

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader of the Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader of the Senate

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Group Letter of Support for Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

We write at this critical time with recommendations to support your efforts to respond to the ongoing economic crisis. Though we have a vaccine, the United States will be battling the health crisis well into 2021 and immediate relief is critical. But it is not enough. Congress should respond by depositing \$100 billion into the independent nonpartisan, nonprofit Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to [mobilize nearly half a trillion dollars of investment and create 4 million new jobs in 4 years](#).

[Millions of Americans](#) are still collecting unemployment benefits. [Labor force participation](#) is at its lowest levels in nearly 50 years. And [long-term unemployment](#) is now at 4.25 million workers, the highest level in recorded history other than the peak of the Great Recession. The U.S. is still struggling through a historic jobs crisis, and the shifts in the labor market are now becoming permanent. Service industries, dining, entertainment and travel continue to shed jobs, with many of those positions being permanently eliminated. Returning to full employment requires creating new jobs in new sectors. That means it is essential for Congress to help create new jobs for Americans.

In national polls 7 out of 10 voters, including majorities from both parties, agree that investing in clean energy infrastructure is a great way to accomplish two critical objectives – create jobs and mitigate the impacts of climate change. And 2 out of 3 voters nationally want Congress to fund the non-profit independent Clean Energy Accelerator to create those jobs.

The opportunity to build the infrastructure to generate, move, store and use clean and efficient energy is nearly boundless. [Trillions of dollars](#) of investment is needed to build clean energy infrastructure that will put millions back to work, strengthen communities, reduce pollution, improve public health, lower energy costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is in addition to the pressing need to build resilient infrastructure in communities across America.

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator is the ideal vehicle for this investment. The Accelerator will pair each public dollar with multiple private ones to build a range of clean energy projects. This includes renewable power, building efficiency, grid infrastructure like transmission and storage, industrial decarbonization, clean transportation, reforestation and sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient infrastructure. Each public dollar invested will be repaid and preserved by the Fund, which means dollars can be recycled to cause even more private investment in the future. Legislation to fund the Accelerator

has already passed the House twice in 2020, [first](#) as part of the Moving Forward Act and again as part of the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act. The Accelerator –introduced in [H.R. 806](#) by Representatives Dingell and Fitzpatrick and as the National Climate Bank Act in [S. 283](#) by Senators Markey and Van Hollen and– has been reintroduced as a stand-alone bill and as part of the [CLEAN Future Act](#) with a \$100 billion capitalization.

The Fund will use the green bank model that has been proven at the [state and local level](#) in the U.S. There are already successful green banks in states like Michigan, Florida, Connecticut and Hawaii, and new ones in place in Colorado, Ohio, and Nevada. These green banks, often created with [bipartisan support](#), have driven over \$5 billion of investment into clean energy, and for each public dollar invested, 2.6 dollars of private investment has followed. States across the U.S. are now developing or considering their own green banks, including states like Alaska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Each project financed by the Fund will require Americans with all kinds of skills and backgrounds. Today, [half](#) the jobs in the clean energy sector are in sales, administration and management. These are roles that can be filled quickly by those laid off from other sectors with matching skillsets.

To strengthen communities in every corner of America, the Fund will help form new regional, state or local green banks across the U.S. and then provide the funding necessary for them to invest. This will build a network of local institutions designed expressly to meet the employment, energy, development and environmental needs of that community. The Fund will also help fund the expansion of those green banks that already exist and are showing others how to lead the way.

No community will be overlooked. Forty percent of the Fund’s investment must go to frontline, low-income and climate-impacted communities. Existing green banks have already proven the possible, delivering clean energy and health benefits to communities that have historically been left behind. This ensures good clean energy jobs are formed throughout the U.S.

A national green bank like the Accelerator is supported by the House [Climate Crisis Committee](#) and the Senate Democrats’ Special Committee on the Climate Crisis. It was co-sponsored and [endorsed](#) by Vice President Kamala Harris during her time serving as a Senator, and aligns with President-Elect Biden’s clean energy plans. Polling also shows it is supported by Republican voters in swing states and fossil fuel-dependent states like West Virginia, Alaska, North Carolina and Florida.

There is broad support for this kind of clean and resilient infrastructure investment to put Americans back to work. Immediate relief is essential in this crisis, but so too is providing a livelihood for the millions of American families and households out of work. Voters across parties want Congress to act, and to do so by funding the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator.

