

June 30, 2021

Dear Chair and Ranking Member:

We write to you as leaders of a Congressional committee to urge action in increasing racial and ethnic representation in outside witnesses and experts testifying before your committee. Your committee has jurisdiction over key environmental and climate related issues that disproportionately impact communities of color. Hearings are an integral element of the policy making process, and the inclusion of witnesses of color is key to ensuring that people across our nation have their voices heard. As committees discuss pollution, water, energy, infrastructure, conservation, and many other environmental policies there must be greater inclusion and collaboration with communities of color.

Green 2.0 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that leads the charge to increase racial and ethnic diversity and promote equity and inclusivity in the environmental movement. We believe that the success of environmental causes will be based on the ability of organizations to be diverse, equity-driven, and culturally relevant. We use our [Transparency Report Card](#) to ignite action from environmental organizations and foundations to evaluate their racial and ethnic diversity and encourage changes in their internal policies that create a cultural shift in the workplace. There are many experts of color already leading in the environmental movement. Green 2.0 has wide access to them and welcomes the opportunity to connect your staff with these experts as you prepare for hearings.

For too long, communities of color have been excluded from the policy making process. While every one of us can support equity and inclusivity, we must live it in practice by ensuring communities of color tell their own stories, share their expertise, and inform policies that will affect them the most. It is extremely important that equity and diversity are embedded into every piece of the policy making process, and this is one place where committees can take swift action.

If you would like to connect with Green 2.0 as you develop hearings on environmental issues, please contact Deputy Director Adriane Alicea at AAlicea@diversegreen.org.

Sincerely,



Andres Jimenez
Executive Director
Green 2.0