanding access to critical minerals by blocking certain Bureau of Land Management withdrawals in Minnesota and reinstating mineral leases in the Superior National Forest (10) completely nullifies land protections.

Food Sovereignty is At Risk

- Reducing EPA's ability to implement regulations under the Clean Air Act for livestock feed (11) ensures that the EPA will be unable to access funding to implement clean air regulations (under title V for livestock). This isn't good for anyone.

Federal Agencies & Organizations Working on Climate & Environment Will Not Be Supported

- Reducing funding for the EPA by a whopping 20% or a \$1.82 billion reduction means a significant loss in climate related action to cool the planet and counter the devastating effects of climate change throughout the country.
- Reducing funding for the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to the authorized level of \$1 million will result in a significant reduction (78% below the FY24 enacted level) in funding to ensure agencies implement environmental justice plans and equitable funding of projects to address the climate crisis, especially for communities hit first and worst by it.
- Singling out and blocking funding for "American Climate Corps, (12) Climate Justice Alliance, (13) and ecogrief counseling" is a purely political move in a highly polarized election cycle.

Social Justice is Thrown Out the Window While Equality & Equity in the US Remains in Question

- Prohibiting implementation of the Biden Administration's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) will stop all funding for activities associated with the Executive Order "Advancing Racial Equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government," (14) which will negatively impact Black, Brown, Indigenous, and people of color communities who have had to bear the brunt of the climate crisis for decades.
- Using broad language to prohibit funds that promote critical race theory or any concept that might be deemed loosely associated is a racist tactic that only serves to further disenfranchise Black and Brown communities who are often more vulnerable to the climate crisis, toxins and pollution from dirty industry. (15)
- Codifying government protections and grants for people who believe that marriage should only be between a man and a woman using anti-discriminatory language is equally disturbing and simply ridiculous. (16)

Overall, this bill aims to derail decades of environmental justice work won by frontline and fence-line communities by rolling back important federal regulations, permitting rules and protections for communities; restoring oil and gas lease sales, defunding the EPA among others, while also singling out and targeting the Climate Justice Alliance and the American Climate Corps, in a bout of political theater that does not have everyday people's best interest at heart.

For a subcommittee that holds the environment under its purview, this is a highly politicized nonsensical proposal that lacks basic common sense and we must call it what it is: **a racist attempt to disenfranchise Black, Indigenous, Asian, people of color and poor white communities (both rural and urban) from accessing resources that can literally save us and the planet.**

We strongly condemn this bill and call on all who genuinely want to combat the climate crisis to oppose it as well. **This subcommittee and the full House Appropriations Committee can do much better!**

1 [SEC. 478. Page 218](#) (Full bill language)- Sec. 478, p.218 - "None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the notice of interim guidance titled "National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change" published by the Council on Environmental Quality in the Federal Register on January 9, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 1196)".

2 SEC. 472. Page 216. Clean Power Plan. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule titled "New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units; and Repeal of the Affordable Clean Energy Rule" published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on May 9, 2024 (89 Fed. 12 Reg. 39798). Page 216

3 SEC. 468. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled "Supplemental Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category" published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on March 29, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 21 18824). Page 214

4 SEC. 449. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to implement any of the following executive orders: Page 190

5 SEC. 454. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to consider or incorporate the social cost of carbon Page 194

6 SEC. 154. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled "Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska" and published by the Bureau of Land Management in the Federal Register on September 8, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 62025), or any substantially similar rule Page 85

7 SEC. 474. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule titled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles" published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on April 18, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 27842), or any substantially similar rule. Page 217

8 SEC. 475. Page 217

9 SEC. 469. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to approve a waiver submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency by the State of California, pursuant to section 209(e) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(e)), for the State of California's amendments to its rule titled "Small Off-Road Engine Regulations: Transition to Zero Emissions". Page 214

10 SEC. 462. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to withdraw any Federal land from any form of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, or patent under the general mining laws, or disposition under the mineral leasing, mineral materials, or geothermal leasing laws unless such withdrawal is authorized by an Act of Congress. Page 212

11 SEC. 453. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and not subject to further judicial review, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall reinstate the hardrock mineral leases in the Superior National Forest in the State of Minnesota issued in 2019 and identified as MNES-01352 and MNES-01353. Page 194

12 SEC. 448. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the American Climate Corps. Page 190

13 SEC. 460 page 212

14 SEC. 434. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes page 183

15 EXECUTIVE ORDER FUNDING PROHIBITION 12 SEC. 443. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order No. 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, Page 187

16 SEC. 445. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory Page 188

18 none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. Page 189