Friday, January 15, 2021

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations working on the frontlines to address harms from pollution on communities of color and low-income communities, we write regarding solutions that must be pursued with vigor from day one. Your administration has identified addressing the disproportionate harms faced by communities of color and low-income communities as a key part of your platform. In fact, your administration committed to direct the Cabinet to prioritize the climate strategies and technologies that most improve public health. For decades, the freight industry has bombarded our communities with harmful pollution and other impacts. Addressing the rampant environmental injustice from this industry and fulfilling your promises requires regulations and policies to advance zero-emissions solutions powered by zero-emissions power generation. We cannot continue to rely on combustion equipment, which produces large quantities of pollution in our communities.

In particular, we need your administration to be strong in advancing zero-emission truck regulations, policies, and workforce development to facilitate our shift to a zero-emissions trucking future at all relevant agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Human
Services, Department of Labor, amongst others. We also need these agencies to pass regulations and policies requiring zero-emissions equipment beyond trucks, including locomotives, cargo handling equipment, construction equipment, and other off-road equipment. These agencies will be critical in solving the continual health crisis imposed by the dirty diesel vehicles that are so pervasive in our communities.

We also ask that your administration take the job development potential for zero-emissions equipment seriously, particularly in our communities. As we shift to a new economy that is not fueled by products that poison us and the planet, we want to see the job benefits of that transition in our communities, including jobs building vehicles, installing charging infrastructure, maintenance, and other components of this new energy economy. Our labor and economic agencies need to pursue these jobs in our communities as a way to advance not only a clean economy, but also one that is just.

Overall, we cannot continue to have an industry that imposes these harms on our communities. We need you and your new administration to make this a top priority as a means to fulfill your promises to address environmental injustice. We look forward to working with you and your administration.

Sincerely,

Cleophus Sharp
Community Developer
Achieving Community Tasks Successfully

Bakeyah Nelson
Executive Director
Air Alliance Houston

Ivette Torres
Policy Coordinator
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAEJ)

Dr. Catherine Garoupa White
Executive Director
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Bruce W. Strouble Ph.D.
Director
Citizens for a Sustainable Future

Beto Lugo-Martinez
Executive Director
CleanAirNow
Amy Goldsmith  
NJ State Director  
Clean Water Action  
Clean Water Fund

James Caldwell  
Founder and Director  
Coalition of Community Organizations

Coalition for Healthy Ports NY NJ  
Luis Olmedo  
Executive Director  
Comité Cívico del Valle

East Harris County Empowerment Council  
Taylor Thomas  
Co-Director  
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Cruz Hinojosa  
President  
Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park

David Flores  
Air Quality Campaign Director  
Environmental Health Coalition

Andrea Marpillero-Colomina, PhD.  
Clean Transportation Advocate  
GreenLatinos

Dr. Mildred McClain  
Executive Director  
Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice, Inc.

Sylvia Betancourt  
Program Manager  
Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma

Angelo Logan  
Campaign Director  
Moving Forward Network

Melissa Miles  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance

Adrian Shelley  
Texas Office Director  
Public Citizen
Joel Ervice  
Associate Director  
Regional Asthma Management and  
Prevention (RAMP)

Brian P. Urbaszewski  
Director, Environmental Health Programs  
Respiratory Health Association

Peter Warren  
San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners  
Coalition

Kim Gaddy  
Director  
South Ward Environmental Alliance

Debra Walker  
President  
Sunnyside Community Redevelopment  
Organization

Michael Almon  
Secretary  
Sustainability Action Network

Juan Parras  
Executive Director  
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy  
Services

Jacquelyn Young-Medcalf  
Executive Director  
Texas Health and Environment Alliance

Adrian Shelley  
Managing Director  
The Healthy Ports Community Coalition

Jessica Tovar  
The Urban & Environmental Policy Institute  
at Occidental College

Theral Golden  
Treasurer  
West Long Beach Association

Ms. Margaret Gordon  
Co-Director  
West Oakland Environmental Indicator  
Project

Omega and Brenda Wilson  
Co-Founders  
West End Revitalization Association  
(WERA)

CC:  Biden-Harris Transition and Landing Teams