

March 3, 2021

Re: eliminate the filibuster to protect frontline communities and the climate

Dear Leader Schumer,

The horrors of the last four years have exacerbated the toxic legacy of decades of environmental racism. The waning days of the Trump administration revealed how fragile our democracy truly is and the need for immediate action on the interlinked crises that threaten our communities, the nation and the entire world.

On behalf of the climate justice movement, communities on the frontlines of climate change, and our allied partners, we look to you to lead the rehabilitation of our institutions. That work must begin with abolishing the filibuster. Action on the climate crisis in a way that centers environmental justice should not be obstructed by a minority of Senators representing a minority of the country. Neither should progress be blocked by an even smaller minority of fossil fuel executives who have profited off of selecting as, and rendering disadvantaged communities into, sacrifice zones.

The climate crisis is already a daily reality for millions who reside in the United States – one that disproportionately impacts environmental justice communities, who are subjected to heatwaves, wildfires, rising seas, and increased threats to public health. They cannot afford to wait on a supermajority in the Senate. The bold climate agenda we need is incompatible with a regular order that subjects it to interdiction by an obstructive Senate minority.

Although we are optimistic about opportunities to pass some limited climate legislation using budget reconciliation, the needs of this crisis go beyond the narrow scope of tax and spending. The deeper reforms needed to phase-out fossil fuel production and protect the most vulnerable communities from pollution and extraction all require systemic changes that reconciliation cannot deliver.

The Senate must be reformed first if meaningful climate justice is to follow. We are counting on you to lead this effort.

Sincerely,

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Berks Gas Truth
Beyond Extreme Energy
Businesses for a Livable Climate

Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork.US
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment

Center for Sustainable Economy
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Clean Energy Action Colorado
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Hawks Vote

Climate Justice Alliance
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline (NJ)
Concerned Ohio River Residents
Concerned Residents of Oxford
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition

Earth Action
Empower Our Future Colorado
Environmental Justice Taskforce, Western New York Peace Center
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth

Gas Free Seneca
Green Delaware
Green Party of Nassau County
GreenFaith
Indigenous Environmental Network

Indivisible
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
Morningside Gardens Green Committee for Environmental Sustainability
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance
NC APPPL - Alliance To Protect Our People And The Places We Live

NC Climate Justice Collective
New Party Coalition
New York City Friends of Clearwater
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
North American Climate, Conservation & Environment

North Carolina Council of Churches
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Oil Change U.S.
Preserve Giles County

Progressive Democrats of America
Project CoffeeHouse
Public Citizen
Rachel Carson Council
RapidShift.Network

Responsible Drilling Alliance
Seneca Lake Guardian

SoCal 350 Climate Action
Southern Christian Coalition
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion

Sunrise Movement
The Climate Mobilization
Volusia Climate Action
Waterspirit
Women's Earth & Climate Action Network

Zero Hour
350.org
350 Bay Area Action
350 Columbia
350 Humboldt

350 Kishwaukee
350 New Orleans
350 PDX
350 Seattle
350 Silicon Valley

350 Triangle
350 West Sound Climate Action
198 methods