

E&E News

Dems set Appalachia environmental justice forum

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Published: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

House Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) will host the latest forum tomorrow in a series promoting his environmental justice legislation.

This week's "Environmental Justice Now Tour" stop will be a virtual event focused public health in Appalachia, a region whose health care outcomes lag behind much of the rest of the nation.

Speakers will address the effects industrial pollution and mountaintop-removal coal mining have on residents.

Grijalva and Rep. Donald McEachin (D-Va.) have used the activist series to promote their comprehensive "Environmental Justice for All Act," [**H.R. 5986**](#). Vice President-elect Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) has introduced a companion in the Senate.

One provision of the bill would require fossil fuel companies to provide economic aid to communities transitioning from coal, oil and gas.

Previous stops on the virtual environmental justice tour include Louisiana, New Mexico, Los Angeles and Houston.

House Natural Resources Committee members Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.) and Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.) plan to speak at the forum.

Cartwright is active in coal mining issues and has sponsored a bill, [**H.R. 2156**](#), to authorize funding for mine reclamation projects that prioritize economic development.

Schedule: The forum is Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 12 p.m. via [**webcast**](#).

Witnesses:

- Julie Bledsoe, Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment.
- Alex Cole, community organizer for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition.
- Gabby Gillespie, organizer for the Sierra Club.