



CENTER ON RACE, POVERTY & THE ENVIRONMENT

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Statement in solidarity with DACA recipients

The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment stands in solidarity with all the immigrant communities we work with regardless of status. As the immigration debate shifts to Congress, we will call upon our Congressional Representatives Kevin McCarthy and David Valadao to pass the Dream Act and other immigration policies with pathways to citizen for all those immigrants who contribute so much to Kern County every day. We also call upon our State Representatives Jean Fuller, Vincent Fong, Andy Vidak, and Rudy Salas to support California's SB 54.

Immigrant rights are human rights, and are inextricably linked to the fight for environmental justice, particularly in Kern County. Immigrant communities in our region have long been overburdened and left out of environmental decision-making. We will not achieve environmental justice unless all residents are able to define and participate in developing the vision for the community to live, work, play, and pray free from toxic intrusions. The Trump Administration's decision to phase out the DACA program jeopardizes the safety, the health and well-being of the communities where we live and work. as our region has an estimated 51,000 DACA eligible residents. This does not only affect the Valley; this puts the lives of 200,000 Californians at risk. It is a senseless and cruel act to the many individuals and families it will affect, and harmful to our culture and economy as a whole.

The communities where we live and work in the San Joaquin Valley face a variety of challenges: breathing some of the worst air in the nation, drinking water contaminated with arsenic and nitrates, working in and living near fields where pesticides are applied, and residing in communities that do not have basic infrastructure like sewer, gutters, curbs and streetlights. Many of these communities are predominately Latinx, and overwhelming immigrant. Immigrant families are leaders in Kern County, and participate in meetings, testify at hearings, and organize to improve their communities not only for their families, but for every family. We stand in solidarity with the Dreamers and their families who came to this country for a better life and have enriched our community.

PROVIDING LEGAL & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

RALPH SANTIAGO ABASCAL (1934-1997) DIRECTOR 1990-1997

LUKE W. COLE (1962-2009) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 1997-2009