

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Robert Fairweather
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Acting Director Fairweather:

On January 27, 2021, President Biden delivered a clear message on how the Administration would confront the existential threat of climate change: “[We need to be bold](#).” Now, as you work to formulate the President’s budgetary and economic recovery proposals, we look forward to supporting the Administration’s efforts to live up to these words by formally seeking the unprecedented levels of clean energy and innovation funding necessary to address the climate emergency, while ensuring America’s workers reap the benefits of an evolving energy economy.

As a candidate, President Biden pledged to make the “largest-ever investment in clean energy research and innovation” of \$400 billion over ten years. Translating this promise into reality will require the Administration to seek an annual investment averaging \$40 billion per year into the U.S. government’s wide range of clean energy and innovation infrastructure and activities, particularly those of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). We recommend that these investment targets be baked into the Administration’s budgetary formulation activities for its upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 request, and factored into outyear budgetary forecasts and programmatic planning activities.

These figures represent significant and vitally important increases over previous funding levels for these programs. For the U.S. to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, we will need to supercharge our energy innovation ecosystem, developing game-changing technologies that touch every facet of American life, including clean transportation, grid modernization, energy storage, building efficiency, clean power generation, industrial emissions and competitiveness, carbon management, and others.

These investments will accelerate development, commercialization, and broad deployment of the full suite of clean energy technologies needed to put the U.S. on a path to its emissions targets. They will also help to lay the foundation for our nation’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, create well-paying union jobs in future-proof sectors, generate opportunities for frontline communities and communities that have depended on traditional energy sources to benefit from a carbon-free economy, and ensure that U.S. industries and workers are competitive in domestic and international markets for decades to come.

The Biden Administration’s FY 2022 budget request and related legislative proposals will serve as clear, public statements on how the President plans to deliver on his commitments to stop catastrophic climate change and to reinvigorate our economy. We encourage the Administration to ensure these proposals reflect the full scale of investment necessary to achieve its goals, and to ramp up these budgetary

increases immediately to support technology demonstrations and other major investments that will allow low-carbon solutions to hit the market and scale up as quickly as possible.

We appreciate your continued leadership on these crucial issues and look forward to contributing our partnership and full support to assist the Administration as it develops, unveils, and works to secure enactment of these proposals.

Sincerely,

Carbon180
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Clean Air Task Force
Council on Competitiveness
Environmental Defense Fund
Great Plains Institute
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
Third Way
United Steelworkers

CC: Brian Deese
Jennifer Granholm
Gina McCarthy