

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell:

At the outset of the 117th Congress, the United States is confronted by the extraordinary and connected crises of the global pandemic, economic recession, deep racial injustice, a rapidly destabilizing climate, and democratic backsliding. Few sessions of Congress have ever shouldered a greater responsibility. Among the many acts of leadership that will be necessary, making it safely through these crises will require comprehensive and sustained federal investment to recover, rebuild, and lay the foundation for a more just and stable future.

We urge the enactment of a suite of long-term investments to create good clean jobs, build the economy back to be more just and equitable, and set the country up for a successful transition to a 100% clean future. The scale and scope of these investments must be determined by the scale and scope of the challenges we face. We have in the attached list identified investment programs that we recommend for your consideration, ranging from a ten-year extension and expansion of clean electricity generation tax incentives to capital investment in new transit capacity to the construction of affordable, climate-resilient housing.

Such a program of sustained investment will create good-paying, high-quality, unionized jobs that all people can access regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender – especially people in underserved communities, including economically disadvantaged and tribal communities, communities of color, and communities that are currently dependent on the fossil fuel industry. Federal spending must not just create jobs but should include requirements or additional incentives for domestic content, high-quality labor standards, and targeted hiring.

These investments will also improve public health, reduce pollution, promote equity, and help dismantle systemic racism and economic inequality, prioritizing environmental justice communities, economically disadvantaged communities, tribal communities, and communities of color. Forty percent of applicable investments must benefit environmental justice and other disadvantaged communities, with meaningful local job opportunities, pollution reductions, pollution-free energy and transportation options, affordable and climate-ready housing, improved public health, quality and affordable health care, community engagement in planning, technical assistance, and removal of barriers to participation like onerous cost-shares.

Immediate investments are necessary to keep pace with the structural transformation required of our energy systems, transportation networks, and land use patterns over the coming decade. Success must be

measured not by marginal improvements in carbon intensity, but by whether we are on course to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at least 90% by 2050 and to ensure U.S. removals of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere exceed U.S. emissions well before 2050. This must include deep power sector emissions reductions that put the nation on track to meet the President's target of 100% clean power by 2035, which will require a combination of tax incentives, direct spending programs, and other energy and pollution standards to deliver swift and lasting change.

Congress now has an opportunity and responsibility to make a once-in-a-generation investment in the future of the United States, and we stand ready to help in whatever way we can.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Azul  
Black Millennials 4 Flint  
Center for American Progress  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Clean Air Task Force  
Climate Health Now  
Coalition for Green Capital  
Defend our Future  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Earthjustice  
Earthworks  
Elected Officials to Protect America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Generation Progress  
Green Education and Legal Fund  
Green the Church  
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition  
Health Care Without Harm  
Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the  
Outdoors (HECHO)  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Justice for Migrant Women  
League of Conservation Voters  
Moms Clean Air Force

Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action  
Partnership for Responsible Business New  
Mexico  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Physicians for Social Responsibility--Arizona  
Queer Brown Vegan  
Sierra Club  
Texas Impact  
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility  
The CLEO Institute  
The Climate Reality Project  
The Evangelical Environmental Network  
The Vermont Climate and Health Alliance  
The Wilderness Society  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
US Climate Action Network  
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment  
Voices for Progress  
Western Organization of Resource Councils  
Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate  
Action

## CLIMATE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

This document is organized into the following sections for ease of review. The grouping or ordering of these ideas should not be construed as a limitation on the scope of a policy or an indication of priority. Not every organization agrees with every policy suggested in this list. Any bill references are to bills in the 116th Congress.

- Clean Electricity Generation
- Grid Modernization
- Zero-Emission Transportation
- Transit and Smart Growth
- Building Decarbonization
- Affordable Housing
- Manufacturing of Clean Technologies
- Decarbonization of Industrial Processes
- Agriculture
- Conservation
- Pollution Cleanup
- Community Investments
- Economic Development
- Adaptation
- Technology Development
- International Diplomacy

### CLEAN ELECTRICITY GENERATION

**Clean Electricity Incentives.** Provide long-term extensions and expansions with full refundability for new clean electricity generation and energy storage capacity, such as 10-year extensions of the ITC and PTC or a new technology-neutral, emissions-based approach. Consider whether to target incentives to carbon-intensive regions. Support existing zero-carbon electricity generation to prevent unplanned retirements due to artificially low gas prices. Pursue variants of clean electricity or multi-pollutant emissions standards. Consider funding for direct federal procurement of clean energy.

