



April 30, 2023

The Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: The Environmental Justice for All Act, H.R.1705/S.919
And The Save Oak Flat from Foreign Mining Act, H.R.1351**

Dear Members of Congress,

I am greatly concerned about the issue of environmental injustice whereby the environmental impacts of our economic activity tend to fall most heavily on those who benefit the least from that activity. I am writing to you regarding two pieces of legislation aimed at correcting and mitigating environmental injustice.

The first legislation aims to stop an injustice before it happens. It is the Save Oak Flat from Foreign Mining Act (H.R.1351). An irreplaceable natural area and site sacred to the Apache Nation in Central Arizona will immanently be turned over to a multinational corporation to be turned into a gigantic copper mine nearly 2 miles wide. The copper will be sold to other countries, not in the U.S., and the mine will use huge amounts of water in an already drought-stricken landscape. This beautiful, sacred place, home to many wildlife and plant species as well as Indigenous burial and artifact sites, will be lost forever. This mining company has already destroyed a 46,000 year old Indigenous site in Australia in 2020. This is an unconscionable act of predation and needs to be stopped.

The second legislation aims at creating processes to prevent things like the previously mentioned rape of Oak Flat from even getting off the ground. It is the A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act. Many communities of color, tribal communities, and low-income communities are less likely to have access to clean air, water, and public lands and are unable to solve these issues in their communities due to a lack of resources. H.R.1705/S.919 can help these communities by:

- Amending current laws to prohibit discrimination from federal agencies and protect environmental justice communities against federal actions
- Strengthening community protections under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and considering the cumulative impacts and violations of permitting decisions
- Establishing environmental justice grant programs
- Creating streams of communication between the federal government and environmental justice communities
- Encouraging a just clean energy transition

I ask and urge you to support these bills.

Thank you,
(Print Name) _____

Address _____
