

Presenter



Robert D. Bullard, PhD

Distinguished Professor

Urban Planning and Environmental Policy

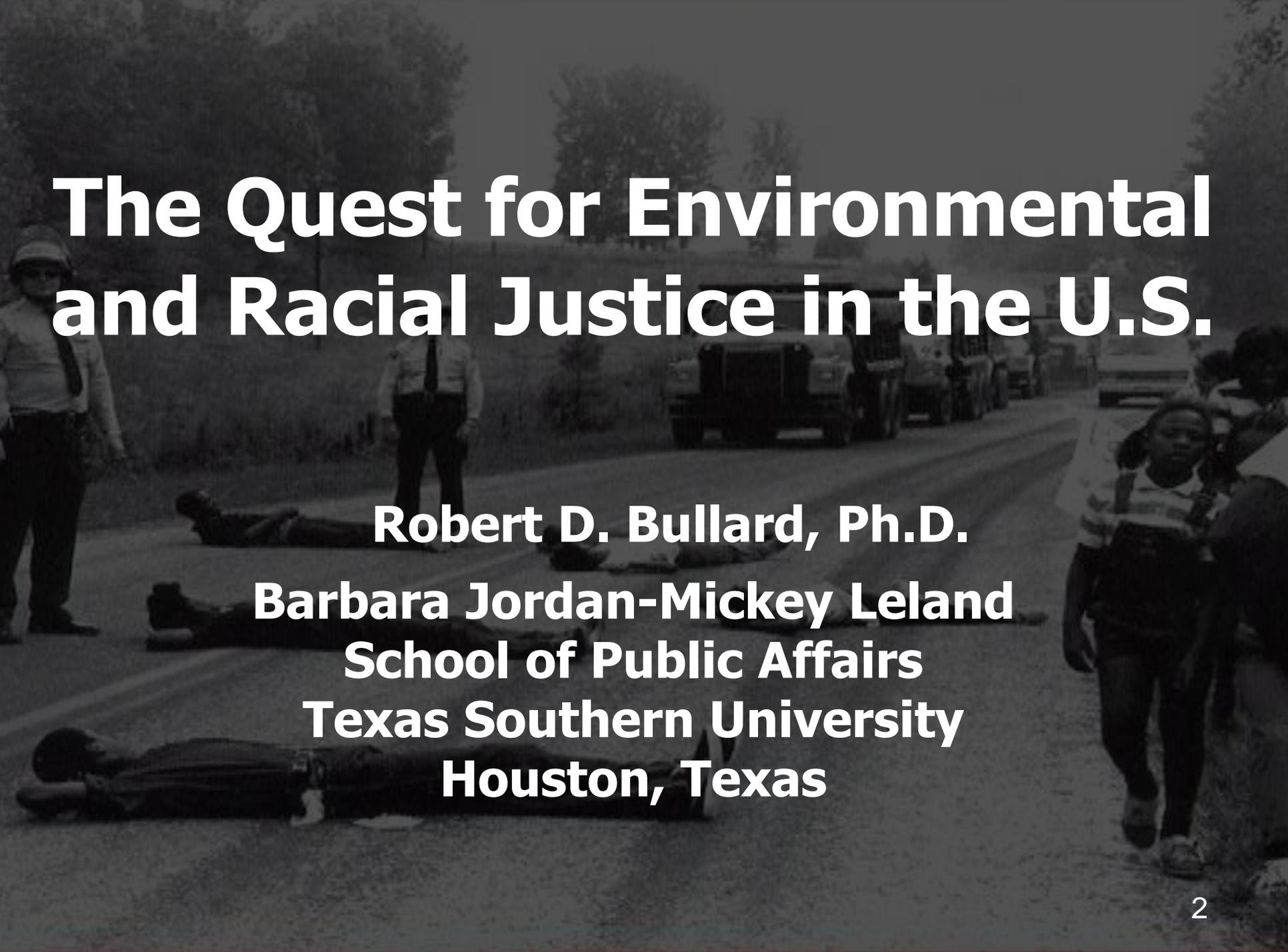
Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs

Texas Southern University



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.



