

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader of the Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader of the Senate

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 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, DC 20515

**RE: Group Letter of Support for Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator**

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

We write at this critical time with recommendations to support your efforts to respond to the ongoing economic crisis. Though we have a vaccine, the United States will be battling the health crisis well into 2021 and immediate relief is critical. But it is not enough. Today, 7 out of 10 voters want Congress to invest in clean energy infrastructure to create jobs while fighting climate change. Congress should respond by depositing \$100 billion into the independent nonpartisan, nonprofit Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator to [mobilize nearly half a trillion dollars of investment and create 4 million new jobs in 4 years](#).

[Twenty million Americans](#) are still collecting unemployment benefit. [Labor force participation](#) is at its lowest levels in nearly 50 years. And [long-term unemployment](#) is now at 4 million workers, the highest level in recorded history other than the peak of the Great Recession. The U.S. is still struggling through a historic jobs crisis, and the shifts in the labor market are now becoming permanent. Service industries, dining, entertainment and travel continue to shed jobs, with many of those positions being permanently eliminated. Returning to full employment requires creating new jobs in new sectors. That means it is essential for Congress to help create new jobs for Americans.

In national polls 7 out of 10 voters, including majorities from both parties, agree that investing in clean energy infrastructure is a great way to accomplish two critical objectives – create jobs and mitigate the impacts of climate change. And 2 out of 3 voters nationally want Congress to fund the non-profit independent Clean Energy Accelerator to create those jobs.

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. This is in addition to the pressing need to build resilient infrastructure in communities across America.

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator is the ideal vehicle for this investment. The Accelerator 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 and storage, industrial decarbonization, clean transportation, reforestation and sustainable agriculture 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. Legislation to fund the Accelerator has already passed the House twice in 2020, [first](#) as part of the Moving Forward Act and again as part of the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act. The Accelerator – originally introduced as the National Climate Bank Act in [S.2057](#) by Sens. Markey and Van Hollen and [H.R. 5416](#) by Rep. Debbie Dingell – is expected to be reintroduced early in 2021 with a \$100 billion capitalization.

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, often created with [bipartisan support](#), have driven over \$5 billion of investment into clean energy, and for each public dollar invested, 2.6 dollars of private investment has followed. States across the U.S. are now developing or considering their own green banks, including states like Alaska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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. 40% 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.

A national green bank like the Accelerator is supported by the House [Climate Crisis Committee](#) and the Senate Democrats’ Special Committee on the Climate Crisis. It is co-sponsored and [endorsed](#) by VP-Elect Kamala Harris, and is aligns with President-Elect Biden’s clean energy plans. Polling also shows it is supported by Republican Voters in swing states and fossil fuel-dependent states like West Virginia, Alaska, North Carolina and Florida.

There is broad support for this kind of clean and resilient infrastructure investment to put Americans back to work. 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 act, and to do so by funding the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator.

Sincerely,

**Environmental Nonprofit Organizations**  
350 Maine  
Acadia Center  
Appalachian Voices  
Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and  
Agriculture

Belfast, ME Chapter Citizens Climate Lobby  
Center for Ecological Living and Learning  
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy  
Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Clean Energy Economy for the Region  
The Climate Center  
The Climate Reality Project  
Climate Resolve  
Coalition for Green Capital  
Coastal Youth Climate Coalition  
Community Office for Resource Efficiency  
Energy Outreach Colorado  
Energy Resource Center  
Energy Smart Colorado  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental & Energy Study Institute  
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Green and Healthy Homes Initiative  
Grid Alternatives  
Institute for Market Transformation  
Institute for Sustainable Communities  
League of Conservation Voters  
Maine Climate Table  
Maine Mountain Collaborative  
Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership  
Maine Youth for Climate Justice  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Michigan Environmental Council  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters  
Renewable Energy Alaska Project  
Sierra Club

Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy  
Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Urban Land Institute  
Urban Sustainability Directors Network  
Wells Reserve at Laudham  
Zocalo Permaculture Center

