

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, the President signed [Executive Order 14008](#), “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (Executive Order 14008 or EO 14008), which established the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council (IAC or Interagency Council) and set its mission and work; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2023, the President signed [Executive Order 14096](#), “Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All” (Executive Order 14096 or EO 14096), which built on and supplemented prior executive orders, further updated the membership and mission of the Interagency Council, and directed that the Interagency Council shall adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among its members that sets forth the objectives, structure, and planned operations of the Interagency Council;

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned IAC members hereby agree:

I. Objectives

- A. To pursue a whole-of-government approach to advance environmental justice for all as defined in EO 14096, including to facilitate interagency coordination and collaboration on programs and activities related to environmental justice.
- B. To develop and sustain a strategy to address current and historic environmental injustice and to cultivate effective strategic planning to advance environmental justice.
- C. To provide leadership and support to ensure the Interagency Council operates effectively and efficiently through its structure and operations.
- D. To identify particular areas of focus for the Interagency Council and to support IAC member-led environmental justice efforts.

II. Authorities

This MOU is in furtherance of EO 14008 and EO 14096, including the authorities cited therein and other applicable authorities of each of the IAC members.

III. Actions and Responsibilities

A. Structure.

- i. **IAC Chairperson and Role of CEQ.** The Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will chair and convene the Interagency Council on a regular basis, determine its agenda, and direct its work, in consultation and collaboration with the IAC members. The Executive Director of the Interagency Council is the Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer, who heads the White House Office of Environmental Justice within CEQ. The Federal Chief Environmental Justice Officer will coordinate the work of the Interagency Council, including by any CEQ staff assigned to support its work.

- ii. **Environmental Justice Officers.** Each member of the Interagency Council (i.e., the IAC principal) shall designate an Environmental Justice Officer (EJ Officer) within the agency with the authority to represent the agency on the Interagency Council and with the responsibility for leading agency planning and implementation of the agency's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, coordinating with CEQ and other EJ Officers, and performing other duties related to advancing environmental justice as the respective IAC member deems appropriate. Each EJ Officer will cooperate with CEQ, and with other EJ Officers, to advance the work of the Interagency Council.


B. Planned Operations.

- i. **Meetings.** The Interagency Council will meet on a regular basis, dependent on role within the IAC (i.e., IAC principals, EJ Officers, etc.). The Interagency Council will meet as Committees of EJ Officers as well as Working Groups that may include IAC agency staff – with representation from across the IAC.
- ii. **White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.** At least one public meeting per year will occur in coordination with the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). In addition, IAC members, in coordination with CEQ, will thoroughly review and consider any appropriate responses or actions related to recommendations provided by the WHEJAC established by EO 14008 on how to increase the Federal Government's efforts to address current and historic environmental injustice and on the incorporation of environmental justice principles into Federal agency programs or policies.
- iii. **Environmental Justice Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council.** The Environmental Justice Subcommittee of the National Science and Technology Council (Environmental Justice Subcommittee) and the IAC will hold an annual summit on the connection of science, data, and research with policy and action on environmental justice.
- iv. **Development of a Charter for the IAC.** The Chair may develop and amend a Charter for the IAC (Charter), after consultation with the EJ Officers. Among other things, the Charter may provide further procedures and opportunities for IAC consultation, coordination, peer learning, and sharing of leading practices on key areas of focus to advance the objectives of this MOU and the orders it implements (e.g., advancing the goals of the Justice40 Initiative, publishing the Environmental Justice Scorecard, strategic planning to advance environmental justice, and coordinating with the Environmental Justice Subcommittee), and to consider and respond, as appropriate, to recommendations of the WHEJAC.

