



**NEW JERSEY  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE**



**Ironbound  
COMMUNITY  
CORPORATION**

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## **Environmental Justice Communities Say: Protect EJ Communities While Mitigating Climate Change**

**Trenton** - On March 14, the Senate Energy and Environment Committee both strengthened and voted in favor (3-2) of a Clean Energy Standard ([S237/A1480](#)). The EJ community has been actively involved in calling for a nation-leading definition of clean energy and climate change mitigation policy that reduces locally harmful GHG co-pollutants in overburdened Environmental Justice communities, and does not allow for potential loopholes or false solutions.

We celebrate the passage of this strong definition, and the fact that this bill makes New Jersey a leader in ensuring states prioritize the procurement of clean energy. However, we also recognize that this bill has a long way to go before it can be enacted into law. This moment cannot be the end of the conversation, and we will continue to call for new language and provisions that actively protect EJ communities while creating new jobs and a cleaner environment.

We call upon legislators to continue fine-tuning this bill by ensuring that the legislation:

- Reduces toxic air pollution in EJ communities by removing “net emissions” calculations;
- Creates a strong standard for “de minimis” levels of pollution that are as close to zero as possible; and
- Prevents polluting facilities such as incinerators from receiving ratepayer subsidies when they violate air permits.

“This moment represents a turning point for the state and the country. Including co-pollutants in the definition makes New Jersey a leader in protecting frontline communities. There is more work to be done to make sure that the bill is as protective of EJ communities as possible, but we take this moment to celebrate and honor the many advocates who have worked tirelessly to protect public health, call for climate change mitigation, and ensure that EJ communities are not left behind in the energy transition.”

**Melissa Miles**

**Executive Director**

**New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance**

“It’s so refreshing to see a holistic and necessary approach to defining clean energy. If we do not include co-pollutants, we stand to repeat the mistakes of the past where we sacrifice local



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communities for the so-called “greater good.” Today is an important step in leading the country towards a future that deals with both public health and climate change.”

**Maria Lopez-Nuñez**

**Deputy Director, Organizing and Advocacy  
Ironbound Community Corporation**

"Incorporating GHG co-pollutant reductions into a clean energy standard is the type of action the environmental justice community has been strongly recommending for many years. It will help protect communities near energy infrastructure from locally harmful co-pollutant emissions while at the same time fighting climate change."

**Nicky Sheats, Ph.D., Esq.**

**Director, Center for the Urban Environment**

**John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University**

**Member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance**

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*The [New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](#) 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 [Jemez Principles](#). 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.*