



U.S. COMMITTEE ON THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Statement on the Advancement and Integration of Environmental Justice into the Marine Transportation System

Adopted by the Coordinating Board, March 23, 2022

Environmental justice recognizes that historically marginalized and disadvantaged communities have been over-burdened by deleterious environmental impacts, while simultaneously being under-served by the legal and political system. The movement seeks to rectify this inequity through mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. The Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”¹

President Joseph R. Biden has made environmental justice a priority of the Administration. It has been included in broad reaching polices, including the requirement that agencies incorporate environmental justice into their missions, and the Justice40 initiative, setting a goal that forty percent of the benefits from federal investments in climate and energy will benefit disadvantaged communities.²

The U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) recognizes the leadership by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and Ocean Policy Committee, Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) and that of the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) to advance environmental justice. In support of SOST and CEQ initiatives and to provide a nexus to the marine transportation system (MTS) component of the Blue Economy, we affirm the importance of environmental justice and will seek avenues through the CMTS interagency partnership and elsewhere to promote a more environmentally just and sustainable MTS. We further recognize that this will improve the interconnected environments on shore, and at sea, where people live, learn, worship, and work.

The Coordinating Board of the CMTS therefore commits to use the CMTS forum to recognize, educate, and share best practices amongst its members in support of implementation of environmental justice principals in the MTS. Recognizing that statements are important, but alone insufficient; this effort may include, *inter alia*, fostering inter-agency relationships, providing educational and training opportunities, evaluating practice implementation, and, as appropriate, coordinating the integration of environmental justice principals into marine transportation projects.

¹ *Environmental Justice*, ENVTL. PROT. AGENCY, <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice> (last visited Feb. 10, 2022).

² Exec. Order No. 14008 §§ 219, 223 (2021).