

United States Senate

June 4, 2019

Dear Colleague,

We write to invite you to join the United States Senate's first-ever Environmental Justice Caucus. The Environmental Justice Caucus will elevate urgent environmental and public health challenges that disproportionately impact low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color.

Whether it is the effects of climate change, the lack of safe drinking water or the exposure to air pollution, the needs of these vulnerable communities require urgent and sustained focus. These populations are more often impacted by extreme weather events, have a higher risk of being exposed to harmful levels of lead and often face increased rates of asthma.

The Caucus will promote 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. Members of the Environmental Justice Caucus will be part of a coalition that is committed to developing policy, holding briefings, conducting field hearings and connecting staff to environmental justice leaders.

Our mission will be to raise national awareness of the injustice that is far too common in every corner of our country: low income communities, indigenous communities and communities of color bear the brunt of our environmental burdens and are the least protected from harmful pollution.

This expanding movement is currently less resourced than more established organizational initiatives. In addition, given the nature of the Environmental Justice mission, this movement may be less likely to engage with Congress due to lack of resources and relationships.

As co-chairs of the Senate Environmental Justice Caucus, we hope you will join our coalition to contribute your expertise on environmental and public health issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our respective staff members, Radha Adhar at Radha_Adhar@duckworth.senate.gov; Adam Zipkin at Adam_Zipkin@booker.senate.gov; and Kenneth Martin at Kenneth_Martin@epw.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator