

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the Senate
The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 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, D.C. 20515

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

We write at this urgent time with recommendations to support your efforts to respond to the unfolding economic crisis. The United States will be battling the health crisis for the foreseeable future and immediate relief is critical. But it is not enough. Today, 4 out of 5 voters nationally want Congress to create new jobs to build clean energy infrastructure. Congress should respond by depositing \$35 billion into the nonprofit, nonpartisan Clean Energy Jobs Fund to create 5 million new jobs.

Over [forty million](#) people so far are out of work because of the coronavirus and ensuing economic shutdown. The shutdown, new consumer habits and changed behavior due to Covid-19 have led to [structural changes](#) in the U.S. economy and its workforce. Millions of Americans in the retail, dining, entertainment, travel sectors, among others, will not be able to quickly return to their old jobs. That means it is essential for Congress to help create new jobs for Americans.

In national [polls](#) 4 out of 5 voters want Congress to invest in new jobs to build clean energy infrastructure, like wind turbines, solar panels, power lines, and EV charging. And 69% say the U.S. government should deposit \$35B in the nonpartisan, nonprofit Clean Energy Jobs Fund to achieve that objective.

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.

The Clean Energy Jobs Fund (as envisioned by Sens. Markey and Van Hollen ([S.2057](#)) and Rep. Debbie Dingell ([H.R.5416](#)) in the National Climate Bank Act of 2019) is an excellent vehicle for this investment because it 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, industrial decarbonization, clean transportation, reforestation 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.

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 have driven over \$5 billion of investment into clean energy, and for each public dollar invested, 2.6 dollars of private investment has followed.

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. 20% 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.

The Fund is the evolution of the Clean Energy Deployment Administration (CEDA), introduced in Congress in 2009. CEDA enjoyed broad [bipartisan support](#), passing the House Energy & Commerce Committee with a 51-6 vote and then the entire House. And it passed the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee with a 15-8 bipartisan vote.

This kind of broad support still exists. 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 invest in clean energy job creation to put Americans back to work. And to do this, voters want Congress to fund the Clean Energy Jobs Fund.

Sincerely,

Environmental Non-Profit Organizations

Appalachian Voices
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
The Climate Reality Project
Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey
Environmental Defense Fund
Fresh Energy
League of Conservation Voters
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
Sierra Club
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vote Solar

Trade and Industry Associations

Advanced Energy Management Alliance
American Green Bank Consortium
Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
Coalition for Community Solar Access
Coalition for Green Capital
Energy Storage Association
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
Maryland Building Performance Association
Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association
North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
Northeast Clean Energy Council
Renewable Energy Alaska
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Solar Energy Industries Association

Southern Renewable Energy Association

Financial Institutions and Funds

Atmos Bank
Climate Action Fund
Colorado Clean Energy Fund
Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE)
Connecticut Green Bank
DC Green Bank
Delaware Sustainable Energy Authority
Energy Resource Center, Colorado
Energy Outreach Colorado
Florida Solar Energy Loan Fund
Generate Capital
Greenworks Lending
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
Inclusive Property Capital
Maryland Clean Energy Center
Michigan Saves
Montgomery County Green Bank
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corporation
New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation
Park City Community Foundation
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
Spark Northwest

Clean Energy Companies and Utilities

AboutSavingHeat.com
Ameresco
Amperon
Aris Energy Solutions, LLC

Atlas Home Energy Solutions
Bicky Corman Law PLLC
BlocPower
Build Efficiently, LLC
CertainSolar
Dollaride
eCAMION, USA
Elevation Lighting Services Company
Energy Efficiency Experts LLC
EnergyHub
The Engine
First Cast Communications
Form Energy
Green Generation
Greentown Labs
GRID Alternatives
Ground Loop Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.
Hawaiian Electric
Hunt Consulting
Integro, LLC

Maalka
Main Street Launch
Mortenson
Mountain View Solar and Wind
PosiGen, Inc.
Powerhouse
Raise Green
Recurrent Innovative Solutions, LLC
RER Energy Group
Rivermoor Energy
Solar United Neighbors
Solstice
Sustainable Real Estate Solutions, Inc.
WexEnergy
Zinc8 Energy Solutions

State and Local Governments
California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA
Hawai'i State Energy Office

cc:

The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Tom Carper
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