The Quest for Environmental and Racial Justice in the U.S.

Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D.

Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland

School of Public Affairs

Texas Southern University

Houston, Texas

Connecting the dots...



**THE WORD FOR TODAY:
INTERSECTIONALITY**

Redefining the Environment



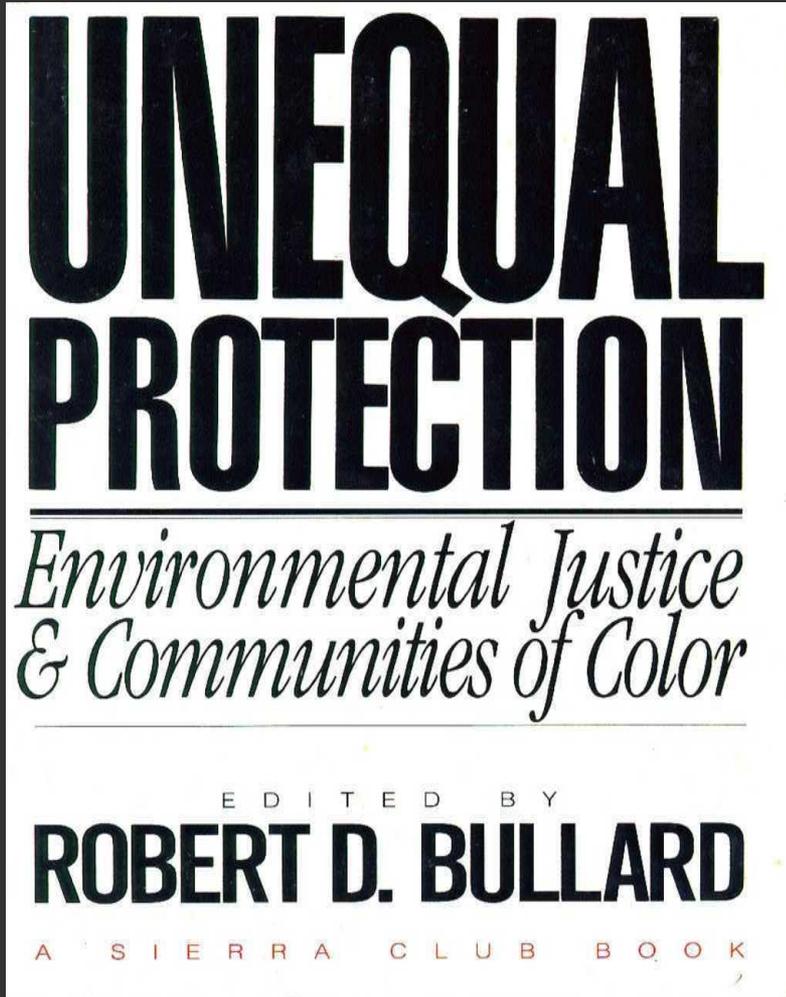
- Where We Live
- Where We Work
- Where We Play
- Where We Learn
- Where We Pray
- Physical and Natural World

Environmental Justice Principle



- Environmental justice embraces the principle that all people and communities are entitled to equal protection of environmental, energy, health, employment, education, housing, transportation, and civil rights laws

Spatial Inequality



- In the United States, all communities are not created equal
- If a community happens to be poor, working class or inhabited largely by people of color, it generally receives less protection
- Historically, exploitation of land and exploitation of people are highly correlated

