

We need a different kind of Earth Day, because we're not living on the same Earth we were 50 years ago.

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Hi Lauren,

This year, I think we need a different kind of Earth Day.

We're not living on the same Earth we were 50 years ago. We're in a time of perpetual climate crisis. People across the world are seeing hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and heat waves claim lives, level towns and drown communities.

Earth Day officially began on April 22, 1970. In the years that followed, the passage of landmark environmental laws in the U.S., including the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided communities with the power to enforce environmental protections. But as we have seen, it has not been enough.

The original Earth Day focused on protecting the planet, but the people who lived on and from the land weren't kept in mind. The Black, indigenous and people of color who have always led grassroots movements to protect their land and livelihood from corporate polluters—here and across the Global South—are the same people who bear the brunt of these climate disasters today.

I first learned this in 2005, as [Hurricane Katrina](#) rolled through the south. The levees broke and so did the illusion that climate change was in some far off future, or some far off place. It showed that climate disasters hit our most vulnerable communities hardest.

This is why Jobs to Move America's approach to climate justice is to put workers and frontline communities first. As an organization at the intersection of environmental justice and labor, we aim to bring together diverse coalitions to win community benefits agreements, which support good jobs in the cleantech industry.

Unions are also pivotal to fight the climate crisis, and it's encouraging to see a new wave of young people leading organizing efforts at companies like Starbucks and Amazon who have a radical vision of unionism as a vehicle for change.

We continue to count on your support as we find new opportunities to put workers and communities first as we fight the climate crisis and build more democratic workplaces around the country.

This year, let's celebrate this new Earth Day as one that centers people and the planet.

In solidarity,



Jasmin Vargas
California Senior Organizer

What We're Reading and Watching

- Our Co-Executive Director Madeline Janis and Xavier de Souza Briggs of the Brookings Institution [wrote an essay for The American Prospect](#) about how to ensure industrial policy creates an economy that works for all. “Attaching clear, consistently enforced expectations to public investment is indispensable. And with the enactment of the past year’s landmark legislation, public officials now have a once-in-a-generation set of tools and resources to do this.”
- Yesterday, the Senate’s Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Julie Su for Secretary of Labor. Julie has been a fighter for working people and, as Deputy Labor Secretary, has championed high-road labor practices like our [community benefits agreement with New Flyer](#). **Read AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler’s [essay in Ms.](#) on why women—and all working people—need Julie Su as our Labor Secretary.**

Join us in the fight for good jobs and healthy communities.

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