Dear friends, colleagues, family members, and all those who stand for Environmental Justice in Canada,

As you may be aware, on February 2, 2022, Green Party MP Elizabeth May introduced ***An Act Respecting the Development of a National Strategy to Assess, Prevent and Address Environmental Racism and To Advance Environmental Justice (Bill C-226)*** in the House of Commons: <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-226/first-reading>. It was first introduced by former MP Lenore Zann as Bill C-230 on February 26, 2020. Bill C-230 was eventually approved by the Liberals, NDP, and Bloc Quebecois at second reading and at amendments in 2021: <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/bill/C-230/second-reading>. Only the Conservatives chose not to support it. When the snap election was called in 2021, Bill C-230 died on the order paper. Fortunately, Elizabeth May resurrected the bill as Bill C-226, which is now before the House.

Bill C-226, if it becomes legislation, will be an effective tool for addressing environmental racism in Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities across Canada. Environmental racism refers to the disproportionate location and greater exposure of Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities to polluting industries and other environmental hazards. These toxic burdens have been linked to high rates of cancer, reproductive diseases, respiratory illnesses, and other health problems in these communities. From the decision approximately 60 years ago to offload pulp mill effluent into Pictou Landing First Nation’s once pristine Boat Harbour, and toxic landfills placed in the African Nova Scotian communities of Shelburne and Lincolnville, to mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows First Nation, petrochemical facilities in Chemical Valley in Ontario and in British Columbia, the legacy of environmental racism can no longer be ignored.

Now that Bill C-226 has been introduced and is before the House, and given that Bill C-226 is the exact same bill as Bill C-230 after the amendments at committee, we are urging MPs from all political parties to fast track it and give it unanimous consent in the House.

[INSERT SIGNATURE]