



NEWS RELEASE

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Rep. John D. Dingell, Chairman

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Contact: Jodi Seth or Lauren Bloomberg, 202-225-5735

Subcommittee Highlights Deficiencies in EPA Environmental Justice Program; Legislative Remedies Discussed

Washington, DC – The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) efforts on environmental justice reviews are inadequate, according to testimony today by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) before the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials. John B. Stephenson, GAO Director of Natural Resources deemed EPA’s actions “sufficiently incomplete.”

Although an Environmental Justice Executive Order was issued in 1994 to ensure that minority and low-income communities were not unfairly burdened, both the EPA Office of Inspector General and the GAO have reported that EPA’s efforts on environmental justice reviews are inadequate.

The testimony was delivered during a legislative hearing led by Chairman Albert Wynn (D-MD) on the public’s right to know about local environmental hazards. The hearing specifically examined two pieces of legislation that seek to address the situation, H.R. 1103, “The Environmental Justice Act of 2007,” and H.R. 1055, “The Toxic Right to Know Protection Act.”