

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader of the Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader of the Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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 aligned 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	Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy
The Climate Center	Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition
The Climate Reality Project	Union of Concerned Scientists
Climate Resolve	Urban Land Institute
Coalition for Green Capital	Urban Sustainability Directors Network
Coastal Youth Climate Coalition	Wells Reserve at Laudham
Community Office for Resource Efficiency	Zocalo Permaculture Center
Energy Outreach Colorado	
Energy Resource Center	Trade and Industry Associations
Energy Smart Colorado	Advanced Energy Management Alliance
Environmental Defense Fund	American Green Bank Consortium
Environmental & Energy Study Institute	Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions	Bethesda Green
Green and Healthy Homes Initiative	Black Owners of Solar Services
Grid Alternatives	Carolinas Clean Energy Business Association
Institute for Market Transformation	Coalition for Community Solar Access
Institute for Sustainable Communities	Colorado Solar and Storage Association
League of Conservation Voters	DC Capital Connector
Maine Climate Table	Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey
Maine Mountain Collaborative	Energy Storage Association
Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership	Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Maine Youth for Climate Justice	Inclusiv
Maryland League of Conservation Voters	Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
Michigan Environmental Council	Maryland Building Performance Association
Natural Resources Council of Maine	Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association
Natural Resources Defense Council	Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters	Neighborhood Restaurant Group
Renewable Energy Alaska Project	North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
Sierra Club	Northeast Clean Energy Council

Resource Recovery Coalition of California	Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
Silicon Valley Leadership Group	Montgomery County Green Bank
Solar Energy Industries Association	NYCEEC
Solar United Neighbors	Philadelphia Energy Authority
Southern Renewable Energy Association	Posigen, Inc.
Vote Solar	Raise Green
Financial Institutions	Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
Amalgamated Bank	Spark Northwest
Atmos Bank	Sungage
Christensen Fund	Wallace Global Fund
City First Bank of DC	Clean Energy, Water, and Sustainability Companies and Utilities
Clean Energy Trust	4P Foods
Climate Access Fund	About Saving Heat
Colorado Clean Energy Fund	Agents for the Built Environment
Connecticut Green Bank	Ameresco
DC Green Bank	Amicus Strategic Environmental Consulting
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Amperon
Finance New Orleans	Aris Energy Solutions, LLC
Florida Solar & Energy Loan Fund	Atlas Home Energy Solutions
Generate Capital	Aurora Energy
Greenworks Lending	Banyan Infrastructure
Groundswell	Bicky Corman Law, PLLC
Growth Opps	BlocPower
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority	Build Efficiently, LLC
Inclusive Prosperity Capital	CertainSolar
Latino Economic Development Center	Chart House Energy, LLC
Main Street Launch	Christensen Global Strategies
Maryland Clean Energy Center	Clean Energy Works
Michigan Saves	CMTA, Inc.

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

WexEnergy

Winrock International

Zefiro Waste

Zero Footprint

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