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Comment submitted by J. Paddon

Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Feb 25, 2025

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I am writing to express my strong support for the EPA's draft Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts, but I urge you to ensure that enforcement and accountability remain at the core of this policy. Without strict oversight, polluters will continue harming vulnerable communities with little to no consequence.

For too long, communities of color, low-income populations, and historically marginalized groups have faced disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards. Current regulations fail to address the compounded health and environmental consequences communities like mine endure. This Framework is a crucial step forward, but without strong enforcement mechanisms, industry loopholes will allow polluters to continue business as usual—further endangering public health and widening disparities.

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To create a truly effective Framework, the EPA must: prioritize enforcement and ensure that regulatory agencies have the authority and resources to hold polluters accountable, preventing industries from exploiting gaps in oversight. It must also close regulatory loopholes and strengthen permitting processes to fully consider cumulative impacts, particularly in overburdened communities. This approach will prevent corporate greenwashing and require transparency and strict guidelines to stop companies from using the Framework as a shield for continued pollution.

The stakes are too high to allow polluters to continue operating unchecked. Chronic exposure to multiple pollutants has been linked to increased rates of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and cancer—especially in already vulnerable populations. Without strong safeguards, environmental injustices will persist and worsen.

I urge the EPA to strengthen enforcement measures within the Framework to ensure that environmental justice is not just an aspiration, but a reality. Thank you for considering my comments and for your commitment to protecting public health and the environment.

Sincerely,
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