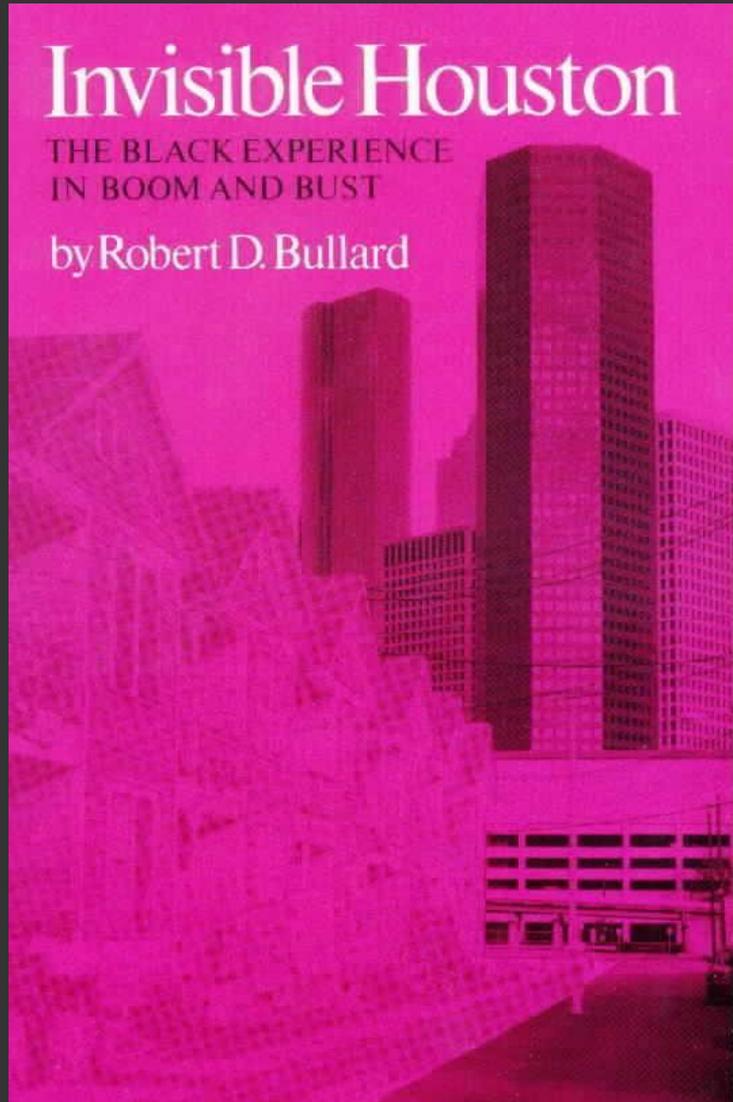
Environmental Racism is Real



- **Environmental racism** refers to any policy, practice, or directive that differentially affects or disadvantages (whether intended or unintended) individuals, groups, or communities based on race or

**TIME FOR WHITES TO
STOP DUMPING THEIR
POLLUTION ON PEOPLE
OF COLOR**

40 Years Since Bean 1979- 2019



- ***Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Corp.*** (1979)
- Black Houstonians challenged the siting of a sanitary landfill in their neighborhood

Assault on Environmental Racism



- The 1979 *Bean v. Southwestern Waste Management Corp.* case was the nation's first lawsuit to challenge environmental discrimination using civil rights law
- Research for the Bean case was conducted at Texas Southern University, resulting in the groundbreaking *Houston Waste Sites and Black Community Study* (1979)

Dumping on Black Houston - 1979



- Five of five (100%) Houston-owned landfills and six of eight (75%) city-owned incinerators were located in black neighborhoods
- Three of four (75%) privately-owned landfills were located in black neighborhoods
- Over 82 percent of waste disposed in Houston went to mostly black neighborhoods, even though blacks made up only 25 percent of city's population

**WHISPERING PINES
SANITARY LANDFILL**





E

121

PCB PROTESTS

Toxic waste illegally dumped along N.C. roads was moved to landfill 2 mi. E., 1982. Protests sparked environmental justice movement in U.S.

Warren County, NC - 1982



- The environmental justice movement was born in rural Warren County, NC
- Triple “whammy” of rural, poor, and mostly black
- Over 500 demonstrators were arrested protesting the siting of a hazardous polychlorinated



REPORT BY THE U.S.

