

## **Baton Route, Falcon Heights, Dallas: This is Why We Do What We Do**

Elizabeth Crowe, Coming Clean Co-Director

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I woke up Thursday morning, and again this morning, with numbing sadness and anger about the most recent racist, murderous actions by police in Louisiana and Minnesota, and the violence at the otherwise peaceful protest in Texas.

While police violence may not be in the mission statement of Coming Clean or of many of your organizations, *this is also why we do what we do.*

It is because of these deep racial disparities plaguing our nation and our world, that we take our own Coming Clean principles, the Environmental Justice Principles and the Jemez Principles so seriously. It's why we take time at our meetings and group discussions to ensure our decision making process is truly open and accessible to everyone. It's why we make time to hear the stories of struggle and success from our African American, Native American, Latino and Asian American brothers and sisters, and challenge each other to be our very best selves in our collaborative organizing space, with justice and equity as our guide.

So that even as we grapple with the details of federal chemical and energy regulations, corporate policies on toxic contaminants, EPA actions on air and water pollution, health and science research and the like, this critical environmental and health work needs to be relevant to everyone, including people who are struggling to meet their most basic, daily needs. These issues are relevant for people who fear for their basic safety, in places and situations that I, for one, take for granted should be safe. That requires us all to be smart, savvy and compassionate as we design our industry reform strategies and get real wins that affect people's lives.

In Coming Clean, we believe that this collaborative unity is essential in getting these wins more effectively and efficiently, and with truly long-lasting results.

Let's continue to hold each other in our hearts, through our grief and with hope; challenge each other with love and respect to tackle these inequalities; and re-commit ourselves to work for justice and peace in our world, to overcome the violence -- including environmental racism -- in all forms.