

# Grant Termination Communications Kit (For EPA Section 138 Grantees)

This communications kit is for Section 138 grantees to use when engaging with your Board, your staff, your partners, social media, and possibly the media. **NOTE: This is not intended for named plaintiffs. If you are a named plaintiff, please work with your lawyers in this lawsuit (SELC, Earthjustice, L4GG, or Public Rights Project) on the appropriate talking points and messaging.**

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## Background

On June 25, [Earthjustice](#), [Southern Environmental Law Center](#), [Public Rights Project](#), and [Lawyers for Good Government](#) filed a lawsuit on behalf of a coalition of grant recipients to challenge EPA's termination of the [Environmental and Climate Justice Program](#) grants, which include some or all of the grants awarded under the following EPA programs:

- Community Change Grants Program (CCG)
- Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program (TCTACs)
- Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (TCGM)
- Government-to-Government Program (G2G)
- Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program (CPS)

The grantees bringing the lawsuit ("the plaintiffs") are seeking a class action certification. If granted, that would mean that over 350 grantees across the country who have been harmed by the wholesale termination of the EPA Environmental

and Climate Justice Grant Program may see their projects continue even if they are not a named plaintiff in the case.<sup>1</sup>

The lawsuit challenges EPA's moves to terminate the entire Environmental and Climate Justice Program, which includes hundreds of grants awarded under that program in each of the five subprograms listed above. The plaintiffs have asked the court to reinstate and faithfully implement the grants and give grantees additional time to complete the grant requirements among other items.

## Media Guidance

This is a big, positive development in protecting your legal rights to implement your signed grant agreements. To that end, we hope there will be ample press coverage as the case moves forward and want those stories to capture the impact these terminations have on local communities.

**If you are contacted by a reporter**, we recommend that you:

- Do share your story about how EPA's grant termination has impacted your community/the communities you serve. You are best positioned to provide reporters a quote and stories about the impact of the agency termination actions being challenged.
  - Emphasize how EPA's efforts to terminate your grant have negatively impacted your community/the communities that you serve.
  - Note your appreciation for the named plaintiffs and lawyers who are challenging EPA and seeking relief for all grantees.
- Do not attempt to explain the legal arguments of the lawsuit. Refer the reporters to Jordan Wilhelmi with Lawyers for Good Government at [jordan@unbendablemedia.com](mailto:jordan@unbendablemedia.com) and copy the [FPC@L4GG.org](mailto:FPC@L4GG.org) inbox. Jordan

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<sup>1</sup> This lawsuit, if successful, would apply to grants funded in whole or in part by Section 138 of the Inflation Reduction Act, excluding grantees who have brought their own lawsuit to reinstate their Section 138 grant (i.e., the TCGMs in the GHHL case have been carved out of the class) and certain others who may have been terminated for legal reasons.

can connect them with a lawyer from the litigation team to answer those questions.

**If you want to put out a supportive press release** and have questions about what to include, please contact Jordan Wilhelmi with Lawyers for Good Government at [jordan@unbendablemedia.com](mailto:jordan@unbendablemedia.com).

## Social Media Posts

### **LinkedIn/Facebook/Instagram**

[ORG NAME] stands in solidarity with a coalition of nonprofits, local governments, and Tribes who have filed a class action lawsuit against the Trump administration for unlawfully terminating EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Program grants.

EPA is trying to terminate lawfully awarded grants, like our grant that seeks to [INSERT DETAIL ABOUT YOUR GRANT].

We applaud the organizations that brought this lawsuit and are taking a stand for environmental justice.

### **Twitter/Bluesky/Threads**

[ORG NAME] stands with the nonprofits, local governments, and Tribes suing the Trump admin for unlawfully terminating EPA's Environmental & Climate Justice Program grants. These grants include our \$XM project to [INSERT DETAILS].