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Arm in Arm and Their Partners Call Out Alabama Power For Hypocrisy at World Games

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Ending the climate crisis centering racial and economic justice is rooted in the southern states of Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Arm in Arm along with their partners, utility customers and residents within Southern Company's three-state footprint have kicked off a "Power 4 Southern People NOT Southern Company" campaign to hold company executives and legislators accountable and build relationships across our states. Southern Company subsidiaries Alabama Power, Georgia Power, and Mississippi Power, by way of the elected officials they fund, are actively denying the climate crisis, holding climate legislation hostage, dismantling our democracy, and clawing back reproductive rights.

On June 14, 2022, in an act of solidarity, Arm in Arm hubs will hold joint actions across Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi to call out Southern Company for their inequitable spending and hypocrisy at the upcoming World Games in Alabama.

Alabama Power and their partners have spent millions of dollars to launch the *Ride the Line* shuttle as an alternative, promoting it as the best experience possible not only for those attending World Games events but also residents and businesses. Yet they have invested nothing into the communities impacted by the construction. Instead, Alabama Power is looking to raise rates in these communities to expand the utility's total power-producing capabilities by approximately 15%.

Touted by World Games CEO Nick Sellers, an Alabama Power executive on loan to the 2022 games, as the "easiest and most efficient way for fans to get to most venues so they can watch these incredible sports competitions," the Ride the Line buses will be free and accessible for fans enjoying The World Games 2022. The line runs through some of the lowest-wage neighborhoods in North and South Birmingham. Many of these communities are over 97% African American with a median household income of \$22,235 per year.

Alabama Power, the Alabama Public Service Commission, and their enablers have explicitly put shareholder profits over communities. Not enough has been done to protect people from toxic coal ash, which sits in unlined ponds along Alabama's most precious waterways. When people turn on their light switches, they may not be thinking of the dirty energy infrastructure that



Organizing our communities to ignite a transformational era that ends the climate crisis by centering racial and economic justice.

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produces electricity and why their utility bills are so high. Arm in Arm seeks to raise awareness of these issues.

“Like [with] Alabama’s state [public service] commission, the problems seem to be ideological. It has been described as “one of the most opaque, politically motivated, and environmentally hostile commissions in the country” - John Oliver, Last Night Tonight (Brown University Climate and Development Lab Report, Oct 2021 - Can State Utility Commissions Lead in the Clean Energy Transition? Lessons from Six States)

“To protect the environment, we must speak truth to power and demand a proper response. Taking steps to save the planet starts at the top. Remember that when you vote.” - Emily Gaddis, Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate, and Health Organization (EEEECHO)

“It’s hard to wrap my mind around how much money has been spent on a single event when, everyday, residents are struggling to get access to food, transportation and extra income to be able to thrive. Southern Company and the legislative bodies in their pockets have made their focus clear - profits over people.” Lindsay Harper, Arm in Arm

“Alabama Power’s showmanship for the World Games is insulting considering that the utility has neglected and exploited low-income Alabamians for decades. It’s one of the most profitable utilities in the entire country in one of the poorest states in the entire country. They won’t help folks get lower utility bills but they won’t miss a marketing opportunity for that logo.” Daniel Tait, Energy Alabama.

Alabama Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, is actively denying the climate crisis and dismantling our democracy and reproductive rights. At the same time, they are denying residents the right to build multi-generational wealth and upward mobility by charging high utility bills and poisoning our environment. The only way for us to build the world we all deserve is by claiming Power 4 Southern People NOT Southern Company. We’ll see you at the Alabama World Games.

Partners

Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate, and Health Organization (EEEECHO)

Mississippi Rising Coalition

GASP

Margins

The People’s Justice Council

Sierra Club Georgia Beyond Coal

Georgia Conservation Voters

9to5 Georgia



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Arm in Arm

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About Arm in Arm

Through sustained disruptive humanitarianism, we will ignite a new era where the government works for the common good. Arm in arm, we will transform America and end the climate crisis centering racial and economic justice. arminarm4climate.org



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