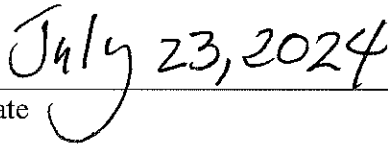
IV. Miscellaneous Administrative Provisions

- A. Parties, Effective Date, Amendment. This MOU may be signed in counterparts and becomes effective when it is executed by all IAC members. The MOU may be amended by written agreement of all IAC members.
- B. Applicable Law. This MOU shall be implemented consistent with applicable law. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect authority granted by law to, or responsibility imposed by law upon, an agency, or the head thereof, or the status of that agency within the Federal Government.
- C. Non-Fiscal. This MOU shall be implemented subject to the availability of appropriations. Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the IAC members, their agencies or entities, or the United States to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations from Congress. Nor does this MOU obligate the IAC members, their agencies or entities, or the United States to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.
- D. Internal Management. This MOU and activities under it relate only to internal procedures and management of the Interagency Council. They do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its agencies or other entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

V. Signatories



Brenda Mallory
Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality



Date

Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

Date

Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense

Date

Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General

Date

Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior

Date

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

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Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce

Date

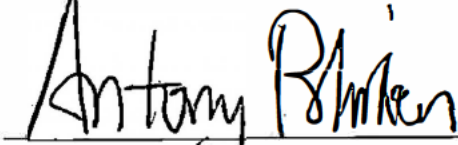
Julie Su
Acting Secretary of Labor

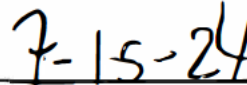
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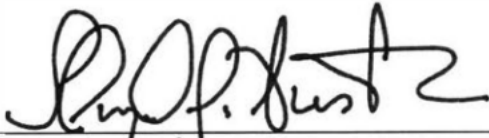
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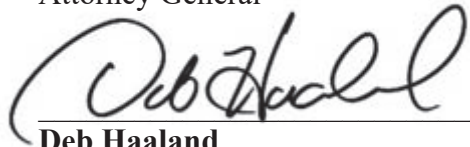
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APR 30 2024

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Thomas J. Vilsack
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April 22, 2024

Date

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V. Signatories

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May 6, 2024

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April 19, 2024

Julie Su
Acting Secretary of Labor

Date



June 25, 2024

Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services

Date

Adrienne Todman
Acting Secretary of Housing and Urban
Development

Date

Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation

Date

Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary of Energy

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Secretary of Homeland Security

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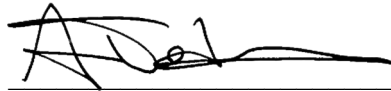
Michael S. Regan
Administrator of the Environmental Protection
Agency

Date

Shalanda Young
Director of the Office of Management and
Budget

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Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services



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Date

4/24/2024

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Date

Xavier Becerra
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Date

Adrienne Todman
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Pete Buttigieg
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June 28, 2024

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Jennifer M. Granholm
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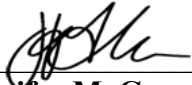
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Adrienne Todman
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06/05/2024

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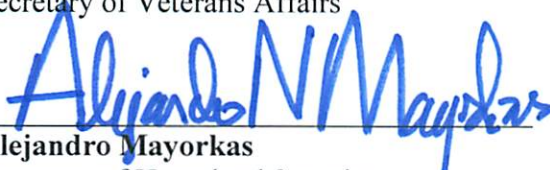
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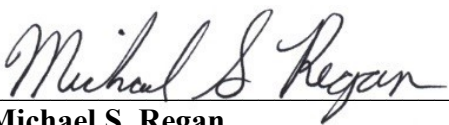
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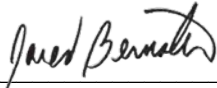
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6/18/2024

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Jared Bernstein
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5/9/24
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4 / 22 / 2024

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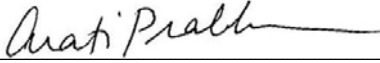
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4/30/2024
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May 4, 2024

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5/24/2024

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July 8, 2024

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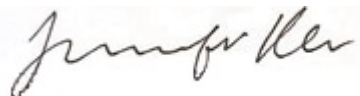
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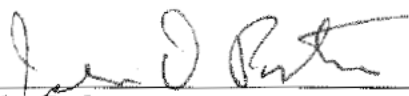
Lael Brainard
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John Podesta
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