



## **CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER**

# **Protecting American Energy From State Overreach**

## **Executive Order #14260**

**Date Issued:** April 8, 2025

**Topic:** Environmental Justice, Energy

### **WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?**

- This executive order centralizes energy regulation at the federal level. It directs the federal government to dismantle what it views as unlawful or overly burdensome state and local regulations that impact the development and use of domestic energy resources. It promotes the concept of “American energy dominance,” focusing on oil, gas, and coal, but also includes nuclear, hydropower, and other traditional energy sources. The stated goal is to ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply, which the order frames as essential to national and economic security.
- The order targets policies that impose retroactive fines, delay permit reviews, restrict carbon emissions through mechanisms like cap-and-trade, or penalize companies through tort law for contributing to climate change. States like New York, Vermont, and California are singled out for enacting climate-related laws that the Administration sees as punitive and ideologically driven, including when states file lawsuits against energy companies for damages that contribute to climate change. These state efforts are described as attempts to regulate beyond their constitutional authority, and this order labels them as threats to economic growth, federalism, and energy affordability for all Americans.
- The order is not just critical of state climate policies; it is explicitly structured to challenge them on legal grounds. It frames such policies as unconstitutional or preempted by federal authority, particularly where they interfere with interstate trade or energy development on federal land. It also portrays these state policies as undermining the equal standing of all states under the U.S. Constitution by allowing a few states to influence the energy decisions of all states.



## HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The enforcement of this order hinges on the U.S. Attorney General, who is assigned to review all relevant state and local laws, regulations, lawsuits, and policies that may interfere with domestic energy development. In consultation with the heads of executive departments and agencies, the Attorney General must identify these measures and determine whether they are unconstitutional, preempted by federal law, or otherwise unenforceable. Existing, proposed, and pending policies are all subject to review.
- Upon identification of climate laws, the Attorney General must take immediate action to stop their enforcement. The focus is particularly sharp on state policies tied to climate change, carbon emissions, and environmental justice, where the order asserts states have overstepped their bounds.
- Within 60 days of the order's signing, the Attorney General must submit a detailed report to the President summarizing actions taken and recommending additional steps. These recommendations may include proposing new legislation or further executive action to prevent states from enforcing policies the federal government deems illegal. This short timeline and proactive mandate suggest an aggressive enforcement approach aimed at expeditiously rolling back climate-related regulations at the state level.





## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The implications of this order for Black communities are deeply concerning. Many Black communities are located near or within industrial zones, hazardous waste sites, and areas with high pollution levels from fossil fuel infrastructure. These communities have historically faced environmental racism, as they are disproportionately exposed to toxic air, water, and land. State-level climate and environmental justice laws have been critical tools for addressing these disparities, pushing for cleaner air, safer neighborhoods, and reparative policies.
- Additionally, the order's economic impact could be damaging. Climate policies at the state level often include job training, green energy development, and investments in sustainable infrastructure initiatives that can provide career pathways and economic opportunities for historically marginalized communities. Rolling back these efforts means missed opportunities for Black workers and entrepreneurs to benefit from the growing green economy. The emphasis on traditional energy industries, where Black communities have been historically underrepresented and often harmed, perpetuates existing inequities rather than implementing equitable access.
- The order also undermines state control. Many municipalities with large Black populations have developed environmental and climate policies to address state needs. The federal government's top-down approach strips communities of the ability to determine how best to protect public health and pursue environmental justice. In doing so, the order reinforces structural inequalities by prioritizing energy corporations while marginalizing the voices of communities that have long shouldered the burden of environmental harm.



## HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has emphasized the importance of energy-efficient interventions that reduce pollution in marginalized communities. On January 10, 2025, **Rep. Troy A. Carter Sr.**, 1st Vice Chair of the CBC, announced \$30 million in grants for his district to support the creation of [over 100](#) electric vehicle chargers and a non-profit that works to build [climate resilience](#) in New Orleans, a city that has been ravaged by natural disasters. On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) to suspend funding for these projects and many others that were funded through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This executive order further erodes protections for states taking proactive measures to address climate change, which will have the largest impact on communities of color across the country.
- The CBC has led the fight for environmental justice in Congress for over 40 years. To read more about the CBC's legacy on environmental justice issues, visit [Avoice](#), our virtual library.