

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader Schumer,

We write to once again urge you to seize this critical window of opportunity to pass bold jobs and economic investment legislation that responds to the interwoven crises facing this country. We need immediate action that will build a more just, equitable, clean, and more prosperous economy. And while we are grateful for the immediate relief you have provided through the American Rescue Plan, we are concerned by proposals being made in Congress that could delay or weaken the economic recovery investments that are necessary to truly build back better.

Specifically, we urge you to swiftly pass legislation that invests at least \$4 trillion throughout the economy over this presidential term, bound by high-road labor, equity and climate standards. This legislation would create and retain millions of good-paying union jobs in sustainable infrastructure and buildings, clean energy and transportation, advanced clean manufacturing, care work, regenerative agriculture, natural resource restoration, resilience, and more.

These investments and related policies can help our nation overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild the economy, reverse growing inequality, confront systemic racism, reduce pollution, guarantee labor rights, and make necessary down payments in tackling the climate crisis. These equitable investments should be prioritized in historically disproportionately impacted and deindustrialized communities that have borne a legacy of economic disinvestment, health challenges, and environmental harm. And the U.S. must make good on its robust commitment to international climate action. The success or failure of America's climate leadership will be determined by the scale and ambition of investments made and actions taken by this Congress.

Now is the time to realize a bold agenda for the American people without delay or dilution. Facing deep economic insecurity, systemic oppression, polluted air and water, and climate disasters, millions of people across the country urgently need solutions as big as the crises we face. Those who argue for small-minded measures are on the wrong side of history. We stand ready to work with you to promptly win the comprehensive economic renewal that our communities need, building on the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan. To achieve that, scale matters. A recent report from the American Society of Civil Engineers found that upgrading U.S. transportation infrastructure, for example, requires more than three times the level of investment put forward by the administration.

Again, we appreciate the leadership of the White House and Congress in delivering the American Rescue Plan, two months ago, that has provided much-needed relief to communities still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in order to truly build back better, this down-payment in relief must be followed by bold and transformative investments in recovery. This is our moment to build a new economy with justice and prosperity for every community and a livable planet for future generations.

Sincerely,

Jason Walsh
BlueGreen Alliance

John Podesta
Center for American Progress

Abbie Dillen
Earthjustice

Fred Krupp
Environmental Defense Fund

Michele Roberts
Environmental Justice Health
Alliance for Chemical Policy
Reform

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Tim Driscoll
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International Union of
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Gene Karpinski
League of Conservation
Voters

Collin O'Mara
National Wildlife Federation

Mitchell Bernard
Natural Resources Defense
Council

Rev. Michael Malcom
The People's Justice Council

Mary Kay Henry
Service Employees
International Union

Michael Brune
Sierra Club

Rev. Dallas Conyers
Southeast Climate & Energy
Network

Varshini Prakash
Sunrise Movement

Roxanne Brown
United Steelworkers

Keya Chatterjee
US Climate Action Network

James Slevin
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of America

Peggy Shepard
WE ACT for Environmental
Justice

Maurice Mitchell
Working Families Party