

April 7, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As you work to advance the Build Back Better agenda, we urge you to support the role that rural America's farmers, ranchers and businesses can play in decarbonizing the U.S. economy with energy efficiency and renewable energy investments offered through an expanded Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

REAP provides competitive grants and loan guarantees supporting a range of clean energy technologies and projects that serve every agricultural sector and state. As a cost-share program, REAP leverages private investment in rural America.

Rural Americans benefit from REAP, while helping the nation to reduce carbon pollution. In 2016, USDA issued the report Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry which noted the strong pollution reduction that results from REAP investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, including it as a top strategy for carbon reduction.

We recommend that the Build Back Better legislative package include a robust investment in REAP of \$300 million per year with increased cost-share reimbursement rates for all applicants, and an emphasis on socially disadvantaged producers. We ask that you include a renewable grants reserve fund for underserved technologies support to marshal a wide array of resources.

These investments support an infrastructure investment inclusive of rural areas and recognizes REAP's potential to greatly contribute to decarbonization efforts while saving farmers, ranchers and rural business critical dollars.

Signed,

National and Regional Groups

Agriculture Energy Coalition
American Biogas Council
American Council for an Energy-Efficient
Economy
American Council on Renewable Energy
(ACORE)
Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Center for Rural Affairs
Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas
Distributed Wind Energy Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
Environmental Law & Policy Center
J.E.D.I. Collaborative

League of Conservation Voters
National Association of State Energy
Officials
National Center for Appropriate
Technology
National Cooperative Business
Association CLUSA International
National Farmers Union
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Rural Lenders Association

National Wildlife Federation
National Young Farmers Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
Organic Trade Association
Rural Coalition
Solar Energy Industries Association
Solar United Neighbors
Solutions from the Land
Union of Concerned Scientists
Windustry

State Groups

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
Arkansas Advanced Energy Association
Association of Illinois Electric
Cooperatives
California Farmers Union
Clean Energy Economy Minnesota
GEO
Georgia Poultry Federation
Green State Solutions
Iowa Environmental Council
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Mississippi Poultry Association Inc
New England Farmers Union
Northwest Farmers Union
People's Justice Council
RENEW Wisconsin
Texas Poultry Federation
Utah Clean Energy

Businesses and Cooperatives

Agromeris
Amy's Kitchen
Ashland Food Cooperative
Bay Baby Produce
Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.
Clif Bar & Company
Cloud 9 Fresh
Danone North America, PBC
Dr. Bronner's
Gaia Herbs
Good Company
Grace's Good Foods, LLC
Guayaki Yerba Mate
Hummingbird Wholesale
Maple Hill Creamery
Organic Valley | CROPP Cooperative
Solar Integrators
Stonyfield Organic
Traditional Medicinals
Treasure8
Wholesum Family Farms Inc
WindSolarUSA, Inc.
Wolf & Associates

cc: Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee
Representative David Scott, Chair, House Agriculture Committee
Representative Glenn 'GT' Thompson, Ranking Member, House Agriculture
Committee