

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
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 McConnell, and Minority Leaders Schumer 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](#).

[20 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,

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Advanced Energy Management Alliance

Ameresco

American Green Bank Consortium

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid

Amperon

Appalachian Voices

Aris Energy Solutions, LLC

Atlas Home Energy Solutions

Atmos Bank

Bicky Corman Law PLLC

BlocPower

Build Efficiently, LLC
California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA
CertainSolar
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Climate Access Fund
The Climate Reality Project
Coalition for Community Solar Access
Coalition for Green Capital
Colorado Clean Energy Fund
Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE)
Connecticut Green Bank
DC Green Bank
Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Dollaride
eCAMION USA
Elevation Lighting Services Company
Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey
Energy Efficiency Experts LLC
Energy Outreach Colorado
Energy Resource Center
EnergyHub
Energy Storage Association
The Engine
Environmental Defense Fund
First Cast Communications
Florida Solar Energy Loan Fund
Form Energy
Fresh Energy
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Generate Capital
Green Generation
Greentown Labs
Greenworks Lending
GRID Alternatives
Ground Loop Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.
Hawaiian Electric
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
Hawai'i State Energy Office
Hunt Consulting
Inclusive Prosperity Capital

Integro LLC
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
Maalka
Main Street Launch
Maryland Building Performance Association (MDBPA)
Maryland Clean Energy Center
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association
Michigan Saves
Montgomery County Green Bank
Mortenson
Mountain View Solar and Wind
Natural Resources Defense Council
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corporation
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
NYCEEC
NC Sustainable Energy Association
Northeast Clean Energy Council
Park City Community Foundation
PosiGen, Inc.
Powerhouse
Raise Green
Recurrent Innovative Solutions LLC
Renewable Energy Alaska
RER Energy Group
Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank
Rivermoor Energy
Sierra Club
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Solar Energy Industries Association
Solar United Neighbors
Solstice
Southern Renewable Energy Association
Spark Northwest
Sustainable Real Estate Solutions, Inc.
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vote Solar
WexEnergy
Zinc8 Energy Solutions

cc:

The Honorable John Barrasso

The Honorable Tom Carper

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