

April 20, 2020

Dear Member of Congress,

As our nation continues to suffer from the COVID-19 crisis, we must directly respond to the immediate needs of everyday people. But instead, the fossil fuel industry is attempting to leverage Congress' emergency relief legislation into cash for CEOs and shareholders. The industry has already succeeded in lobbying the EPA to lift pollution safeguards and is attempting to convince the Interior Department to suspend or reduce royalty payments. At the insistence of the President and Senate Republicans, billions in "sector relief" are now available to coal, oil and gas companies, while ordinary people face unprecedented financial struggles, and a growing and unbearable death toll.

Recovery efforts must address rather than reinforce the inequalities this crisis has exacerbated. Black communities, Indigenous communities, and other communities of color already contend with the health effects of exposure to higher levels of pollution from the fossil fuel industry. New data show that an increase of only one microgram per cubic meter in PM_{2.5} is associated with a 15% rise in deaths from COVID-19.¹ Combined with systemic racism in our society, Black people are dying at disproportionate rates from the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on long-term organizing for justice, people of color now also are leading mutual aid and advocacy efforts to address the systemic inequities that this pandemic is worsening. Existing protections for workers and public health are woefully inadequate. And our economy prioritizes profits over people. Low-income communities are facing the brunt of both layoffs and unsafe working conditions that endanger frontline employees and their families.

On behalf of our millions of supporters and members, we ask that future legislation, including a comprehensive infrastructure bill, put people first — especially the 22 million-plus newly unemployed — and that not a single cent be given to polluters. We must ensure a just and equitable recovery.² We ask that your legislation accomplish the following:

1. Put Health Care Workers and All People on the Frontlines of COVID-19 First in the Emergency Response.

- Provide all needed personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and other frontline workers. If the President fails to fully utilize the Defense Production Act to acquire the needed equipment, including ventilators, masks, and beds, then Congress must pass legislation that does so and that forces recalcitrant businesses and industries to pull their fair share.
- Guarantee that healthcare workers, farmworkers, food service and hospitality workers, transit operators, educators, public employees, flight attendants, telecom workers and all other essential workers who face infection every day — often for minimum wage — are fully protected in their workplace, regardless of immigration status. This must include access to high-quality, accessible healthcare (including reproductive healthcare) and testing for all frontline workers and their families; hazard pay; workplace safety

¹ <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/covid-pm>

² "Five Principles for Just COVID-19 Relief and Stimulus": <https://thepeoplesbailout.org/>

precautions to minimize the spread of the virus; childcare support; paid sick leave; and collective bargaining now and continuing after the crisis.

- Guarantee full wage replacement to all workers who have lost their jobs — regardless of citizenship status — and compensation to those now working drastically reduced hours. There must be no punitive restrictions or means testing.
- Establish a task force to address that COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting Black and Indigenous people and other people of color, and a process for implementing the task force recommendations. This task force must be led by people of color from the communities most impacted.
- Directly address the disproportionate impact on communities of color by ensuring that healthcare facilities that serve these communities receive critical resources, including beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment. Expand and cover medical bills and testing even for the uninsured, regardless of citizenship status.
- Release people in ICE detention centers as well as vulnerable people that are incarcerated.
- Institute a nation-wide moratorium on evictions, loss of homes, and the shut-offs of power, water, broadband, and other utility services — a problem that is especially severe in Black communities, Indigenous communities, and other communities of color.³

2. Federal Assistance Must Support People, Not The Fossil Fuel Industry.

- Exclude the fossil fuel industry from receiving loans and other support from Federal Reserve programs funded through recent stimulus legislation and other royalty relief.
- Prohibit purchases into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
- Require that all industries, including all fossil fuel companies, fully comply with all environmental, health, and safety laws during the pandemic to protect workers, communities and the environment.
- Prohibit liability waivers for fossil fuel polluters that shield the industry from current and future lawsuits.
- Halt new fossil fuel leasing and production on public lands and waters during the emergency until at least 60 days after the COVID-19 national emergency is lifted.
- Pause all decision- and rule-making regarding oil, gas, and mining until at least 60 days after the COVID-19 national emergency is lifted.
- Eliminate tax breaks and subsidies that support fossil fuel corporations.
- Condition any additional relief to the aviation industry or cruise ship industry on ensuring the safety of our climate, impacted workers, and affected communities. Any mandated emission reductions should be direct and not rely on offsets.⁴

3. Recovery Funds Should Provide a Just Transition⁵ for Fossil Fuel Workers and Communities Economically Dependent on Declining Fossil Fuel Production.

