



June 29, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Castor
Chair
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Castor,

We write today to express strong support for your amendment (#89) to H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act. This amendment integrates hyperlocal air quality mobile monitoring into the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program to enhance and improve measurement and analysis of air quality and greenhouse gases at the community scale, with block-level resolution — especially in environmental justice communities. This amendment has the support of Aclima's Advisory Board, including environmental justice leaders Peggy Shepard, Executive Director of WE ACT and Co-Chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Director of the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) at the University of Maryland School of Public Health; Margaret Gordon, Co-Director of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project; and Heather McTeer Toney, Senior Advisor to Mom's Clean Air Force.

The transportation sector is our nation's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, and is responsible for a wide range of other harmful air pollutants and carcinogens, such as methane, nitrous oxide and hydrofluorocarbons.¹ While these emissions hurt everyone, their impacts are not borne evenly.

Communities of color face disproportionate health burdens and other risks as a result of these exposures.² Studies have shown air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions are extremely hyperlocal and can vary up to 800% from one block to the next.³ Albeit, conventional air quality monitoring technologies are unable to meet the need for information on pollution hotspots at a community scale. Air pollution measurements at the community scale are essential for policymakers to adequately plan transportation projects in partnership with communities that ensure correct targeting of emissions reductions to protect human health and the environment while supporting communities around the country.

¹ [US EPA. Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

² [American Lung Association](#)

³ [New Research Reveals Hyperlocal Air Pollution Varies Over Space & Time](#)

The CMAQ program provides funding for states and municipalities to act on improving air quality, but recipients are merely guessing without hyperlocal air quality data to scientifically guide decisions about the precise areas most impacted. Currently, the program funds projects “to establish or operate a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program,” because we know that without this attention to detail it is nearly impossible to mitigate congestion.⁴ Your amendment would finally apply the same reasoning to the program’s focus on identifying and mitigating the dangerous air quality impacts of transportation, especially in support of environmental justice communities.

For too long, communities and people of color have been exposed to disproportionately more air pollution and have borne higher health burdens and risks as a result of the systemic injustices associated with infrastructure development in this country. As Congress works to reshape our nation’s infrastructure, it is crucial all of these investments reflect the best available data and science on pollution and emissions so that we Build Back Better in a way that safeguards human health and supports environmental justice.

Sincerely,



Davida Herzi
Co-Founder & CEO
Aclima Inc.

⁴ 23 U.S.C. § 149 (b)(4)