**Trade and Industry Associations**

Advanced Energy Management Alliance  
American Green Bank Consortium  
Americans for a Clean Energy Grid  
Bethesda Green  
Black Owners of Solar Services  
Carolinas Clean Energy Business Association  
Coalition for Community Solar Access  
Colorado Solar and Storage Association  
DC Capital Connector  
Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey  
Energy Storage Association  
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association  
Inclusiv  
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Maryland Building Performance Association  
Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Neighborhood Restaurant Group  
North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association  
Northeast Clean Energy Council

Resource Recovery Coalition of California  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Solar Energy Industries Association  
Solar United Neighbors  
Southern Renewable Energy Association  
Vote Solar

**Financial Institutions**

Amalgamated Bank  
Atmos Bank  
Christensen Fund  
City First Bank of DC  
Clean Energy Trust  
Climate Access Fund  
Colorado Clean Energy Fund  
Connecticut Green Bank  
DC Green Bank  
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility  
Finance New Orleans  
Florida Solar & Energy Loan Fund  
Generate Capital  
Greenworks Lending  
Groundswell  
Growth Opps  
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority  
Inclusive Prosperity Capital  
Latino Economic Development Center  
Main Street Launch  
Maryland Clean Energy Center  
Michigan Saves

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
Montgomery County Green Bank  
NYCEEC  
Philadelphia Energy Authority  
Posigen, Inc.  
Raise Green  
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank  
Spark Northwest  
Sungage  
Wallace Global Fund

**Clean Energy, Water, and Sustainability  
Companies and Utilities**

4P Foods  
About Saving Heat  
Agents for the Built Environment  
Ameresco  
Amicus Strategic Environmental Consulting  
Amperon  
Aris Energy Solutions, LLC  
Atlas Home Energy Solutions  
Aurora Energy  
Banyan Infrastructure  
Bicky Corman Law, PLLC  
BlocPower  
Build Efficiently, LLC  
CertainSolar  
Chart House Energy, LLC  
Christensen Global Strategies  
Clean Energy Works  
CMTA, Inc.

DC Solar – Washington, DC  
DC Water  
Delorean Power  
Dietel & Partners  
Dollaride  
eCAMION USA  
Elevate Energy  
Elevation Lighting Services Company  
Energy Efficiency Experts, LLC  
Energy Hub  
Energy Tech  
Enervee  
Enerwealth Solutions  
The Engine  
Envoy Technologies, Inc.  
First Cast Communications  
Flywheel Development, LLC  
Foresight Management  
Form Energy  
Fresh Energy  
The Friendly Ewe  
Gardner Real Estate Group  
Gordian Knot Strategies  
Green Compass  
Green Generation  
Green Projects Group  
Greentown Labs  
Ground Loop Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.  
Hawaiian Electric Company  
Holy Hou Energy  
Holy Cross Energy  
Hunt Consulting  
Insight Power Partners  
Integro, LLC  
Invest Sou Sou  
Ipsun Solar  
Law Offices of Leslie M. Lava  
LewLew Energy  
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator  
Maalka  
Mission Energy LLC  
Mortensen  
Mountain View Wind and Solar  
Moya Design Partners  
Neighborhood Sun  
Photonworks Engineering, LLP  
Powerhouse  
Recurrent Innovative Solutions, LLC  
RER Energy Group  
Rivermoor Energy  
Sioneer  
Solar Stewards  
Solstice  
South San Francisco Scavenger Company  
Sustainable Capital Advisors  
Sustainable Real Estate Solutions  
Undaunted K12  
Valley Green Fuels  
Vanguard Energy Partners, LLC  
Westhof, Cone & Holmstedt

WexEnergy

Winrock International

Zefiro Waste

Zero Foodprint

Zinc8 Energy Solutions

**State and Local Governments**

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

City of Aspen, CO

City of Belfast, ME Climate Change Committee

City of Jackson, MS

Franklin County, ME Climate Change Coalition

Hawai'i State Energy Office

Maine State Treasurer Henry Beck

Nevada Governor's Office of Energy

**Other Nonprofit Organizations**

Berggruen Institute

City First Enterprises

Confluence Philanthropy

Flora Family Foundation

Good Community Foundation

Illinois People's Action

National Housing Trust

Park City Community Foundation

Partnership for Southern Equity

Prentice Foundation

Third Way

cc:

The Honorable Tom Carper

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

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

The Honorable Cathy Castor