

January 20, 2022

Joseph Jakuta
DC Department of Energy and Environment
Air Quality Division
1200 First Street, N.E. 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Public Comments: Proposed Removal of Development Zones from EISF Exemptions

Dear Mr. Jakuta,

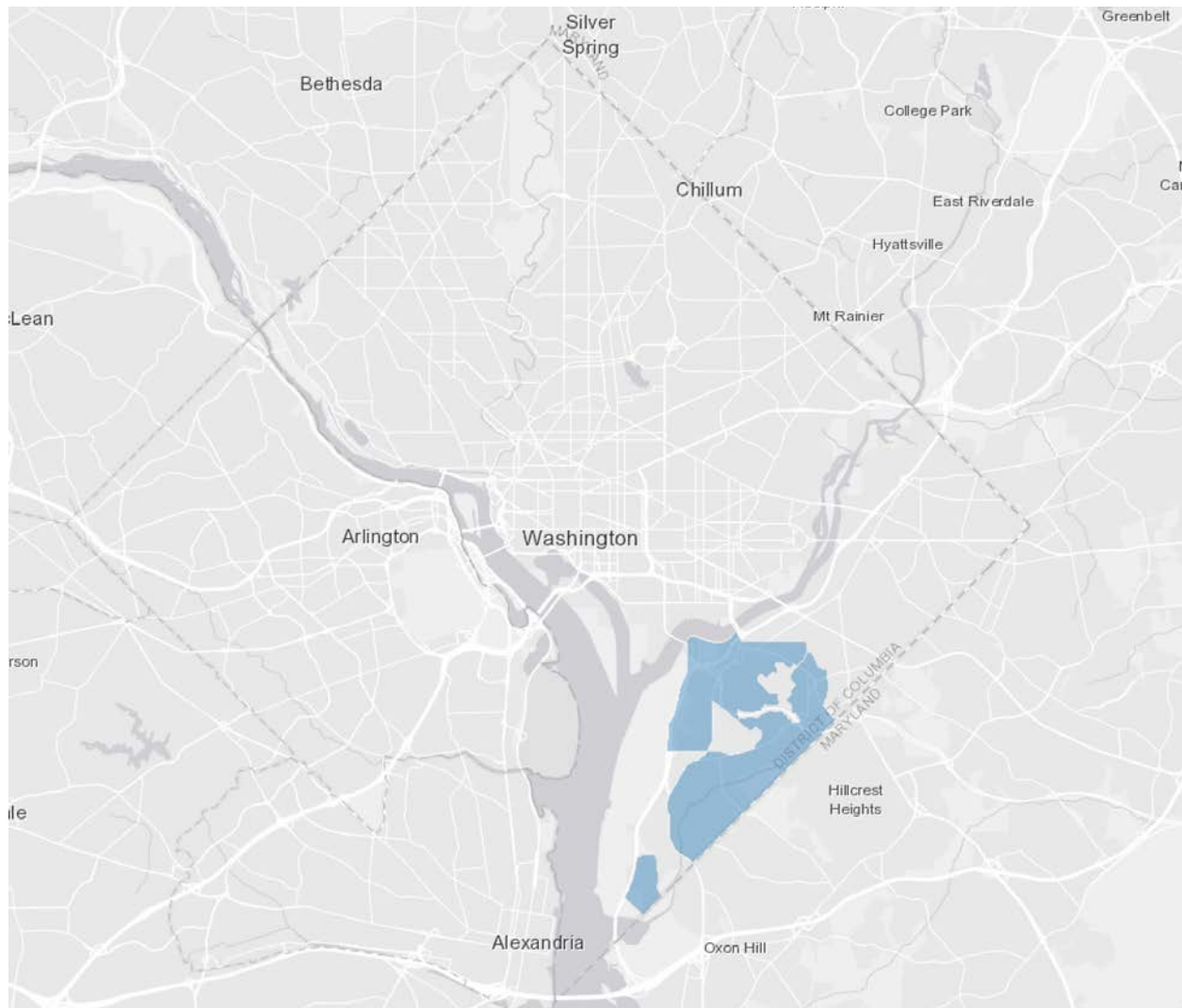
I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal support for the Department of Energy and Environment's Proposed Rulemaking to repeal the current regulatory provision ((20 DCMR § 7202.2(l)) which exempts actions within Economic Development Zones from the requirement for submission of an Environmental Impact Screening Form.

In 1981, the Economic Development Zones Incentives Amendments Act was enacted (D.C. Law 7-177, D.C. Code 5-1402) to provide incentives (e.g., tax abatements and other development incentives) aimed at stimulating development in areas of the District of Columbia experiencing pervasive poverty, unemployment, or general economic distress. Subsequent to the law's enactment, DC environmental regulations were promulgated (20 DCMR § 7202.2(l)) to exempt projects within Economic Development Zones from environmental review including whether such projects might imminently and substantially affect the public health, safety or welfare. There are currently three designated Economic Development Zones, all of them east of the Anacostia River. (See attached map.)

I strongly support DOEE's proposal to repeal the current exemption of projects within Economic Development Zones from environmental review. These Zones are in areas already overburdened with environmental pollution. As such, the current exemption at 20 DCMR § 7202.2(l) is a classic example of environmental injustice and is well past time for repeal.

Sincerely,

Caroline Petti
1502 Otis Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017



Economic Development Zones in the District of Columbia (2023)

Source:

<https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/DCGIS::economic-development-zones/explore?location=38.890552%2C-76.985815%2C12.00>