

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the Sense of the Senate that development and implementation of environmental justice policies must be considered within the context of energy justice policies, that high energy prices are most burdensome on the poor and disadvantaged, and that opening access to increased energy supply and helping them to use less energy will lower energy prices for the poor and disadvantaged.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—110th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 2549

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the development of criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . SENSE OF SENATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND EN-**
2 **ERGY JUSTICE POLICIES.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

4 (1) environmental justice can be defined as the
5 fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all
6 people regardless of race, color, national origin, or
7 income within the development, implementation, and
8 enforcement of environmental policies and laws;

9 (2) energy justice can be defined as the fair
10 treatment and meaningful involvement of all people
11 regardless of race, color, national origin, or income
12 within the development, implementation, and en-
13 forcement of national energy policies and laws with
14 the goal to promote affordable and abundant energy;

15 (3) environmental justice and energy justice are
16 not mutually exclusive;

17 (4) the United States is in the grips of an en-
18 ergy crisis;

19 (5) according to a recent survey by the National
20 Energy Assistance Directors Association, 70 percent
21 of households reduced food purchases, 30 percent re-
22 duced purchases of medicine, and 20 percent
23 changed plans for either their own or their children's
24 education in order to cope with higher home energy
25 and gasoline costs;

1 (6) a 2006 survey of Colorado homeless families
2 with children found that high energy bills were cited
3 as 1 of the 2 main reasons they became homeless;

4 (7) the United States has ample supplies of oil,
5 natural gas, coal, oil shale, uranium, and wind po-
6 tential to meet the energy supply needs of the
7 United States for the next century and beyond;

8 (8) drilling is prohibited by Congress on 85 per-
9 cent of the outer Continental Shelf of the United
10 States, which holds an estimated 14 billion barrels
11 of recoverable oil or the equivalent of 25 years of im-
12 ports from Saudi Arabia;

13 (9) commercial scale oil shale production is pro-
14 hibited by Congress in the Green River Formation in
15 Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming with nearly two tril-
16 lion potentially-recoverable barrels of oil, which at
17 current rates of consumption could yield enough en-
18 ergy to fully meet the oil needs of the United States
19 for nearly 240 years; and

20 (10) energy is the lifeblood of the United
21 States, the mostly unseen but present force that
22 powers the economic engine of the United States,
23 creates opportunities, and improves living standards.

24 (b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate
25 that —

1 (1) implementation of environmental justice
2 policies must always be considered in context with
3 energy justice;

4 (2) affordable energy is the creator of economic
5 opportunities; and

6 (3) lifting Congressional prohibitions and in-
7 creasing access to the abundant energy supply of the
8 United States will lower the price of energy for the
9 poor and disadvantaged of the United States.