**RUS Loan Forgiveness.** Offer to forgive outstanding loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for rural electric cooperatives' coal fired power plants in exchange for early retirement and replacement by clean energy.

**Labor Standards.** Provide additional funding for clean energy projects built with high-road labor standards, such as through Sen. Merkley's Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act/S. 2185, which would provide an additional 10% investment tax credit. Provide additional funding for clean energy projects built with domestic content standards.

**Renewables on Public Lands.** Establish revenue sharing for responsibly sited renewable energy development projects on public lands and a conservation fund to offset habitat impacts (e.g., Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act, H.R. 3794/S. 2666, and included in H.R. 2).

**Low-Income Clean Energy.** Provide additional financing and grants through DOE for installation of rooftop and community solar, battery storage, electric vehicle charging, electric panel upgrades, and electric appliance replacements (such as through Sen. Duckworth and Rep. McEachin's Low Income Solar Energy Act, S. 2462/H.R. 4291).

**Offshore Wind.** Provide \$26.5 million for BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy to assist in offshore wind lease sales, environmental review, and stakeholder engagement.

## GRID MODERNIZATION

**Smart Grid Investment Grants.** Reinstate DOE’s Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) Program to drive investments in distribution systems and grid-integrated buildings, prioritizing investments that improve resiliency and flexibility, especially in underserved and vulnerable communities.

**Transmission Investment Incentives.** Provide investment tax credits for overhead transmission and at a greater credit value for underground or submarine transmission projects, such as through Sen. Heinrich’s Electric Power Infrastructure Improvement Act/S. 3107.

**Energy Storage Grants.** Fund a share of the costs to deploy new energy storage projects in locations on the transmission grid that reduce the need for peaker plants or natural gas storage facilities through a new grant program and/or investment tax credit. Grants should also support behind-the-meter storage resources for large industrial/manufacturing facilities who are interested in enhanced reliability. Additionally, build on the success of the Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership and provide funding for competitive grants to communities for the installation of energy storage technologies that can replace fossil-fuel facilities and/or improve resilience, prioritizing disadvantaged or underserved communities and critical facilities such as hospitals and fire stations.

**Storage and Resiliency Research.** Increase funding for the Energy Storage program and Smart Grid Research and Development program in DOE’s Office of Electricity Delivery, building on its successful track record of partnering with the private sector and increasing emphasis on collaboration with utilities (see Sen. Smith’s Promoting Grid Storage Act/S. 1593).

**Transmission Assistance.** Increase funding to DOE to provide technical assistance to state and regional entities to identify, site, and ultimately approve transmission projects that are in the public interest.

## ZERO-EMISSION TRANSPORTATION

**Consumer Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles.** Offer consumers refundable tax credits or point-of-sale rebates for new or used zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), and for scrapping internal combustion engine vehicles, with additional incentives and requirements for low-income consumers and labor and domestic content standards sufficient to ensure retention and expansion of domestic automotive sector manufacturing, jobs, and job quality (c.f., Sen. Schumer’s Clean Cars for America proposal, modification of 30D tax credit).

**Charging Infrastructure.** Provide grants, rebates, and improved tax credits for enough charging stations to serve the growing fleet of electric vehicles, including public and private charging, with a priority on serving high mileage vehicles and residents of multi-family housing. Incentivize the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program and domestic manufacturing (c.f., Rep. Levin’s EV Freedom Act/H.R. 5770). Expand 30C or convert to rebate program tailored to unique needs of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle charging equipment.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Stations for Low-Income Communities.** Increase deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in low-income communities and communities of color (see Rep. Clarke’s Electric Vehicles for Underserved Communities Act/H.R. 5751).