³ https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/2020-4-13_Signon-Letter-re-Coronavirus-and-Utility-Shutoff.pdf

⁴ *On aviation:* https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/pdfs/Aviation-bailout-sign-on-letter_3.19.2020.pdf; *On cruise ships:* <http://foe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Congress-Cruise-Bailout-Letter.pdf>

⁵ <https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-transition/>

- Ensure that impacted workers are provided with training programs that lead to alternative quality employment; wage replacement during the transition; relocation assistance; strong collective bargaining rights; retirement and early retirement options; guaranteed pensions and benefits; and other assurances so that all impacted people can provide for their families.
- Support communities that rely on tax revenue from dirty industries to keep and expand critical services like schools and hospitals, rebuild local economies and help them transition away from dirty industries.
- Create a fund to help communities that rely on revenue from dirty industries to build up their economies and transition away from polluters.
- Require an equity and environmental justice assessment of all funds including review by frontline stakeholders.

4. Congress Must Conduct Exhaustive Oversight of the Trump Administration and Financial Sector.

- Ensure that the Trump Administration, the Federal Reserve, and other government agencies do not reward banks, investment firms, financial services companies or other institutions for their irresponsible bets on the future of fossil fuels.
- Ensure that financial institutions receiving loans or loan guarantees are not able to use those loans to finance fossil fuel infrastructure projects.
- Bolster the financial system by requiring banks, asset managers, hedge funds and other financial institutions to responsibly and swiftly phase out financing and investments in fossil fuels and transition to a just, renewable and sustainable economy.

Your leadership is especially urgent given that the same communities and workers overburdened by fossil fuel pollution are also vulnerable to the worst impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Both within the United States and especially in the Global South, frontline communities are now facing the deadly impacts of both the coronavirus and the climate crisis. We need you to act now to protect people and families, not a handful of profiteering polluters.

Thank you for your consideration,

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|---|--|
| 1. 350.org | 14. Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice |
| 2. Alliance for Affordable Energy | 15. Earth Ethics, Inc. |
| 3. Amazon Watch | 16. Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light |
| 4. Anthropocene Alliance | 17. Earthworks |
| 5. Brighter Green | 18. Fire Drill Fridays |
| 6. Center for Biological Diversity | 19. Food & Water Action |
| 7. Center for Climate Change and Health | 20. Friends of the Earth |
| 8. Center for Climate Integrity | 21. Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, Inc (GIPL) |
| 9. Center for International Environmental Law | 22. Global Witness |
| 10. Chesapeake Climate Action Network | 23. Green Latinos |
| 11. Climate Hawks Vote | 24. Greenpeace USA |
| 12. Climate Justice Alliance | |
| 13. Corporate Accountability | |

25. Indigenous Environmental Network
26. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
27. MI Interfaith Power & Light
28. Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
29. North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
30. Oil Change International
31. Olympic Climate Action
32. Oxfam America
33. Pacific Environment
34. Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
35. People's Justice Council
36. Physicians for Social Responsibility
37. Power Shift Network
38. Progressive Democrats of America
39. Rachel Carson Council
40. Sierra Club
41. Sunrise Movement
42. Sustaining Way
43. SustainUS
44. Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
45. Women's Environment and Development Organization
46. Zero Hour
47. 198 methods
48. 350 Bay Area
49. 350 Chicago
50. 350 Colorado
51. 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
52. 350 Eastside
53. 350 Eugene
54. 350 Everett, WA
55. 350 Fairfax
56. 350 Maine
57. 350 Santa Barbara
58. 350 Santa Cruz
59. 350 Seattle
60. 350 Silicon Valley
61. 350 Spokane
62. 350 Triangle
63. 350Brooklyn
64. 350Greenbelt (Greenbelt Climate Action Network)
65. 350Kishwaukee
66. 350Marin
67. 350NJ-Rockland
68. 350PDX
69. 350Wenatchee
70. Advocates for Springfield, NY
71. Agricultural Missions, Inc
72. Allamakee County Protectors - Education Campaign
73. Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)
74. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
75. Animas Valley Institute
76. Asian Pacific Environmental Network
77. Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
78. Azul
79. Battle Creek Alliance
80. Berks Gas Truth
81. Better Path Coalition
82. Beyond the Bomb
83. Big Reuse
84. Boston Climate Action Network
85. Breathe Project
86. Brooklyn For Peace
87. Bucks County Audubon Society
88. Cahaba Riverkeeper
89. California Communities Against Toxics
90. California Young Democrats
91. Call to Action - CO
92. Campaign for America's Future
93. Canyon Country Rising Tide
94. Cape Downwinders
95. Carson Connected
96. CatholicNetwork.US
97. Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Environmental Justice Ministry
98. Center for Environmental Health

