



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE *on*
ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

RANKING MEMBER SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO



Investment in Radical Activists:

A Case Study on the NDN Collective

Supported by the Democrats' *Inflation Reduction Act*



A Note from the Ranking Member

Almost two years ago, Democrats rammed through \$41.5 billion in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). I was very concerned. The funding totaled four times what the EPA receives through annual appropriations in a typical year, and the Democrats provided no funding to the EPA's inspector general to oversee and audit the IRA. Democrats wrote the legislation to funnel billions to "community-based nonprofit organizations" with no accountability for how they spent taxpayer dollars. I feared that would be code for bankrolling extreme progressive environmental causes and propping up radical energy activists.

*Through two recent press conferences, I have begun to expose how the IRA supports groups with anti-Israel, pro "defund the police" agendas. My first conference focused on Climate Justice Alliance, a radical group receiving \$50 million in IRA funding. The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board highlighted my findings, and also noted that one of Climate Justice Alliance's partners is NDN Collective. I decided to **follow the money**, and do a deeper dive into the NDN Collective. What I found follows.*

*Democrats' **I**nvestment in **R**adical **A**ctivists is an abuse of taxpayer dollars and it must stop.*



A Case Study: The NDN Collective

Who is the NDN Collective? The NDN Collective is an activist group that is a partner of the Climate Justice Alliance, which is being awarded \$50 million in taxpayer funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. (NDN also is going to have a say in disbursing \$50 million in other IRA funds.) The NDN Collective wants to dismantle bedrock institutions of the United States, and has stood firmly against Israel and in support of pro-Hamas radicals.

Why is this Case Study Being Released Now? The Biden administration's response to my oversight work so far has been: *nothing to see here*. When questioned about the selection of radical groups to receive IRA funding, the EPA told *Fox News* that the agency engaged in a "rigorous, multi-level application process" and that "[p]olitical affiliations played no role in the evaluation, scoring, and selection of Grantmakers" for the IRA funds.

What Does this Case Study Show?

- (1) The Biden administration **selected the NDN Collective as a partner to administer \$100 million in taxpayer resources** while the group was actively engaged in radical anti-American and anti-Israel advocacy;
- (2) NDN's positions are not just politically radical—they are stridently anti-American; and
- (3) The Biden's administration support for the NDN Collective as an IRA partner is not a one-off decision; the Administration has sought out the Collective as a trusted advisor throughout President Biden's term.

NDN's Timeline of Radical Anti-Israel Advocacy Following 10/7

Following Hamas' invasion of Israel on October 7, 2023, the NDN Collective undertook an aggressive anti-Israel campaign that continues to present day. Despite NDN's public advocacy campaign, the EPA named the NDN Collective as a partner to two \$50 million awards under the Inflation Reduction Act's Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program in December 2023.

October 19, 2023:

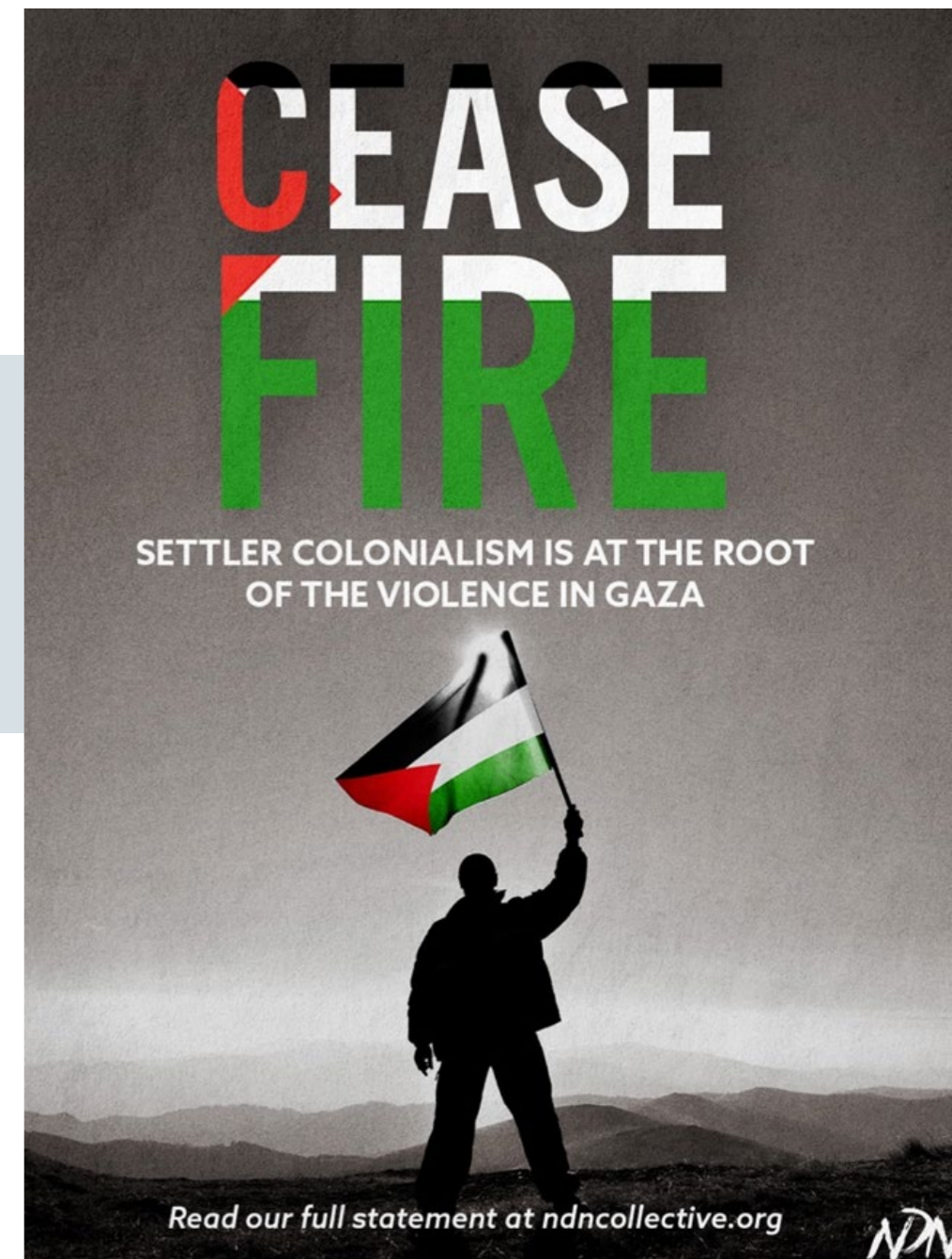
- The NDN Collective defends Hamas' ongoing war against Israel as resistance against "settler colonialism."

*"A ceasefire, and **end to the U.S. funding Israel's military,** and true Palestinian land rights and liberation are a path to peace."*

-NDN Ceasefire Statement

November 4, 2023:

- As accounts of the widespread brutality, including rampant sexual violence inflicted on Israeli women, came to light, NDN Collective President Nick Tilsen and other staff spoke at the "National March on Washington for Palestine" where he urged "revolution" against the U.S. and Israel and cast both countries as enemies against peace and justice.



"We are in **struggle**.
Therefore, we are in
REVOLUTION."

...

"And in this **battle** we will
not stop no matter what."

**-NDN Collective CEO
Nick Tilsen at Nov. 4
Rally**



December 8, 2023:

- The NDN Collective broadcast a poetry reading for Gaza’s “martyrs” where participants advocated for violence against Israel and cast the U.S. as a “terrorist nation.”

“Dear Israel I am no child now. I’ve got a blade here. I made sure it was sharp.”

“My lips are bleeding. Do you taste it dear Israel?”

“I will take this blade in my mouth and trace out your crimes in this bloodstained earth for all to see.”