**Zero-Emission Transit Buses.** Increase grant funding (such as through the Low and No Emissions Vehicles Program) sufficiently to make all transit buses zero-emission.

**Zero-Emission School Buses.** Increase grant funding (such as through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, or Sen. Harris' Clean School Bus Act/S. 1750) sufficiently to make all school buses zero-emission.

**Zero-Emission Trucks and Ports.** Provide grants to cut emissions from ports and medium- and heavy-duty trucks through diesel emission reduction grant programs (see H.R. 2 Sec. 25003), port electrification grant programs (see Sec. 1402 of the Senate ATIA), freight electrification grant programs (see Sec. 25002, 33191), and tax incentives, excise tax breaks, and/or vouchers modeled on state programs for zero-emission trucks, including funding for hydrogen fuel cell heavy trucks and fueling infrastructure.

**Electrify Federal Fleets.** Fund agency procurement of zero-emission vehicles, including for USPS, DOD, and National Park Service (see, for example, Sec. 50002 of H.R. 2).

**Sustainable Aviation Fuels.** Establish sustainable aviation fuel tax credits, including a blenders tax credit that is proportional to the amount of climate benefit the fuels deliver, and grant programs for sustainable aviation fuels, such as proposed in Rep. Brownley's Sustainable Aviation Fuel Act/H.R. 8769 and Section 10201 of H.R. 2.

## TRANSIT AND SMART GROWTH

**Transit and Commuter Rail Investment.** Increase transit and commuter rail operations and capital investment funding, prioritizing investments in disadvantaged communities and with at least \$150 billion over five years for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula and bus grants, \$25 billion for Capital Investment Grants, \$30 billion for Amtrak, and \$30 billion for rail grants.

**Expand Transit Funding.** Increase funding and financing for DOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and enhance block and competitive grant programs such as DOT's BUILD, Private Activity Bonds, the National Highway Freight Program, TIFIA, and RRIF to spur integrated community infrastructure investment, deliver local environmental and economic development benefits, and expand affordable and clean options for transit between communities (see Rep. Maxine's Transportation Infrastructure Job Creation Act/H.R. 1428).

**Smart Growth Funding.** Increase formula funding, including at least \$7 billion for the Transportation Alternatives Program (such as through Sec. 1206 of H.R. 2), to build higher-density, transit-oriented, mixed-use neighborhoods that are walkable and bikeable, prioritizing investments in disadvantaged communities. Ensure that funding drives growth in resilient, safe, and affordable locations.

**Planning, Engagement, and Review.** Create significant new funding for community outreach, long-range planning, permitting, and environmental reviews to speed project delivery under appropriate conditions and to make sure that development does not burden disadvantaged communities and that their voices are heard in the process.

## BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

**Consumer Incentives for Electric Appliances.** Provide point-of-sale and mail-in rebates for electric appliances in replacement of fossil fuel appliances to deploy heat pumps for space and water heating and induction cooktops, as recommended by the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

**Consumer Incentives for Home Retrofits.** Provide incentives for home energy efficiency retrofits (such as through Rep. Welch's HOMES Act/H.R. 2043, which would provide up to \$5,000 per retrofit.) A

similar idea is to create an energy efficiency state revolving fund or reinstate the energy efficiency and conservation block grant.

**Incentives for All-Electric New Builds.** Provide tax credits for all-electric new builds, with additional incentives for on-site solar, energy storage, high degrees of building envelope insulation, and either electric vehicle chargers for every parking space or proximity to high frequency transit.

**Federal Building Retrofits.** Provide supplemental appropriations to retrofit federal buildings to be highly efficient and all-electric wherever possible, driving down the costs of electric appliances.

**Race to the Top.** Reward states with federal funding that update building codes and zoning codes. Conduct education and outreach, fund retrofits appropriate to local circumstances, focus on underserved areas, and support schools, hospitals, and other public buildings.

