

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

February 5, 2021

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of our millions of members, supporters, employees, and customers, we look forward to working with the Biden Administration to enact comprehensive federal climate policy capable of reducing greenhouse gas emissions on a timeframe scientists say is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Specifically, alongside other important policy tools, regulatory action and forward-looking investments, we write to ask that you prioritize inclusion of a stable, predictable and long-term tax platform for critical clean energy and clean transportation incentives in the earliest possible legislative vehicle this year.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, clean energy was one of the nation's fastest-growing sectors and was projected to add 175,000 jobs in 2020. As we begin the new year, not only did those 175,000 jobs not materialize, but roughly 429,000 clean energy workers – comprising 12% of the sector's pre-COVID workforce – are still out of work. These unemployment impacts are being felt all over the country, with 38 states and the District of Columbia suffering double-digit job losses in the clean energy sector relative to pre-COVID levels. In addition to reviving good-paying jobs that pay 25% more than the national median wage, support for clean energy improves the overall health of the economy by leveraging private capital to accelerate climate progress and saving consumers money in difficult times. The clean energy sector is also an increasingly important source of American innovation, energy independence and international competitiveness in the 21st century global economy.

Clean energy and clean transportation can play a critical role advancing our economic recovery, putting people back to work, and laying the foundation for a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous future. We continue to experience a rise in extreme weather disasters, with scientists around the world sounding the alarm that we are almost out of time to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Environmental justice communities have borne disproportionate public health impacts from a legacy of fossil fuel-dependent energy production, which can be alleviated in part by accelerating clean energy and clean transportation deployment. While the clean energy provisions in last year's spending package provided emergency relief and a down payment on the comprehensive federal policy response we know is required, it is imperative that we now move beyond endless cycles of short-term stopgap measures and towards a long-term clean energy and clean transportation tax platform capable of effectively addressing the climate crisis.

In that regard, we ask that the earliest possible legislative vehicle prioritize inclusion of a stable, predictable and long-term tax platform that:

- Provides full-value, long-term incentives for solar, wind and other qualifying technologies
- Extends the new offshore wind ITC with PTC optionality
- Makes energy storage and high-voltage transmission eligible for an investment tax credit on a standalone basis
- Modernizes the tax incentives for commercial and residential energy efficiency improvements
- Extends and modifies the tax credit for alternative fuel infrastructure
- Revives the tax credit for domestic clean energy manufacturing
- Ensures broad consumer accessibility for the EV tax credit by shifting out of the current per-manufacturer cap structure and makes it available for a longer period of time.

Finally, given the continued uncertainty around tax equity, and to maximize utilization by the broadest range of stakeholders, all these tax incentives should be made “refundable” or include a direct pay option.

Clean energy and clean transportation have a significant role to play in securing our future prosperity and leading our nation’s economic recovery. A stable, predictable and long-term clean energy and clean transportation tax platform would save consumers money and create good-paying jobs in every state. These incentives - along with other policies that bring the benefits of clean energy and clean transportation to historically marginalized communities, promote workforce development, support strong labor standards and spur domestic manufacturing - can help restore and ensure America’s climate and clean energy leadership around the world.

America needs a strong recovery; we cannot afford to leave any jobs on the table. We must accelerate clean energy and clean transportation deployment to boost our economy, improve public health, protect our climate, advance energy independence and enhance our global competitiveness. Please prioritize inclusion of a stable, predictable and long-term clean energy and clean transportation tax platform in the earliest possible legislative vehicle this Congress.

We look forward to working with you to continue to grow clean energy and clean transportation jobs, while helping to achieve our climate goals.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy
Alliance to Save Energy
American Clean Power Association
American Council on Renewable Energy
Building Performance Association
Business Network for Offshore Wind
CALSTART
Citizens Climate Lobby
Climate Reality Project
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

E4theFuture
Earthjustice
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
EV Drive Coalition
Evangelical Environmental Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Health Care Without Harm
Interfaith Power and Light
Interwest Energy Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region, USA
MCC U.S. Washington Office
NAESCO (National Association of Energy Service Companies)
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Audubon Society
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Hydropower Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Plug In America
Protect Our Winters
Sierra Club
Solar Energy Industries Association
Voices for Progress
Vote Solar
U.S. Energy Storage Association
U.S. Green Building Council
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Union of Concerned Scientists
Union of Reformed Judaism
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
World Wildlife Fund
Zero Emission Transportation Association

CC: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Mike Crapo, House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Kevin Brady, National Climate Advisor McCarthy, Mr. Deese, Mr. Zaidi, Ms. Herrell)