“Do you condemn the ecological violence that builds an ethnostate?”

“Do you condemn the terrorists [the United States and Israel]?”

“Who is called a hostage?”

December 20, 2023:

The EPA names the NDN Collective as a partner to two \$50 million awards under the **IRA’s** Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program. Awardees are praised by EPA Administrator Regan and Vice President Harris.



December 25, 2023:

- As the hostages were held captive in Gaza, the NDN Collective called for the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israel—including those guilty of terrorism and the mass murder of innocent civilians. The NDN Collective said nothing about the hostages that are prisoners of Hamas in Gaza.



May 2024:

- As pro-Hamas protests engulfed universities across the U.S., NDN deployed tactical media units to broadcast footage from at least five encampments—including Columbia University and Harvard University—to deny reports of anti-Semitism against Jewish students and amplify pro-Hamas narratives.

*“The graphic videos of police and **zionist violence** upon the **warriors at the encampments** are difficult to watch but serve as a spotlight to illuminate the carnage happening right now across the country.*

...

Zionism, settler-colonialism, and the US are losing the narrative battle.”

-May 7. NDN Collective Blog Post

Longstanding NDN Beliefs, Established Well Before 10/7 Attacks

Radical NDN Belief: The U.S. government is illegitimate and should be resisted.

NDN Collective publications and personnel often refer to the United States as the “so-called United States” and the office of President as the “so-called President of the United States.” See other quotes from the NDN Collective below:

“That is how this so-called country was founded.”

“take on the enemy...the U.S. empire”

“Our demand for holding the US empire accountable and all of its cronies...”

*“F*ck empire”*



“NDN Collective showed up in so-called Washington, DC...”

NDN COLLECTIVE

“Here in the so-called US”

“[Joe Biden] President of the so-called United States”

Radical NDN Belief: The U.S. government, including the military and police, must be dismantled and abolished.

“We do support defunding the police and U.S. military which continue terrorizing Indigenous, Black, LGBTQIA2S+ and poor people across the planet...”

- June 7, 2023 [Statement](#)

NDN Collective demands the abolition of (1) **the military**, (2) **the police**, (3) **Customs and Border Patrol**, and (4) **Immigration and Customs Enforcement**.

*“And our goal is not just to resist, our goal is to **radically**—**radically**—transform this country...”*

-Nick Tilsen, CEO of NDN Collective



Radical NDN Belief: Israel has no right to exist and must be demolished.

The NDN Collective considers its anti-Israel advocacy to be a core part of its mission. In March 2022, NDN released a “position paper” on Palestine, which designated Zionism as “a racist colonial movement” and called on Palestinians to resist “against [the] colonialism and occupation” of Israel.



POSITION PAPER:
**THE RIGHT OF RETURN
IS LANDBACK**

*“We look to our Palestinian relatives who, like us, continue to demonstrate the **power of resistance** against colonialism and occupation.”*

...

“From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free.”

*“The so-called state of israel is recognized today as guilty of the crime of apartheid...the roots of this crime are **original Zionist colonization**.”*

...

*“It is important to understand that **israel** is constantly in the process of taking on new identities in order to establish permanence and legitimacy as an **occupying colonial state**.”*

-NDN Collective Position Paper on Palestine

Radical NDN Belief: The United States and Israel are twin evils that must be resisted by a united movement.

The NDN Collective embraces their anti-American and anti-Semitic beliefs by designating the United States and Israel as the primary source of the world’s problems. According to NDN Collective CEO Tilsen, “**Settler colonialism [the United States and Israel] is the biggest threat to climate [change].**”

In March, the NDN Collective hosted a webinar that sought to unify radical far-left movements, including the anti-Semitic **Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)**, against the United States and Israel.

