

I am Dawn Wells-Clyburn, from PUSH Buffalo

I'm here in support of the NY Renews Climate Jobs and Justice Package.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony:

We need to make corporate polluters pay and lift the veil of false solutions, like burning trash for energy. We need to use those payments to fund TRUE solutions to our Climate Crisis.

Black, Brown, Indigenous, Poor- and working-class folks have a right to clean air and water. We have a right to have homes, communities and jobs that are healthy and safe.

We had to create a law to convince industry to reduce emissions but lack the funding to make it real and actionable???

...we need air to live, to breathe and to thrive.

Our communities continue to suffer the results of environmental racism. We need legislation and investments from you to combat it. We need you to pass the NY Renews Climate Jobs and Justice Package!

I am a mother of two beautiful children who suffer from asthma, I live here in Buffalo, NY in Erie County has one of the highest rates of asthma for children in the state - Particularly for those of us that live in the city and near highways, railways, abandoned buildings. My oldest child was born in a home that was faulty and was consumed by a fire; on a street with concentrated air pollution – the impact of years of disinvestment and redlining that resulted in raising our family in a home that was surrounded by a railroad (diesel pollution), abandoned Bandag Tire manufacturer (asbestos pollution) and adjacent to two streets that are major veins in and out of the city (concentrated nitrogen dioxide) – riddled with vacant homes.

Today, I live only a few blocks away from the May 14th Massacre at Tops in Hamlin Park. Our neighborhood is still grieving from the compounded impact of over 5 decades of economic disinvestment to the Black Business corridor on Jefferson Avenue where Tops is located. We are still recovering from the health and financial impact of the pandemic.

Only a few weeks ago, what we thought was the end of a traumatizing year, marked the beginning of new challenges. We are still reeling from the Blizzard of '22 in a way that is unique to us in terms of gaps in resource allocation and infrastructure of disaster response – but not unique to communities of color across the country when environmental disaster occurs. We have the oldest housing stock in the country and we need insulation; better air quality which requires removal of toxic gas fumes; heating and cooling costs that are not only healthy, but affordable – so investment in community-owned solar and metal roofs; we need financial and generational wealth opportunities by employing folks from and of the community in green construction and entrepreneurial commitments from our leaders.

Pass the NY Renews Climate Jobs and Justice package now! Our lives and futures depend on it!