1983

General Accounting Office

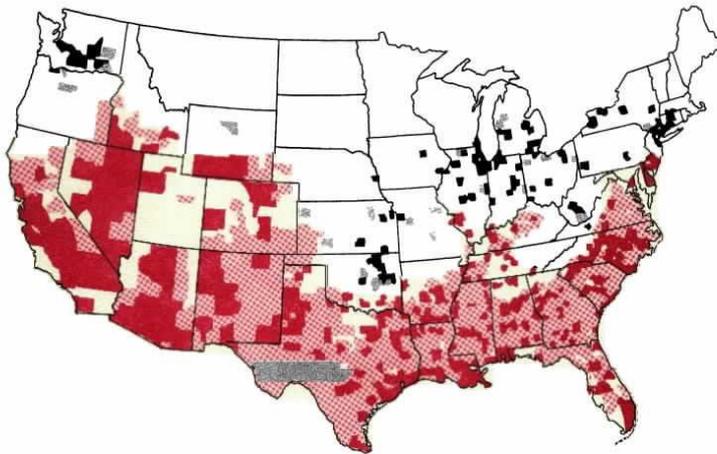
Siting Of Hazardous Waste Landfills And Their Correlation With Racial And Economic Status Of Surrounding Communities

This report provides information on the racial and economic characteristics of communities surrounding four hazardous waste landfills in three southeastern States. It also describes Federal criteria for siting landfills and provides data on public participation and how the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed hazardous waste facility permit changes will affect it.

Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States - 1987

TOXIC WASTES AND RACE In The United States

A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic
Characteristics of Communities
with Hazardous Waste Sites



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
United Church of Christ
©1987

- The United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice produced the first national study linking race and the location of hazardous waste sites
- People of color made up one third of residents within 2-miles radius of facilities

Linking Race and Dumping – 1990

DUMPING IN DIXIE



**Race, Class, and
Environmental Quality**

Robert D. Bullard

- DUMPING IN DIXIE was the first book to document the connection between waste dumping, pollution, income and race
- The South or Dixie is the most environmentally degraded region in the United States
- It is no accident that the modern civil rights and environmental justice movements were born in the South

University of Michigan EJ Conference



- In 1990, Dr. Bunyan Bryant and Dr. Paul Mohai organized the “Michigan Conference on Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards” that brought academics, community leaders and government officials together to address environmental justice

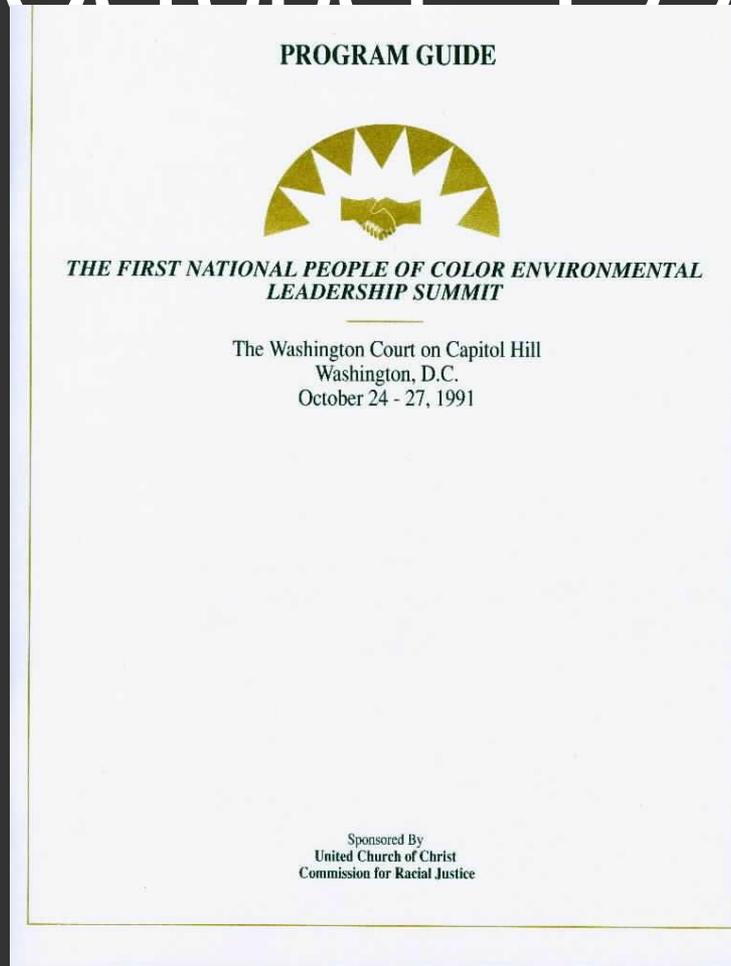
People of Color EJ Summit 1991



- Grassroots Activism
- Redefinition of Environmental Rights
- Alliances and Coalitions
- Community-Driven Research
- Conferences
- First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit - 1991



