

touch a little bit about the Superfund site on Ringwood, New Jersey for sludge, and right now the Native community, the Ramapough Lenape Nation, are working through being left out of the process of remediation of that. And right now, we need to move the whole community off that Superfund site. And right now, we're only hanging on by an endangered species.

And the lack of communication with the EPA -- also, I'd like to reiterate about the EPA and the way they conduct business. I'm looking at the people that are of the industry and then the lack of communication. It's only a two part, and the efforts are persistent problems that face the people that it's impacting. And they're the ones being injured by this. They're the ones that are there. So I like what I had to hear today. I hope that you guys can make a difference working on that. Thank you.

Justin Pearson, Public Commentor: Thank you so much and good afternoon to this esteemed Council. I am Justin J. Pearson, a son of Memphis, a son to Kimberly and Jason Pearson, Sr., and a brother to four Black boys, grandson to Gwendolyn Jones Griffin and Eddy Mays Starks Pearson who both died at an early age in their 60s due to cancer and were lifelong residents of south Memphis.

Today, I humbly represent our beautiful city and community members in north Mississippi as well. Over a million people's lives and many unborn children's futures are threatened by the crude oil Byhalia Pipeline that would make billions while exploiting Black folks to do it. We are at a critical juncture in our fight for environmental justice in Memphis. South Memphis' Black residents are dying disproportionately from unnatural causes. This community suffers from decades of industrial siting, including a coal refinery, coal ash pond, a steel mill, wastewater treatment plant, and many other pollutants.

Justin Pearson, Public Commentor: A report by Sarah Macaraeg states, "Of all emissions Shelby County facilities reported in 2017, sites in southwest Memphis accounted for 94 percent of 6.6 million total tons of six criteria air pollutants and the most recent national emissions

The '94%' figure, in the federal record: Sarah Macaraeg's reporting on the 2017 EPA emissions inventory, read into this EPA-published meeting summary by Justin Pearson in 2021 - three years before xAI existed.

inventory.” How can it be fair to now burden this same community with the crude oil pipeline they do not want? Memphis and Shelby County’s elected leaders, including the U.S. congressmen, are galvanizing to protect its people and its water.

The federal government should be striving to do likewise. But instead, the use of nationwide permit 12 was approved by the Biden-Harris Administration and has become a weapon of the crude oil pipeline companies to bludgeon the movement into silence by saying this federal permit supersedes the right of local authorities to protect their people. In fact, there has been the threat of a lawsuit if the city council attempts to pass an ordinance to protect the people’s drinking water this upcoming Tuesday.

Currently, this project has been fast-tracked with the nationwide permit 12 without any project specific environmental review, despite the layers of environmental and public health harm that it could cause. The fast-track permit 12 approval of the Byhalia project should be rescinded immediately, and a thorough review of the Byhalia pipeline should be placed under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Southwest Memphis does not need the Byhalia pipeline. Rather, it needs the type of investment envisioned through the Justice40 Initiative. We need investment in many areas outlined in this initiative which we discussed further in detail in our submitted comments. But I’d like to point out some. Clean energy and transit and remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, from the interstate to coal ash pond in the community, we need Justice40 support to heal our community wounded by decades of toxic oppression.

Disadvantaged communities in southwest Memphis can significantly benefit from federal investments and support from the Administration by rescinding the nationwide permit 12 for Byhalia. And also, reconsider nationwide permit 12’s use in other impacted environmental justice communities, such as Line 3, Line 5, Mountain Valley Pipeline, Dakota Access Pipeline,