Sincerely,

Environmental Nonprofit Organizations

350 Maine

Acadia Center

Appalachian Voices

Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture

Belfast, ME Chapter Citizens Climate Lobby

Bethesda Green

Center for Ecological Living and Learning

Center for an Ecology-Based Economy

Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance

Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Clean Energy Economy for the Region
The Climate Center
The Climate Reality Project
Climate Resolve
Coalition for Green Capital
Coastal Youth Climate Coalition
Community Office for Resource Efficiency
Earthjustice
Energy Outreach Colorado
Energy Resource Center
Energy Smart Colorado
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental & Energy Study Institute
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Grid Alternatives
Institute for Market Transformation
Institute for Sustainable Communities
League of Conservation Voters
Maine Climate Table
Maine Mountain Collaborative
Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership
Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Michigan Environmental Council
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Sierra Club
Sitka Conservation Society
Spark Northwest
Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy
Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition
Union of Concerned Scientists
Urban Land Institute
Urban Sustainability Directors Network
Wells Reserve at Laudham
Zocalo Permaculture Center

Trade and Industry Associations

Advanced Energy Management Alliance
American Green Bank Consortium
Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
Black Owners of Solar Services
Carolinas Clean Energy Business Association
Coalition for Community Solar Access
Colorado Solar and Storage Association
DC Capital Connector
E2
Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey
Energy Storage Association
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Hawai'i Solar Energy Association
Inclusiv
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
Maryland Building Performance Association

Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Neighborhood Restaurant Group
North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
Northeast Clean Energy Council
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Solar Energy Industries Association
Solar United Neighbors
Southern Renewable Energy Association
Vote Solar

Financial Institutions

Amalgamated Bank
Atmos Bank
City First Bank of DC
Clean Energy Trust
Climate Access Fund
Colorado Clean Energy Fund
Connecticut Green Bank
DC Green Bank
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
The Engine
Finance New Orleans
Florida Solar & Energy Loan Fund
Generate Capital
Greenworks Lending
Growth Opps
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
Inclusive Prosperity Capital

Latino Economic Development Center
Main Street Launch
Maryland Clean Energy Center
Michigan Saves
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
Montgomery County Green Bank
NYCEEC
Raise Green
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
Sungage Financial LLC

Clean Energy, Water, and Sustainability Companies and Utilities

4P Foods
About Saving Heat
Agents for the Built Environment
Alaska Power and Telephone Company
Ameresco
Amicus Strategic Environmental Consulting
Amperon
Aris Energy Solutions, LLC
Atlas Home Energy Solutions
Aurora Energy
Banyan Infrastructure
Bicky Corman Law, PLLC
BlocPower
Build Efficiently, LLC
CertainSolar
Chart House Energy, LLC
Christensen Global Strategies
Clean Energy Works

CMTA, Inc.
DC Solar – Washington, DC
DC Water
Delorean Power
Dietel & Partners
Dollaride
eCAMION USA
Elevate Energy
Elevation Lighting Services Company
Energy Efficiency Experts, LLC
Energy Hub
Energy Tech
Enervee
Enerwealth Solutions
Envoy Technologies, Inc.
First Cast Communications
Flywheel Development, LLC
Foresight Management
Form Energy
Fresh Energy
The Friendly Ewe
Gardner Real Estate Group
Gordian Knot Strategies
Green Compass
Green Generation
Green Projects Group
Greentown Labs
Ground Loop Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.
Hawaiian Electric Company
Holu Hou Energy
Holy Cross Energy
Hunt Consulting
Insight Power Partners
Integro, LLC
Inter-Island Solar Supply
Invest Sou Sou
Ipsun Solar
Law Offices of Leslie M. Lava
LewLew Energy
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
Maalka
Mission Energy LLC
Mortensen
Mountain View Wind and Solar
Moya Design Partners
Neighborhood Sun
Photonworks Engineering, LLP
Posigen, Inc.
Powerhouse
Recurrent Innovative Solutions, LLC
RER Energy Group
Rivermoor Energy
Sioneer
Solar Stewards
Solstice
South San Francisco Scavenger Company
Sustainable Capital Advisors
Sustainable Real Estate Solutions
Undaunted K12
Valley Green Fuels

Vanguard Energy Partners, LLC

Westhof, Cone & Holmstedt

WexEnergy

Winrock International

Zefiro Waste

Zero Foodprint

Zinc8 Energy Solutions

State and Local Governments

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

City of Aspen, Colorado

City of Belfast, ME Climate Change Committee

City of Jackson, Mississippi

Franklin County, Maine Climate Change Coalition

Hawai'i State Energy Office

Maine State Treasurer Henry Beck

Nevada Governor's Office of Energy

Philadelphia Energy Authority

Other Nonprofit Organizations

Berggruen Institute

Christensen Fund

City First Enterprises

Confluence Philanthropy

Flora Family Foundation

Good Community Foundation

Groundswell

Illinois People's Action

National Housing Trust

Park City Community Foundation

Partnership for Southern Equity

Prentice Foundation

Third Way

Wallace Global Fund

cc:

The Honorable Tom Carper

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen

The Honorable Ed Markey

The Honorable James Clyburn

The Honorable Steny Hoyer

The Honorable Peter DeFazio

The Honorable Sam Graves

The Honorable Frank Pallone

The Honorable Debbie Dingell

The Honorable Cathy Castor