

WE ACT 4 Change

September 22, 2022

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WE ACT 4 CHANGE RESPONDS TO TEXT FROM SENATOR MANCHIN'S PERMITTING BILL

WASHINGTON, DC - Yesterday Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) released text for permitting legislation that will gut the [National Environmental Policy Act](#). Peggy Shepard, co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and WE ACT 4 Change, responded with the following statement:

"Sen. Manchin's permitting bill realizes our greatest concern: It will permanently erode an important tool for democratizing federal projects in areas of this country that are believed to have little to no political currency. This bill strips away community input, weakens our judicial system, and does nothing to advance renewable energy deployment in a just and equitable way. Sen. Manchin's permitting bill is the anthesis of environmental justice, which demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and free from any form of discrimination or bias. It'll perpetuate racially and economically disproportionate harms that will be felt for generations in communities of color and areas of low income. Any Member of Congress who says "yes" to Sen. Manchin's permitting bill will vote to preserve injustice and sacrifice zones in this country.

We do not believe that Congress is obligated to uphold this dirty, dangerous and discriminatory side deal and that there's an opportunity to ensure every American has the right to live in dignity. To do so, Congress must:

1. Reject Sen. Manchin's permitting bill as an attachment to any spending legislation. A recent WE ACT 4 Change and Data for Progress [poll](#) found that a majority of voters don't want permitting legislation attached to a must pass bill ;
2. Oppose Sen. Manchin's permitting bill. It's a giveaway to the fossil fuel industry and will be detrimental for those living frontline and fenceline to industrial operations; and
3. Pass the Environmental Justice for All Act as a standalone bill. It was developed using a community-centered process and can, along with the NEPA investments in IRA 2022, modernize the permitting process in an equitable way and move renewable energy projects at an appropriate pace.

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[WE ACT 4 Change, Inc.](#) is the 501(c)(4) political arm of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a Northern Manhattan membership-based 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.