

June 8, 2020

Dear Community Partners,

We stand with you against racism and racially based violence. We believe that we have demonstrated our commitment to respect and equity through our work with you on environmental justice issues in your communities. However, the lesson that we must all learn from recent events and the anger and despair over senseless acts of police violence and structural racism is that we must do more. Dedication to an idea of equity has not brought it about in our city, region, state or country. Every day we have worked to reduce environmental exposures and call attention to cumulative impacts of toxic exposures in environmental justice communities but often our efforts have not met with desired results. Just as we re-commit ourselves as humans working toward social justice for all, we re-dedicate ourselves to finding new and better ways in which to achieve greater impact in our environmental justice efforts. Our next Stakeholder Advisory Board meeting will discuss our current environmental justice efforts including research aimed at elucidating the reasons why poor black and brown people in Philadelphia are bearing the greatest health burden of COVID-19. This burden may well be made worse due to inequities in environmental exposures, living and work conditions and mistrust of the medical profession. In the coming months we expect regulators and legislators to be more receptive to our science focused on environmental injustice. We plan to bring our message in the loudest, clearest voice possible. We hope to have your trust and your continuing partnership as we act together to boldly transform these inequities into justice for all. We wish you health, safety and hope.

Sincerely,



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