April 18, 2022

President Joseph Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

President Biden, Leader Schumer, and Speaker Pelosi:

We, the undersigned members of the Appalachian community and allies, write to emphasize to you the importance of passing a bold reconciliation package that addresses the climate crisis in a way that supports good-paying, sustainable jobs in the communities that have powered this nation for more than a century.

The decline of the coal industry in Appalachia has left many communities in the region grappling with unemployment, low income levels, black lung disease and environmental degradation. When President Biden took office, he made a commitment to prioritize coal mining and power plant communities in the clean energy transition. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was a significant step toward fulfilling that promise. But the investments included in the $555 billion clean energy and climate reconciliation proposal remain critical to a successful economic future for Appalachian communities.

On March 1st, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin once again indicated his support for the climate provisions included in the House-passed reconciliation bill, meaning the entire Democratic caucus is in support of the $555 billion in clean energy investments. As the leaders of Congress and our country, we urge you to prioritize getting this deal done in order to create thousands of sustainable jobs in energy transition communities in Appalachia and thousands more across the country.

The transition to a clean energy economy must be centered around justice and equity for all Americans and support communities that have historically been hit hardest by the fossil fuel industry and its decline. Specifically, we ask that you support provisions that:

- Provide robust funding for clean energy projects, including increasing access to rooftop solar and weatherization assistance for low- and moderate-income families, as well as bonus credits to encourage solar projects in low-income and tribal communities. Tax provisions that encourage the growth of the solar industry, including access to the Investment Tax Credit for non-taxable entities and a 10-year extension of the 30% Solar and Storage Investment Tax Credit are essential.
• Support clean energy manufacturing job creation in disadvantaged communities, including the Advanced Solar Manufacturing Production Tax Credit. Encourage cleaner and more efficient manufacturing, including through the redevelopment of shuttered coal plants and manufacturing sites.

• Reinstate the Black Lung Excise Tax to its historic rate of $1.10 and $0.55 per ton of underground and surface mine coal, respectively, and extend this rate for 10 years in order to ensure that benefits and black-lung-related medical care are funded for miners and their families.

• Invest in dislocated energy worker support, replacement of lost state/local revenue, and additional funding for programs that spur economic development and diversification in these regions.

• Provide pathways into union employment for women, Black workers and other workers of color, particularly people who have served correctional sentences or recovered from addiction.

• Fund grants and loans for rural electric cooperatives to help them develop affordable, job-creating and accessible renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and programs.

• Create a new Civilian Conservation Corps – a diverse new workforce that can conserve our public lands, bolster community resilience, and address the changing climate, all while putting good-paying union jobs within reach for more Americans.

We cannot afford to miss this opportunity. Please act immediately to move forward on a legislative package that includes the $555 billion clean energy jobs and climate plan that will help transform coal-impacted Appalachia.

Sincerely,

Appalachian Regional Groups

Appalachian Voices
Appalshop
AppLit: Resources for Readers and Teachers of Appalachian Literature for Children and Young Adults
Christians For The Mountains
Breathe Project
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Christians For The Mountains
Community Housing Partners
Defenders of Wildlife
Heartwood
Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network, Inc. (LiKEN)
Partner Community Capital, Inc.
Radford University Appalachian Regional & Rural Studies Center
ReImagine Appalachia
The Alliance for Appalachia
**National Partners**

Citizens Coal Council  
Climate Institute  
Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey  
National Wildlife Federation  
Pipeline Safety Coalition  
Sierra Club  
Tó Nizhóní Áni

**Kentucky Groups**

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth  
Kentucky Conservation Committee  
Kentucky Resources Council  
Mountain Association

**Ohio Groups**

FreshWater Accountability Project  
Green Sanctuary Committee First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta, OH  
KO Consulting, LLC  
Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio

**Pennsylvania Groups**

Beaver County (PA) Marcellus Awareness Community  
Center for Coalfield Justice  
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Keystone Progress  
Keystone Progress Education Fund  
Keystone Research Center  
Moms Clean Air Force, Pennsylvania Chapter  
PennFuture  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Protect Franklin Park  
RER Energy Group  
Solar United Neighbors of Pennsylvania

**Tennessee Groups**

Interfaith Worker Justice of East Tennessee  
Jobs with Justice of East Tennessee  
Mountain Women's Exchange  
Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM)  
Woodland Community Land Trust
Woodland Community Development Corporation

**Virginia Groups**
- Appalachian Sustainable Development
- Delegate Sam Rasoul
- Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
- KII Industries
- Preserving Grayson, Inc.
- Roanoke Group, Sierra Club
- Secure Futures, LLC
- Shenandoah Faith and Climate
- Solar United Neighbors of Virginia
- Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards
- Bethel J. Brock, President, Southwest Virginia Black Lung Association Chapter 2
- The Southwest Virginia New Economy Network
- The Clinch Coalition
- Virginia Organizing

**West Virginia Groups**
- Coal River Mountain Watch
- Gesundheit institute
- Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
- Arvin Hanshaw, President, Nicholas County WV Black Lung Association
- Moms Clean Air Force West Virginia Chapter
- On The Levels Farmstead
- Revolt Energy
- Rise Up WV
- Solar United Neighbors of West Virginia
- West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy
- West Virginia Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby
- West Virginia Council of Churches
- West Virginia Environmental Council
- West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
- West Virginia Rivers Coalition

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