**Invest in Municipal, University, School, and Hospital (MUSH) Building Energy Efficiency.** Fund the Hill-Burton Program within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at \$2 billion over five years for hospital infrastructure, including targeted assistance to speed recovery from extreme weather events, install energy efficiency retrofits, energy storage, and implement microgrid systems to improve resilience (see Sec. 41001 of Rep. Pallone's LIFT Act/H.R. 2741).

**Worker Training.** Provide immediate support to contractor businesses to afford online training in home energy performance (such as through Reps. Welch & McKinley's Hope for Homes Act/H.R. 7325 or Rep. Rush's Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act/H.R. 1315).

**School Retrofits.** Include Rep. Scott's Rebuild America's Schools Act/H.R. 865 in infrastructure investments. Provide sufficient funding to retrofit all K-12 public schools to make them healthy, highly efficient, and all electric. Prioritize repairs key to the health and safety of students and staff. Provide additional funding to simultaneously remediate environmental hazards, such as lead pipes, lead paint, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in light ballasts. Install solar and geothermal or air source heating and cooling, when and as appropriate and cost effective. Install bidirectional electric vehicle charging infrastructure for teacher, staff, guest, and school bus parking spaces. Expand opportunities to develop green schoolyards and school gardens. Expand partnership for apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships.

**High Performance Schools.** Boost the Healthy High-Performance Schools grant program by adding \$50 million in additional funding and allowing for direct action (remediation, testing, monitoring, inspections) for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

**Expand DOE Weatherization Assistance Program.** Expand and provide additional funding to the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) to make fuel switching more cost effective to program implementers (c.f., Rep. Tonko's Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act/H.R. 2041).

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.** Fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which assists families with energy costs related to energy bills and weatherization and energy-related home minor repairs.

**Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant.** Increase funding for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program to \$3.2 billion per year (see Sec. 33241 of H.R. 2).

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Affordable Housing.** Fund the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for states to build energy-efficient and climate-resilient affordable housing or provide direct rental assistance to low-income households, with a focus on electrification and access to transit. Expand Housing Choice Vouchers and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

**Public Housing.** Increase funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund and the National Housing Trust Fund, with a carveout for energy efficient and climate-resilient public housing.

**Tribal Housing.** Increase funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant program and other programs that support sustainable and resilient affordable housing and the electrification of housing on Tribal lands.

**Anti-Displacement Funding.** Provide funding for anti-displacement strategies such as public, municipal non-profit housing along with the adoption at the local level of inclusionary zoning, rent control, and other tenant protections, potentially including community land trusts in addition to investments in energy efficient and climate-resilient public housing, affordable housing, and housing units generally.

## MANUFACTURING OF CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES

**Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit.** Reinstate, update, and increase funding for the 48C investment tax credit for domestic clean energy, clean vehicle technology, and industrial emissions reduction technology manufacturing facilities, and target investment to benefit deindustrialized, disadvantaged, and impacted communities.

**Manufacturing Conversion Grants.** Fund the Domestic Manufacturing Conversion and Industrial Retooling grant and loan guarantee program (from Sec. 132 of Rep. Rahall's Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007/H.R. 6), with enhancement for small- and medium-sized manufacturers and updated to include key electric vehicle propulsion technologies and facilitate reinvestment in deindustrialized communities and at-risk plants.

**Advanced Technologies Vehicle Manufacturing Loans.** Expand and update the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program to cover medium- and heavy-duty clean vehicles and the manufacture of strategic components (see Sec. 33342 of H.R. 2.)

**Battery Supply Chain.** Incentives including the 48C tax credit, Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) priority funding, and the 45M tax credit should be adapted to include the manufacturing of key energy and carbon reducing technologies such as battery cells.

**Hydrogen Production Tax Credit.** Support zero-carbon hydrogen production through a new production tax credit, kickstarting production to make hydrogen broadly available for an array of industrial and possibly freight purposes.

**NIST, MEP, Manufacturing USA.** Increase funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the U.S. Department of Commerce, including for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and Manufacturing USA, to support domestic manufacturing, innovation, and supply chains.

## DECARBONIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

**Capital Investment in Clean Alternatives.** Congress should support a national industrial strategy to reinvest in domestic manufacturing, lead in clean and emerging technology production and supply chain development, and transform industry to make it the cleanest and most competitive in the world. This should include the adoption of tax credits and enhance and expand loan and grant programs to support investments in low- or zero-emission industrial technologies. Incentives should support: 1) low- and zero-carbon process heat systems; 2) carbon capture, transport, utilization, and geologic storage systems; 3) energy efficiency and reduction in waste from industrial processes; and 4) other industrial technologies that drive greenhouse gas emissions reductions in a manner consistent with pathways to decarbonize the industrial sector by midcentury. Any new facility that receives such financial support should not cause a significant increase in hazardous air pollution.

**Deployment Incentives for Clean Alternatives.** Support the production of low- and zero-emissions industrial commodities through federal procurements and new production tax credits.

**DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office.** Scale up the technical assistance programs carried out under DOE's Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) with an emphasis on assisting energy-intensive manufacturers, to deploy commercialized technologies and energy management systems, saving manufacturers money and reducing emissions.

**Clean Energy Manufacturing Tax Credits.** Increase the Section 48 investment tax credit for combined heat and power (CHP) and clarify that waste heat to power is also eligible for this credit. Adapt the Section 45M technology production tax credit to fund domestic production (or manufacturer purchase) of strategic clean energy/vehicle component technologies, including batteries, solar cells, and wind components.

**Carbon Capture.** Consider extending and expanding the 45Q tax credit, including to support direct air capture (DAC) deployment and to eliminate minimum capture thresholds for industrial and carbon utilization projects. Consider sunsetting eligibility for enhanced oil recovery. Fund permitting capacity for saline storage and associated capture projects, the EPA underground injection control program for drinking water protection, technology development of direct air capture, the CarbonSAFE program for development of saline geologic storage, and resources for strong social and environmental safeguards and significant stakeholder engagement with the communities where projects may be sited, particularly where that may involve environmental justice communities.

**Eliminate HFCs.** Provide funding through EPA to small and minority-owned businesses for replacing HFC-containing equipment and to collect, reclaim, and safely destroy HFCs (such as through Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Carper's American Innovation and Manufacturing Act/S. 2754). Provide funding to EPA to design and implement a commercial refrigeration heating and air-conditioning service training course for new generation refrigerants.

**Loan Guarantee Programs.** Increase funding for and extend the scope of existing DOE Title 17 Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee and Tribal Loan Guarantee programs to support first in-class and subsequent deployment of innovative industrial technologies that modernize energy-intensive manufacturing and reduce industrial emissions.

**Support for State Action.** Support state and local governments in pursuing industrial decarbonization strategies designed for local circumstances, such as through a state block grant program for the expansion of industrial efficiency retrofits.



**Border Adjustment Mechanism.** Target border adjustments at greenhouse gas-intensive, trade-exposed industries such as aluminum and steel production to prevent carbon leakage.

## AGRICULTURE

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program.** Increase funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to \$7 billion per year (see Sen. Booker's Climate Stewardship Act/S. 2452), make emission reduction and carbon sequestration a purpose of EQIP, and make these practices eligible for higher payment rates (per provisions in Rep. Pingree's Agriculture Resilience Act/H.R. 5861). Add climate as a priority initiative within EQIP. Increase the set-aside for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers to 10%. Increase funding within EQIP for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to \$200 million per year (S. 2452) and add as a research priority practices that sequester carbon and/or reduce GHG emissions. Additionally, this also includes increasing funding to \$100 million per year to expand the USDA Soil Health Demonstration trials (S. 2452).

**Conservation Stewardship Program.** Increase funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to \$4 billion per year and give priority to applications that include multiple climate-smart agriculture practices. Increase set-aside for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers to 30% (per HR 5861).

**Conservation Reserve Program.** Increase funding for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to enable a higher acreage cap of 36 million acres. Hold an emergency CRP signup that includes an additional emergency incentive payment equal to the annual rental rate to drive enrollment and support farmers and ranchers. Provide a higher emergency incentive payment rate for continuous practices. Increase rental rates and restore incentive payments to further drive enrollment. Allow for longer-term continuous CRP contracts.