Environmental Justice Principles Adopted in October 1991



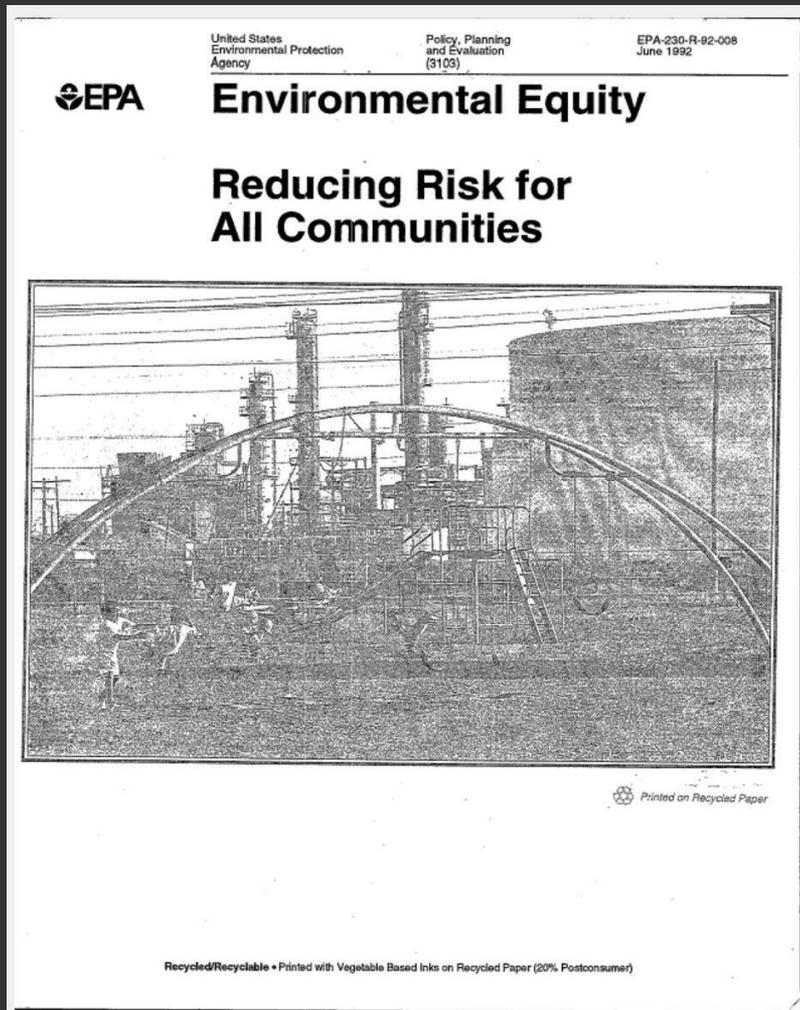
- The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit adopted **17 Principles of Environmental Justice**

Minority Health Conference - 1991



- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) convenes the **National Minority Environmental Health Conference** convened in 1991 in Atlanta, GA

EPA Environmental Equity Report



- The U.S. EPA produces its **Environmental Equity: Reducing Risk for All Communities** report (1992)

EJ Health and Research Symposium - 1994



- Interagency “Health and Research Needs to Ensure Environmental Justice Symposium” held in February, 1994
- The original meeting was supposed to be a workshop of 75-100 scholars, researchers, and scientists
- This plan was abandoned and expanded to include participation by grassroots and community leaders
- The symposium was attended by over 1,000 participants – with over 300 grassroots EJ leaders
- NIEHS took lead on EJ and health issues

EJ Reaches the White House February 11, 1994



- On February 11, 1994, President Clinton signed **Executive Order 12898**
- EO 12898 reinforced existing two existing laws, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Present at the EO signing in the Oval Office were cabinet officials, 4 members of Congress, 4 grassroots EJ leaders, a lawyer, and two sociologists

