

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2501

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Tyler Schwartze
728 W Main St
Jefferson City, MO 65101-1534

Dear Tyler,

Thank you for writing me. As your Congresswoman, but more importantly, as your neighbor in Missouri's First Congressional District, it is so crucial that we have these conversations so that we can build an equitable St. Louis together. It is my mission to do the most I can for all of us in Missouri's First Congressional District, beginning with those who have the least. I am grateful to do this work in partnership with you — so thank you for reaching out to my office.

Our environment is among the top priorities in my office and in my work every day because it encompasses where we live and breathe, what we eat and drink, and how we survive. I used to think that climate change and environmental problems were only about polar bears and recycling, and at that time I had trouble prioritizing those issues as a long-time low-wage worker with more immediate concerns. Over time, I've learned the central role environmental issues must play for us to achieve racial and economic justice. I now know that the polluted empty lot next to my old house, the high cost of my electricity bill, and the asthma that tries to slow me down every day are all environmental injustices deeply connected to the climate crisis and our ecosystems.

It is true that our environmental action must swiftly address unchecked corporate pollution and their destruction of our communities and animal habitats. We must preserve our national parks, our forests, our glaciers, and the myriad of natural wonders we have in our country. And we must act urgently to prevent the rapid warming of our planet to prevent climate catastrophe. I have realized through my organizing that the environment is interconnected with our organizing around so many of the other issues we care about, too. I have become increasingly concerned about the role of hotter climate-induced summers that increase rates of gun violence and police violence. Also, our continued reliance on fossil fuels causes the precipitation and flooding events that have taken lives in St. Louis, frequently in our Black communities.

There are less obvious connections that inspire my environmental focus as well. The protections of three endangered species in the Missouri River secured by the Endangered Species Act represent the strongest protections from pollution for people on one of the greatest rivers in this country. Cancers, asthma, and other health problems in St. Louis have consistently been linked to contaminants in our houses, radioactive waste in our creeks, or heavy metals left over from industry in our empty lots. In St. Louis and beyond, environmental injustice has harmed the health and well-being of our community members and that must end. I promise to continue my pursuit of climate and environmental justice as central to my efforts to save lives and build a habitable and joyous future. That is why I introduced the Green New Deal for Cities, Counties, States, Tribes, and Territories.

In St. Louis and so many Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, we feel the effects of environmental injustice every single day. In St. Louis City, Black children are hospitalized with asthma at 10-times the rate of white children, and exposure to deadly fossil fuel pollution is a big contributing factor. Our homes are outdated due to redlining and discrimination in loan disbursement, which means we're more often exposed to toxic lead paint. Our utility costs skyrocket because our houses are in need of urgent improvements. Our neighborhoods are flooded with water from radioactive creeks and climate-fueled disasters.

To solve these issues, we have to bring the Green New Deal directly to the people and communities that are impacted the most. My Green New Deal for Cities bill is a \$1 trillion investment that goes right into our neighborhoods, providing funding to local governments to create good-paying jobs that combat environmental injustice. This means ridding our communities of the pollution of our air, water and land, building parks and the green spaces our children and families need, eliminating police violence, lead exposure, and fossil fuel emissions in our neighborhoods, cutting the cost of utilities so no person or family goes hungry just so they can keep the heat on in their homes, and much more. For each of these needs, we should create jobs so people in our community can be hired to improve our community.

It is my greatest honor to represent Missouri's First Congressional District. I want to thank you again for reaching out to me. Together, we can build an equitable, anti-racist St. Louis where everyone is guaranteed a quality education, health care, jobs, and housing — in a safe community with clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. Your voice is so important in our work to accomplish this — and I will work tirelessly on your behalf in the halls of Congress. Please know that your Congresswoman loves you. If you would like to stay up to date on the work I am doing in our St. Louis community and in Washington D.C., please sign up for my newsletter.



CORI BUSH
Member of Congress