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.** Double funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and require conservation plans for all agricultural land easements, not just those that have highly erodible lands. Conservation plans should address all identified resource concerns as well as goals for increased carbon sequestration and/or reduced emissions. Target easements to areas at risk of conversion and lands with high carbon sequestration potential.

**Soil Carbon Accounting at USDA and USFS:** Double funding for the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis program and the USDA NRCS Natural Resources Inventory.

**Growing Good Ag Jobs.** Fund a new program to help farmers transition to organic/regenerative/sustainable practices, including technical assistance, grants, research, etc. Link with expanded civilian conservation corps programs that include projects on private lands, such as restoring riparian areas, planting prairie strips, and building compost infrastructure.

**Agricultural Adaptation Staffing, Outreach, and Technical Assistance.** Provide mandatory funding for state Climate Hubs and the Long Term Agricultural Research (LTAR) network. Significantly expand and make mandatory the Conservation Technical Assistance Program. Increase funding for technical assistance within the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency, National Organic Program (NOP), and other USDA agencies, with a focus on guidance on practices benefiting long-term climate adaptation and mitigation. Invest in new farmer training on climate-smart agriculture practices through increasing funding for the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach

(FOTO) Program and including trainings on climate-smart agriculture and the 2501 Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program.

**Other Agriculture Programs:** Double the funding for Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Double the funding for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). Double the funding for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and add carbon sequestration and emissions reductions as a purpose of the program; carbon sequestration and emissions reduction should also be added as evaluation criteria for proposals. Additionally, RCPP should prioritize partnerships that include traditionally underserved and climate-vulnerable communities.

**Sustainable Agriculture Research.** Increase and direct funding for government R&D and innovation in climate-smart crop and animal agriculture and resilience through the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program; the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); the Economic Research Service (ERS); the Agricultural Research Service (ARS); the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI); the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), including the National Organic Program (NOP); the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR); and other relevant programs. Provide mandatory funding for state Climate Hubs and the Long Term Agricultural Research (LTAR) network.

**REAP: Accelerate On-Farm and Rural Small Businesses Adoption of Renewables and Energy Efficiency.** Triple USDA mandatory and discretionary funding for the oversubscribed Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and include a 15% renewable grants reserve fund to serve underutilized technologies and direct USDA to substantially increase outreach and education activities, with particular attention to rural small businesses and minority and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

**Sodsaver.** Expand and enforce Sodsaver nationally. The current bill to expand the program nationwide is the bi-partisan American Prairie Conservation Act/S.1913 (115th Congress), which reduces the tilling of native sod by reducing crop insurance premiums by 50% for lands where native sod is tilled.

**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Double the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) borrowing cap to \$60 billion to reflect 90 years of inflation. Changing the amount that USDA can borrow (a policy change with outcomes for mandatory and discretionary spending, which should make it eligible for reconciliation) will change the amount that all programs can borrow to strengthen the farm safety net and increase spending for climate, conservation, and farm programs.

## CONSERVATION

**Reforestation and Tree Planting.** Invest \$45 billion over 10 years to support reforestation and ecologically-appropriate increased forest stocking, as well as agroforestry and silvopasture establishment on private agricultural lands, where ecologically appropriate without negative side effects on food production or biological diversity, and urban reforestation. For non-federal lands, investment could flow through a tax credit program, direct payment program, and/or state grant program.

**State and Private Forestry.** Provide \$30 million through the USFS for State Forest Action Plan elements that stimulate job creation, improve forest resilience, and increase carbon sequestration. Fund technical assistance to forest landowners.

