

## EDF SUMMER SURGE GRANTEES 2017



**Alaska Community Action on Toxics**—mobilized over 700 Alaskans through seminars and call and letter-writing campaigns targeting Senators Murkowski and Sullivan. ACAT also organized a sign-on letter to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan that included over 100 Alaskan organizations highlighting the potential impacts of EPA budget cuts.



**American Sustainable Business Council**—made a business case for defending the EPA budget by creating fact sheets targeting businesses in states of interest, organizing a sign-on letter to Senate Appropriations Committee members that was signed by over 90 businesses, and spoke with Senator Duckworth on why a fully funded EPA is good for American business.



**The American Independent Business Alliance**—focused heavily on communications highlighting the impacts of EPA budget cuts on Montana. AMIBA produced 4 commentaries on the EPA's work on Montana public lands, all of which have been published in multiple news outlets. In addition, AMIBA has generated 7 letters to the editor for papers in Missoula, Billings, and Bozeman, and has a sign-on letter to State Senators that includes over 20 Montana businesses.



**Clean Water Fund**—identified and mobilized pro-environment and public health constituencies in the Garden State. Reached 6,000 NJ households through door-to-door canvassing, press events, and grassroots engagement. Held 2 empty chair listening sessions highlighting community concerns about EPA cuts and regulatory rollbacks.



**Coalition of Black Trade Unionists**—hosted an event in Atlanta, GA, bringing together over 50 students and local community members to brainstorm local strategies on protecting the EPA cuts. Speakers at the event included former head of EPA's Environmental Justice Office, Mustafa Ali, along with local educators, thought leaders, organizers, and students. Taking lessons learned, CBTU then held a teach-in at Clark Atlanta University.



**Conservation Voters of South Carolina**—used a strong reputation as an environmental organization to get 7 letters to the editor and opinion pieces published on environmental protections. CVSC was also instrumental in passing a South Carolina Republican Party resolution against a government bailout of nuclear plants being strongly pushed by special interests.



**Environment America**—focused on mobilization, sending organizers to Nevada and Arizona to educate the public on attacks to their environment and health. Environment America generated 1,624 photo-petitions calling for #ClimateDefense, organized a sign-on letter with 218 small business owners condemning regulatory rollbacks, and met with the staff of Senator McCain and Heller and Representatives Amodei and McSally.



**Human Impact Partners**—brought a rarely seen angle to energy sphere by highlighting the benefits of energy assistance plans on public health via their Energy Assistance Programs Toolkit. In addition, HIP brought in a health equity angle by briefing partner organizations and those in its network on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and marginalized communities of color.



**Learning Disabilities Association**—put the spotlight on the impacts of the EPA budget cuts on the oversight of toxics and chemicals. LDA was key in the withdrawal of EPA toxics nominee Michael Dourson by publishing over 5 op-eds and over 10 letters to the editor in key states on why Michael Dourson would pose a threat to public health.

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**NAACP of Indiana**—led a citizen science project in East Chicago, Indiana involving close to 200 students. The students were educated about the role of the EPA in their communities and and taught how to use water and soil testing kits to gauge whether they have nonattainment areas within their communities.

**National Council of La Raza**—educated social media followers about climate change, raised public awareness about environmental health, and pressured Members of Congress to keep the Environmental Protection Agency fully funded. Through op-eds, twitter storms, and paid media, NCLR was able to reach over 200,000 constituents in two languages across 6 states.

**Ohio Environmental Council**—engaged over 20,000 Ohioans through action alerts, public comment opportunities, citizen hearings, town halls, and blog posts on the importance of protecting the EPA from regulatory rollbacks. OEC also held 20 staff level meetings with local elected officials highlighting EPA's role in maintaining clean water.

**Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light**—built on its roots as a progressive, faith-driven grassroots organization to press for full funding of the EPA. PIPL hired a full-time community organizer to focus specifically on EPA funding and created toolkits on EPA budget cuts to recruit new members interested in environmental stewardship.

**Physicians for Social Responsibility—Chicago**—organized a climate change and health conference focused on educating medical professionals on environmental activism—pulling in over 40 participants. In addition, PSR organized a sign-on letter from 80 medical professionals to Senators Duckworth and Durbin thanking them for supporting the EPA.

**Physicians for Social Responsibility—Tennessee**—created a Climate Health Action Team involving Union of Concerned Scientists, NAACP Tennessee, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and more, to mobilize on climate and public health activism. PSR TN delivered over 1,000 constituent contacts to Senators Corker and Alexander urging them to add pressure on Michael Dourson's EPA nomination which led to his withdrawal.

**Ohio Sustainable Business Council**—held 5 events across Ohio highlighting the EPA's positive impact on businesses—engaging over 300 constituents. OSBC then conducted a media campaign using videos from their constituent events to push the narrative that businesses need a strong EPA.

**South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce**—engaged a large number of small business leaders in 17 counties through online and offline activities. SCSBCC contacted 250 small business owners, visited 821 small business locations, and got over 1,650 small business owners, clergy members, and other constituents to sign-on to a petition defending EPA funding.

**Voto Latino**—used social media to continue educating their membership on the role and importance of the EPA and the threat posed to public health by the Trump Administration. Co-branded posts generated close to 10,000 impressions and reached over 15,000 individuals.

**We ACT for Environmental Justice**—created fact sheets covering the impact of EPA budget cuts on communities of color and low-income families in 11 states: AK, IL, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OH, PA, SC, and TN. WeACT also partnered with Combined Defense Project and Green Latinos to fly in Latinx representatives to DC where they met with Senators Cruz and Warren and Representative Castor on hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.

**Western Leaders Network**—identified, educated and engaged local, western officials on how harmful cutting the EPA budget would be to western communities. Through sign-on letters, guest editorials, fly-ins, earned media, research and publications, WLN amplified the cuts that concerned their network. 20 local, elected leaders added their names to a sign-on letter sent to Senators and penned 4 op-eds in Colorado publications.