99. CERBAT: Center for Environmentally Recycled Building Alternatives
100. Change Partnership
101. Church Women United in New York State
102. Citizen Action of New York
103. Citizens' Environmental Coalition
104. Citizens' Resistance at Fermi 2 (CRAFT)
105. Clean Ocean Action
106. Clean Water Action
107. CleanAirNow
108. Climable
109. Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
110. Climate Crisis Policy
111. Climate Health Now
112. Climate Justice Committee of CNY Solidarity Coalition
113. Climate Mobilization Project
114. ClimateMama
115. Co-op Power
116. Collaborative Center for Justice
117. Combine Together and Create Action Foundation
118. Concerned Health Professionals of New York
119. Conservation Congress
120. Conserve Southwest Utah
121. Cool Effect
122. Cooperative Energy Futures
123. Deep Green Resistance New York
124. Democratic National Committee Environment and Climate Crisis Council
125. Democratic Socialists of Salt Lake
126. Dēmos
127. Development Resource Group
128. Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology
129. Don't Waste Arizona
130. Earth Care
131. Eco-Poetry.org
132. ecoAmerica
133. EcoEquity
134. Ecosocialism Working Group, Democratic Socialists of America, Boston Chapter
135. EKOenergy
136. Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
137. Endangered Habitats League
138. Endangered Species Coalition
139. Extinction Rebellion Kentucky
140. Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
141. Fairmont Peace Group
142. Food Empowerment Project
143. Forest Hills Green Team
144. Frack Free Frostburg
145. FracTracker Alliance
146. Franciscan Action Network
147. FreshWater Accountability Project
148. Fresnans against Fracking
149. Fund for Wild Nature
150. Gas Free Seneca
151. George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
152. Geos Institute
153. Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
154. Global Exchange
155. Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
156. Grassroots Global Justice
157. Great Old Broads for Wilderness
158. Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility
159. Greater New York Labor- Religion Coalition
160. Green America
161. Green Education and Legal Fund
162. Green Party of Nassau County
163. Green Retirement, Inc.
164. Green River Action Network
165. Harford County Climate Action
166. Hazon
167. Harford County Climate Action
168. Healthy Gulf
169. Heirs To Our Oceans
170. Hip Hop Caucus

171. Howard County Climate Action (Maryland)
172. Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
173. Idle No More SF Bay
174. Idle No More SoCal
175. In the Public Interest
176. In the Shadow of the Wolf
177. Indivisible
178. Indivisible Howard County MD
179. inNative
180. Interfaith Power & Light
181. International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
182. International Student Environmental Coalition
183. Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
184. Judson Memorial Church
185. Kickapoo Peace Circle
186. KyotoUSA
187. Labor Network for Sustainability
188. Lahontan Audubon Society
189. LEAD Agency, Inc.
190. League of Women Voters of the United States
191. Living Rivers and Colorado Riverkeeper
192. Local Clean Energy Alliance
193. Long Beach 350
194. Long Island Progressive Coalition
195. Los Padres ForestWatch
196. Malach Consulting
197. Marcellus Protest
198. Maryland Legislative Coalition
199. Mazaska Talks
200. Mi Familia Vota
201. Michigan Climate Action Network
202. Mid-Missouri Peaceworks
203. Midwest Environmental Justice Organization
204. Milwaukee Riverkeeper
205. Mothers Out Front
206. Movement Rights
207. Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
208. Nash Stop the Pipeline (Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League)
209. National Children's Campaign
210. National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
211. National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
212. Nature Coast Conservation
213. NC WARN
214. New Energy Economy
215. New Jersey Student Sustainability Coalition
216. New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
217. New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
218. New York Communities for Change
219. New Yorkers for Clean Power
220. No Sharon Gas Pipeline | Clean Energy Now
221. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
222. North Carolina Council of Churches
223. Northern Jaguar Project
224. NY Buddhist Climate Action Network
225. NYCD16 Indivisible
226. Ocean Conservation Research
227. Oceanic Preservation Society
228. Ohio Interfaith Power & Light
229. On Behalf of Planet Earth
230. OneUpAction
231. Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
232. Organic Consumers Association
233. OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
234. Peace Action New York State
235. Pennsylvania Council of Churches
236. People for a Healthy Environment
237. People Power Solar Cooperative
238. People's Climate Movement - Capital Region

