

May 13, 2025

Chairman Brett Guthrie  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Opposing Harmful Rescissions to Health and Environmental Justice  
Programs in Energy and Commerce Reconciliation Bill**

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and the members of the House  
Energy & Commerce Committee:

We, the undersigned public health and environmental justice advocates, write in strong opposition to the proposed legislative recommendations under consideration by the House Energy and Commerce Committee as part of budget reconciliation. These proposals would rescind funding for critical clean air, climate, and public health programs, and would roll back long-standing Medicaid protections—placing frontline communities across the country at increased risk.

This bill represents an attack on the very programs designed to protect families living at the intersection of environmental hazard and health vulnerability. Among the many dangerous provisions, the bill:

- Repeals funding for air pollution monitoring and cleanup at schools and ports, even though children in low-income districts and fence-line communities already suffer higher rates of asthma and respiratory illness due to chronic exposure to diesel, ozone, and industrial emissions.
- Eliminates environmental justice block grants and state climate planning funds that help communities tackle cumulative toxic burdens—including lead, PFAS, and other legacy contaminants.
- Cuts funding for EPA enforcement technology that tracks violations and protects communities from illegal toxic releases.

At the same time, the bill undermines healthcare access for low-income populations. These health care rollbacks would fall hardest on the same communities that face disproportionate environmental burdens: Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, and rural communities—many of them in red states. For example, rescinding air monitoring and enforcement funding while restricting Medicaid access will harm children with asthma in Appalachia, elders with COPD in the South, and farmworkers exposed to pesticides without access to timely medical care.

Public health and environmental protection are deeply intertwined. A child living near a highway or refinery who can't access care after an asthma attack is not just a statistic; they are the human embodiment of how policy choices can compound injustice.

We urge House leadership to reject these harmful rescissions and policy changes. All communities deserve clean air, safe environments, and access to affordable health care—regardless of income, race, or ZIP code.

Sincerely,

Earthjustice Action

Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform (EJHA)

NAACP

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)

Port Arthur Community Action Network (PACAN)

Vessel Project of Louisiana

WE ACT for Environmental Justice