

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer and Majority Whip Clyburn

We write to you as representatives of millions of constituents who have suffered from COVID-19, police violence, climate disasters, and economic injustice this past year, many of whom were suffering before. As the urgency to invest in public climate infrastructure and jobs intensifies each day, we urge you to work with us to deliver robust and lasting investments at a scale that directly addresses the climate crisis. We are very concerned that the American Jobs Plan (AJP), and more so the bipartisan compromise as it presently stands, will not reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving the climate crisis to the extent that science and justice require. Absent stronger investments in renewable power, it may in fact drive a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the AJP is a good start but not yet the climate plan we need. The bipartisan and Republican proposals are even less so. We need a Green New Deal. We need a jobs and infrastructure plan that meets demands laid out in the Green New Deal — that prioritizes investments in frontline communities, ensures respect for tribal sovereignty, and includes robust labor standards and protections.

Leading researchers believe that investments of at least \$1 trillion a year over the next decade are necessary to match the scale of the climate crisis, create 15 million good union jobs, and eliminate environmental injustice.¹ However, since the release of the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget in late May, the conversation has become a discouraging, tepid dance between the already compromised AJP and plans from Republicans and bipartisan coalitions that leave climate out entirely.

We are very concerned about missing this once-in-a-generation governing moment. This is our chance to make lasting investments that empower the public sphere. We will not be satisfied with advancing an expansive infrastructure bill without making comprehensive, direct investments in public renewable power. Such investments would rapidly decarbonize our economy and outweigh the increased emissions that will come with new road and bridge construction and

¹<https://www.peri.umass.edu/component/k2/item/1397-employment-impacts-of-proposed-u-s-economic-stimulus-programs>

post-pandemic industrial activity. Relying solely on tax credits runs the risk of disproportionately benefiting the wealthy when we need to build up the public realm and raise everyone's quality of life by enshrining public utilities as human rights. Just in the last two weeks, climate-induced floods have taken lives in Michigan, heat waves have killed hundreds in the Northwest, and the ocean caught on fire from spilled fossil fuels multiple times; we need to act now.²

We are encouraged by the recent chorus of Democrats demanding “no climate, no deal” and remain committed to delivering a robust Green New Deal for our constituents. Now, our caucus must offer a moral vision for this moment rooted in the real-world needs of the communities we represent. As our caucus advances the budget resolution, which will dictate the scale and scope of the upcoming reconciliation bill on infrastructure, we urgently need to include the following priorities:

- \$250 billion in climate and environmental justice funding for local governments;
- \$1 trillion investment to build public renewables with union labor
- \$600 billion investment to expand public transit, passenger rail and active transportation and rapidly electrify the transportation sector;
- \$600 billion investment to upgrade public housing and public schools;
- \$132 billion investment for Civilian Climate Corps;
- Direct 50% of funds to frontline communities; and
- An end to directing public dollars towards subsidizing fossil fuels, matched with aggressive energy and equity standards to transition off of fossil fuels and support affected workers.

In representing our communities, we must push for an infrastructure and jobs bill that places climate justice at its center and puts us on track to exceed President Biden's own commitment of cutting US emissions in half by the end of the decade. Any investments we make should prioritize frontline communities, ensure respect for tribal sovereignty, and include strong labor standards and protections. This is the very least we can do to avert the worst of the climate crisis. Anything less would be unacceptable and an abdication of our global responsibility. We welcome your partnership in making sure these provisions are included in a jobs plan that not only meets the needs of the American people, but also provides the necessary investments that our communities deserve.

Sincerely,



CORI BUSH
Member of Congress

² <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/fire-offshore-pemex-platform-gulf-mexico-under-control-2021-07-02/>

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