*“We really see our role...to **confront and dismantle Zionism** wherever we find it.”* -Lenna Nasr of the PYM and echoed by NDN panelists

**BUILDING MOVEMENTS DURING
TIMES OF STATE REPRESSION**



**NICK
TILSEN**
NDN COLLECTIVE
PRESIDENT & CEO



**MARY
HOOKS**
MOVEMENT FOR
BLACK LIVES



**LENNAS
NASR**
PALESTINIAN YOUTH
MOVEMENT

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 | 3PM MT
STREAMING LIVE ON   

This LIVE will be hosted by Lorenzo Serna, NDN Collective Director of Tactical Media, about the tools and tactics utilized by the state to repress our movements and how community organizers cultivate systems of support and care as they continue to mobilize.

NDN's Multi-Year Partnership with the Biden Administration

NDN Collective Advises President Biden and the White House



NDN Collective has advised **President Biden** and his administration on environmental justice issues since the former Director of Policy and Advocacy Jade Begay began serving on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) in 2021. The WHEJAC has counseled the Biden administration to end nuclear power, research and development, carbon management technologies, and new road construction. Begay [standing directly behind Biden at left], along with other members of the WHEJAC, were invited to the White House in April 2023 where Biden signed an executive order positioning environmental justice at the center of his administration's radical policy agenda.

NDN Collective Has the Ear of Top Biden Administration Officials



At the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit, then-National Climate Advisor, **Gina McCarthy**, lauded the NDN Collective as one of her “favorite” meetings of the summit and endorsed their “terrific” book. Ali Zaidi, McCarthy's successor, met with NDN in December 2023 in Dubai at the United Nations annual climate conference.

The NDN Collective hosted a watch party in support of Secretary of Interior **Deb Haaland's** Senate confirmation; Secretary Haaland spoke at the event. The Department of Interior's website lists the NDN Collective, as well as other radical groups, as an “**engagement resource**” for the public to consult on environmental justice issues.



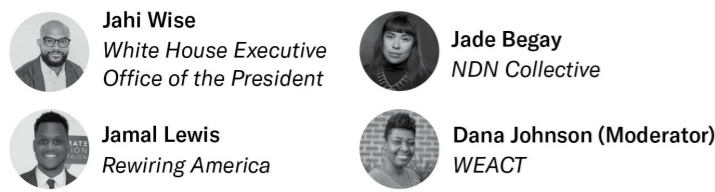
Administration Partners with NDN to Raise Awareness about IRA Money

Since the passage of the Democrats' IRA, the NDN Collective has partnered with the EPA, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the White House to amplify opportunities for "community-based organizations" to apply for and receive IRA dollars.

Advancing Environmental Justice through the Inflation Reduction Act

Frontline communities can use the IRA to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their homes, businesses and communities and advance a clean energy transition. Many of the provisions in the IRA have a finite amount of funding. **Join us for this online panel discussion** to make sure you're leveraging all the benefits of the IRA.

WHEN: Wednesday October 12 from 12-1:30pm ET



TAPPING INTO THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

More Funding Opportunities for Tribes



AUGUST 3, AT 12 P.M. ET / 9 A.M. PT

WEBINAR

TRIBAL CLIMATE PLANNING & CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS: RESOURCES FOR TRIBES

Confirmed speakers:

Robert Knapp, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Jade Begay, NDN Collective
Pat Childers, EPA

*"How do we **decolonize** something as bureaucratic as federal grants? ...*

*"This is about **shifting power**...to change these processes and systems so that **equity** is at the center of how these types of grants and dollars move into our communities."*

-Jade Begay, former NDN Collective Director of Policy and Advocacy

The State Department Highlights NDN on the International Stage

In December 2023 at the United Nations annual climate conference in Dubai, the State Department invited the NDN Collective to host a panel on "Investing in Effective Climate Resiliency: Climate Finance for All Peoples." The event was held at the U.S. Center, which according to the State Department, is a "location for showcasing U.S. climate leadership." One NDN panelist displayed her anti-Israel advocacy by donning a "**ceasefire**" totebag, **Palestinian keffiyeh**, and "**solidarity**" with Palestine necklace.

