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Environmental Justice Communities Say: No False Solutions, Clean Energy Must Be Truly Clean

Trenton - On March 11, Environmental Justice (EJ) groups will gather in Trenton to once again discuss the Clean Energy Standard (\$\frac{S237}{A1480}\$) in a joint hearing between the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee. The EJ community has made their position clear. In order to implement clean energy goals in an equitable and safe manner, there must be a strong, clear definition of clean energy that does not allow for potential loopholes or false solutions. For far too long, EJ communities have been at risk of adverse health and environmental impacts. The State of New Jersey has the opportunity to protect EJ and frontline communities while simultaneously creating new jobs and building a cleaner environment.

To continue the call for a nation-leading strong definition of clean energy, Environmental Justice advocates will gather to testify in Trenton at the State House, 125 West State Street, at 10am Monday, March 11 to call for a clean energy bill that actively protects communities by:

- Incentivizing construction of new, truly clean energy generation sources serving our state, to improve energy affordability, reliability, and creating clean energy jobs;
- Eliminating emissions of co-pollutants and greenhouse gases from energy generation;
- Preventing polluting facilities such as incinerators from receiving ratepayer subsidies when they violate permit limits.

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The <u>New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance</u> is an alliance of New Jersey-based organizations and individuals working together to identify, prevent, and reduce and/or eliminate environmental injustices that exist in communities of color and low-income communities. NJEJA will support community efforts to remediate and rebuild impacted neighborhoods, using the community's vision of improvement, through education, advocacy, the review and promulgation of public policies, training, and through organizing and technical assistance.

ICC upholds and builds upon the principles of "Justice and Equality for All." We strive to practice and build equity, work towards a Just Transition, and organize community on the basis of the <u>Jemez Principles</u>. We envision a safe, healthy, just, and nurturing Ironbound; a welcoming and fully inclusive community that supports equal and accessible opportunity and the quest for a better life. For us, revitalization means uplifting both people and place. Therefore, we aim to lead the transformation of Ironbound into a neighborhood where anyone might choose to live and current residents can remain in their homes and their community without fear of being displaced.

<u>Earthjustice</u> is the premier nonprofit public interest environmental law organization. We wield the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change. We are here because the earth needs a good lawyer.