

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

The Build Back Better Act represents Congress' last, best chance to tackle climate change. The time to act is now.

The climate science has been clear for many years.¹ For the planet to have a chance at maintaining acceptable climate conditions by staying within 1.5 degrees celsius of additional warming, immediate action is necessary to transition our economy to a clean energy future. This need has only grown more urgent with the passing of time. Failure is not an option; we simply cannot afford to watch any more years, months, or legislative opportunities go by without enacting bold climate action into law.

In parallel with climate science, analysis of the costs of climate inaction and of the benefits and returns of bold federal climate investment make it abundantly clear that it is in the interest of every U.S. state and the nation as a whole to seize this legislative opportunity. The economic, social, community, and health costs of climate change and its effects are well studied and increasingly well understood by the public.² One recent estimate by Deloitte finds that the economic costs of inaction could reach \$14.5 trillion of lost GDP for the U.S. by 2070.³

Fortunately, that outcome can be avoided by passing into law the legislative work the 117th Congress has already done in assembling robust climate, clean energy, and environmental justice investments. Critically, this climate package includes an historic clean energy tax platform for solar, wind, offshore wind, geothermal, energy storage, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, transmission, low-income communities, and manufacturing here in the U.S. Moreover, the majority of this Congress agrees with voters that these investments can and should be passed.⁴

This kind of decisive action and investment in clean energy, efficiency, clean transportation, and domestic manufacturing will not only drive emissions reductions towards meeting our national climate goals, but will also unleash unprecedented economic gains, contribute to easing longer-term inflationary pressures, employ millions of Americans in family-sustaining jobs, promote environmental justice, ensure healthier communities, and enhance our global competitiveness in the industries of the future.⁵ In the clean electricity sector alone, recent analyses estimate that we are now losing \$2 billion of economic activity for every month of inaction on this bill;⁶ and, the clean energy and climate investments in it will create 600,000 jobs a year.⁷

At this very moment, Congress is primed to deliver strong climate action for the nation. We believe demonstrable progress towards enacting the best reconciliation bill possible for all Americans - including the Build Back Better Act's climate and clean energy provisions - can be made by the State of the Union Address. We urge you to move quickly and stand ready to work with you to get this job done. Thank you for your leadership.

¹<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sgsm20847.doc.htm>; <https://www.ipcc.ch/working-group/wg1/>

²<https://www.oecd.org/fr/environnement/climate-change-consequences-of-inaction.htm>; <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>; <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/climate-change-in-the-american-mind-september-2021/>

³<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/us/Documents/about-deloitte/us-the-turning-point-a-new-economic-climate-in-the-united-states-january-2022.pdf>

⁴<https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2021/10/26/voters-want-build-back-better-passed-with-bold-climate-action/>;

⁵<https://rhg.com/research/us-climate-policy-2030/>;

<https://www.epi.org/open-letter-from-nobel-laureates-in-support-of-economic-recovery-agenda/>

⁶<https://cleanpower.org/resources/letter-260-clean-energy-employers-urge-congress-to-act-now-on-build-back-better-act/>

⁷<https://rhg.com/research/build-back-better-jobs-electric-power/>

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Alliance to Save Energy
American Clean Power Association
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Council on Renewable Energy
Building Performance Association
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Business Network for Offshore Wind
CALSTART
Capital Good Fund
Center for Biological Diversity
Ceres
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Citizens Climate Lobby
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality Project
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
E4theFuture
Earthjustice
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Evergreen Action
EVHybridNoire
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Geothermal Exchange Organization
GreenLatinos
Health Care Without Harm
IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office
Interfaith Power & Light
Islamic Society of North America
League of Conservation Voters
Market Transformation and National Association of Energy Service Companies
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
National Audubon Society
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Hydropower Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council

New York Geothermal Energy Organization
Oceana
Ocean Conservancy
Plug In America
Public Citizen
Rewiring America
RMI
Sierra Club
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Solar Energy Industries Association
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
U.S. Green Building Council
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
World Wildlife Fund
Vote Solar
Zero Emission Transportation Association