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Comment submitted by James Kelley

Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Nov 27, 2024

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Comment

Comment submitted on behalf of James Kelley

Comment on EPA's Interim Framework for the Consideration of Cumulative Impacts

I need to know if this is real?

It's great that the EPA is finally waking up to the idea of "cumulative impacts," but let's be real: how is this actually going to help people like me? As a Floridian, I've seen firsthand how cleanup efforts after disasters are left to the people—not the government. Take hurricane recovery, for example—residents and small businesses were the ones cleaning up while waiting on empty promises of aid.

So, my question is: where's the funding for small businesses, especially those hit hardest by these so-called "environmental burdens"? You want to address inequity? Start by making it easier for us to access grants or loans and require banks to stop playing games with our applications. If this framework is about justice, it should prioritize empowering communities financially, not just creating more bureaucratic hurdles.

And let's not forget: Florida is ground zero for environmental disasters—hurricanes, rising sea levels, and toxic runoff. If this framework doesn't ensure resources come directly to the state and its small businesses, then it's just another top-down government initiative with no real impact where it's needed most.

So, EPA, how will this framework ensure small businesses like mine in Florida actually see benefits? Will it make banks work with us or create new funding opportunities? If not, spare us the buzzwords and get to work on solutions that actually reach the people.

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