



Senator Cory Booker
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 19, 2021

Congressman A. Donald McEachin
314 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Booker and Congressman McEachin,

The undersigned organizations, all of which are stakeholders in lead poisoning prevention, green and healthy housing, clean water, and environmental justice, strongly support the Environmental Justice Legacy Pollution Cleanup Act of 2021. We are grateful for your leadership, vision and commitment to address these issues that have undermined the health and opportunities of generations of Americans.

The toxic legacy of lead poisoning has devastated our older, lower income communities – especially Black and Brown communities – for far too long. More than half a million children in America are poisoned by lead and most of them are children of color living in under-resourced communities. Decades of disinvestment have left families trapped in unsafe and unhealthy homes that literally poison their children and rob them of their opportunities. Yet, with the adoption of the EJ Legacy Pollution Act, we will be able to make transformational and tangible investments in addressing the social determinants of health and racial equity.

This Act addresses the impact of lead exposure by investing \$45 billion to address lead paint hazards in 3,750,000 older, low-income homes of greatest need and will create approximately 46,000 community-driven jobs. Additionally, the Act will provide \$45 billion in critical capital for lead service line replacement to ensure that every American will have access to safe drinking water. Further there will be \$1 billion for to create healthy homes in Native American housing, addressing hazards such as carbon monoxide, mold, radon, and fall and injury hazards.

At this unprecedented time in America, the health of our housing stock could not have greater importance or provide a greater opportunity to tangibly address the social determinants of health and racial equity. We have asked families to shelter in place, to use housing as a shield for health. The pandemic has laid bare the stark racial disparities that persist in our country. Our public policy has long disregarded the health of housing in Black and Brown and low-income communities, leaving families with little opportunity to build and sustain intergenerational wealth, and to protect children and seniors from wholly preventable illnesses and injuries. What has been heightened by COVID-19 is the risk of sheltering our youngest and oldest populations in unhealthy housing, thus exposing them to greater harm from unsafe conditions such as poor indoor air quality, mold, mildew and moisture, structural defects and toxins such as lead.

We strongly believe that investments at scale to improve the quality of occupied housing and water systems in low-income communities across the nation has the potential to significantly improve racial and economic equity and health outcomes while also providing workforce development opportunities in impacted communities.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you.

Ruth Ann Norton
President and CEO
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative



Organization Endorsements
Environmental Justice Legacy Pollution Cleanup Act of 2021
April 19, 2021

National Organizations

American Public Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Community Solutions
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
First Focus Campaign for Children
Friends of the Earth
Healthy Babies Bright Futures
Inclusive Prosperity Capital
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
NAACP
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Housing Trust
National Resources Defense Council
National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition
PolicyLINK
Rebuilding Together
Trust for America's Health
WE ACT For Environmental Justice

State and Local Organizations and Individuals

Abrams Environmental Law Clinic, University of Chicago Law School
ACTION-Housing, Inc.
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alliance for a Green Economy
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Anthony Santiago, National League of Cities
Arbor Hill Environmental Justice
AtelierTek Architects
Ayika Solutions
Ben Jealous, Former President, NAACP
Black Lives Matter South Bend
Black Millennials 4 Flint
BLDG Memphis
Brooke Lierman, Maryland House of Delegates
Christine Keim, Hephatha Lutheran Church
Chunrong Jia, University of Memphis
City of Central Falls (RI)
City of Memphis (TN)
City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods (OH)
Coalition on Lead Emergency (COLE)

Community Concepts, Inc.
Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo
Community Preservation Corporation
CT Coalition for Economic and Environmental Justice
Dominican Center for Women
Elevate
Emily Benfer, Wake Forest School of Law
Green Door Initiative
Green Spaces Chattanooga
Harambee House Inc./Citizens for Environmental Justice
Health Justice Project, Loyola University School of Law
HousingLOUISIANA
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
Howardville Community Betterment (MO)
Jesus Peoples Against Pollution
Kids Forward
Kinetic Communities Consulting
Learning Disabilities Association of WNY
Living Classrooms Foundation
Memphis Tilth
Metropolitan Group
Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island
Pace Energy and Climate Center
Partnership Effort for the Advancement of Children's Health
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
PODER
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Rev. James L Caldwell
Revitalize Community Development Corporation
Rhode Island State Nurses Association
Richmond Senior Services (NY)
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
S.O.U.R.C.E Studio
South Bronx Unite
Southface Institute
Sunshine Construction, LLC
Tallahassee Food Network
Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, National Climate Strategist
The Imani Group
Virginia Ann Rauh, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
West End Revitalization Association