239. Peoples Climate Movement - NY
240. Physicians for Social Responsibility
Colorado
241. Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania
242. Physicians for Social
Responsibility, AZ Chapter
243. Portland Raging Grannies
244. Poweshiek Jasper Green Party
245. Preserve Giles County
246. Preserve Monroe
247. Progressive Action of Lower
Manhattan
248. Project Coyote
249. Property Rights and Pipeline Center
250. Public Citizen
251. Publish What You Pay-US
252. Puget Sound Sage
253. Rainforest Action Network
254. Raptors Are The Solution
255. ResistSpectra
256. Resource Renewal Institute
257. RESTORE: The North Woods
258. Rincon-Vitova Insectaries
259. Rio Grande International Study
Center
260. Rise and Resist
261. Rising Tide Chicago
262. Riverdale Jewish Earth Alliance
263. ROC Progressive Action
264. Rogue Climate
265. RootsAction.org
266. Sane Energy Project
267. Santa Barbara Standing Rock
Coalition
268. Santa Cruz Climate Action
Network
269. Save Our Illinois Land
270. SAVE THE FROGS!
271. SEED (Securing Economic and
Energy Democracy for SW NM)
272. Seeding Sovereignty
273. Seneca Lake Guardian
274. Seven Circles Foundation
275. Signal Fire
276. Sisters of Charity Federation
277. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Justice Team
278. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt,
New York
279. Sisters of St. Francis of
Philadelphia
280. SoCal 350 Climate Action
281. Social Eco Education-LA
282. SoDak350
283. Sojourners
284. South Asian Fund For Education,
Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
285. Southwest Native Cultures
286. Spottswoode Winery, Inc.
287. Stone Quarry House
288. Stop the Algonquin Pipeline
Expansion
289. Straits Area Concerned Citizens for
Peace, Justice and Environment
290. Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable
Development
291. Sunflower Alliance
292. Sunrise Movement Dallas
293. Sunrise Movement Santa Barbara
294. Surfrider Foundation
295. Sustainable Medina County
296. Sustainable Warwick
297. Sustainable Wellesley
298. Syracuse Cultural Workers
299. Takoma Park Mobilization
Environment Committee
300. Texas Campaign for the
Environment
301. The CLEO Institute
302. The Climate Center
303. The Climate Reality Project:
Philadelphia and Southeastern PA
Chapter
304. The Forest Foundation, Inc.
305. The Imani Group
306. The Rewilding Institute
307. The River Project
308. Three Parks Independent
Democrats
309. Tikkun's Network of Spiritual
Progressives

- 310. Time for Change Foundation
- 311. Together Colorado
- 312. Toxic Free NC
- 313. Tricounty NY Transition
- 314. Turtle Island Restoration Network
- 315. Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
- 316. Unitarian Universalist Association
- 317. United for Action
- 318. United Native Americans
- 319. UnKoch My Campus
- 320. Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
- 321. Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
- 322. Vote-Climate
- 323. Wall of Women
- 324. Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
- 325. Wasatch Rising Tide
- 326. Waterspirit
- 327. Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
- 328. WESPAC
- 329. Western Environmental Law Center
- 330. Western Values Project
- 331. White Rabbit Grove RDNA
- 332. WI Network for Peace, Justice & Sustainability
- 333. Wild Nature Institute
- 334. WILDCOAST
- 335. WildEarth Guardians
- 336. Women Against War
- 337. Women for Safe Energy
- 338. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of the Triangle, NC
- 339. YUCCA (Youth United for Climate Crisis Action)