

I'm Nancy Griffeth, I'm a recently retired professor of computer science, from CUNY, and also formerly Bell Labs Research. I mention this because my organization, Unitarian Universalist Faith Action, is putting together a group of people willing to dive into the technical details of environmental issues.

I chair our statewide Environmental Justice Task Force. As a faith-based organization we are especially interested in legislation to improve general health and safety, and especially the health and safety of children. Given what we all know about lead, it is disturbing that a study by New Jersey Future found 200,000 of New Jersey's children under age 6 with high levels of lead in their blood. Also, the DEP has reported that lead concentration levels are excessive in Newark schools. Since the CDC says that even low levels can stunt healthy brain development, this is very disturbing.

So we are delighted that you have an array of bills today to begin to address this problem. A major concern we have about legislation its impact on historically marginalized communities, which include low income communities and communities of color. This bill addresses a problem that affects them more than others, so that's good, and we hope that it won't be implemented in a way that imposes a burden on them or that shoves them aside.

Thank you for considering these bills and for your attention.