

## Green Tip by Susan Steepy

Recently the Environmental Justice Ministry facilitated a book discussion based on Naomi Klein's latest book *ON FIRE, The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*. As you probably know, the Green New Deal (GND) (H. Res. 109) was introduced in the House of Representatives February 7, 2020 by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The GND comes to mind again as we witness the ongoing protests for ending police violence enacted primarily on people of color. The latest incident, the killing of George Floyd, brought the protests to a head – worldwide. These protests are more than about the third killing in the U.S. of a black person within the last 3 months. It is about the inequality of people of color in this country over the last 344 years, when the first Africans were brought here by force and enslaved by white people. At this time the protests are strengthened by the joining of hundreds of thousands of white, brown, and Indigenous people recognizing the plight and suffering of some of the same abuses and inequities that black people suffer. And this risky choice to join the protests is made and acted on during a dangerous pandemic. It seems that attitudes and behaviors are ready to shift. We've heard Governor Cuomo encourage us to support our economic recovery by rebuilding our infrastructure now, per sustainable building methods. This would benefit the nation by providing green jobs, job training, a safe and clean environment, and the renewal of manufacturing in the United States. Many working class people currently unemployed could get the training needed to take these jobs which would pay a living wage. From a social perspective, this national project could bring about a unification of our country. So please read through the outline of H. Res. 109 (the GND) and support the passage of this plan in the Senate. It may not happen that the bill has enough support in the Senate to pass until January 2021, but its day will come. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that you have supported its passing and eventual manifestation?

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>

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