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Comment submitted by Meredith Stoddard

Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Feb 13, 2025

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Environmental justice is a data driven principle that uses measurable impacts of environmental hazards (benzene in the environment, carbon in the atmosphere, asthma triggering impacts) to mitigate damage where it is occurring with a higher negative impact. It is not about favoring groups of people, it is not about limiting business, but rather accounts for the systemic impacts that business has and keeps the accountability where it belongs, rather than passing the costs into communities, the healthcare system and onto individuals. If we look at the trajectory that we are on, we have tremendous opportunity right now to create a positive outcome for those that come after us. It is a moral imperative that we don't make environmental risks worse by putting our hands over our eyes and proceed in the name of "economics" because the economic reality is far more prosperous if we use a systemic approach to measuring and mitigating the environmental impacts of business now. Ignoring this creates far bigger problems down the road and it is unconscionable to ignore the impacts that these risks have on lower income communities and on the entire next generation. Please consider the scientific data, the greater good and future generations as you chart the course ahead.

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