**Conserving and Restoring for Sequestration and Resilience.** Target conservation and restoration programs to maintain a carbon sink, improve ecosystem resilience, and support equitable access to natural areas through various programs that advance science-based, climate-informed, and environmentally

reviewed projects. This necessitates greater investments in watershed and landscape-scale ecosystem restoration programs, such as the NOAA Resiliency and Habitat grants, the USFS Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management Programs, Urban & Community Forestry Program, Forest Legacy Program, Legacy Roads and Trails Program, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and Watershed Restoration Action Plan implementation. Invest in endangered and at-risk species recovery at FWS and NOAA, including through implementation of the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy, safeguarding key wildlife corridors, including on tribal lands, (see the Wildfire Corridors Conservation Act, H.R. 2795/S. 1499 and Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act, H.R. 5179/S. 2891), and addressing invasive species, including through the full and rapid implementation of the National Invasive Species Management Plan.

**Secure Rural Schools Program.** Alter the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program to provide sufficient funding to SRS counties while decoupling county payments from unpredictable and highly volatile timber receipts that are a perverse incentive for unsustainable and environmentally damaging timber harvests.

**Conservation Service Corps.** Support 500,000 workers over the next five years for one of several proposals to create a Climate Corps, reinstate the Civilian Conservation Corps, or invest in existing conservation service corps and other stewardship organizations (c.f., Rep. Neguse's 21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act/H.R. 7264). This program should fund work on climate resilience and natural infrastructure, among other projects, and ensure partnerships with unions and with quality workforce training programs, such as pre-apprenticeship pathways into registered apprenticeship programs and other union training programs as well as community colleges and non-profit organizations. It should also include strong protections against private and public sector job displacement. This new program should center equity at its core and ensure greater opportunity and career pathways for women and people of color.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes **Expansion.** Permanently fund the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program and alter the formula to provide additional revenue for counties that permanently protect public lands, especially rural counties with large percentages of public land.

**Protecting the Arctic Refuge.** Restore protections for the Arctic Refuge by repealing Section 20001 of the 2017 Tax Act and end the failed leasing program.

**Lease Buyout Fund for Priority Conservation Areas.** Fund the purchase and retirement of previously issued oil, gas, and coal leases on federal lands to be withdrawn from future leasing, with priority for conservation, climate, and environmental justice.

**Federal Oil and Gas Reforms.** Reform royalty rates for federal oil and gas leasing, increase minimum bids, increase rental rates, end non-competitive leasing of federal lands, end leasing of low potential lands, and increase bonding rates for onshore oil and gas remediation (and offshore if desired).

**Coastal Conservation.** Authorize a \$3 billion grant program to benefit coastal habitats and resiliency. Create a \$50 million federal grant program to assist states, localities, and NGOs in constructing living shorelines. Increase funding for EPA Geographic Programs and funding for National Estuary Programs (NEPs) to support adaptation, resilience and restoration efforts in economically and ecologically important estuaries.

## POLLUTION CLEANUP

**Pollution Remediation.** Increase annual funding for Superfund clean-up to \$20 billion, for Superfund Emergency Response and Removal to \$840 million, for Brownfield Redevelopment to \$2 billion, and for the CARE Program to \$100 million (such as through Sen. Booker and Rep. Ruiz’s Environmental Justice Act, S. 2236/H.R. 3923). Furthermore, pass and fully fund at \$56 billion over 10 years Sen. Booker’s Environmental Cleanup Infrastructure Act/S.1669 (115th Congress) to devote an additional \$30 billion to Superfund sites. Local impacts of climate change must be included in Superfund site planning and remediation.

**Pollution Monitoring.** Fund fence-line pollution monitoring at \$90 million (such as through Sen. Duckworth and Rep. Rochester’s Public Health Air Quality Act, S. 4369/H.R. 7822).

**Enforcement.** Provide funding for EPA to enforce environmental regulations to ensure compliance and enforcement with environmental regulations.

**Clean Water.** Build on the \$90 billion for the protection of and improved access to clean water in H.R. 2, which included \$40 billion for wastewater, \$25 billion for drinking water, \$22.5 billion for lead service line replacement, and \$500 million a year for PFAS clean up, by adding the following: \$22.5 billion (for a total of \$45 billion) for replacing all lead service lines and a \$100 billion infusion into the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, with at least a 20% set-aside as grants for disadvantaged communities and at least a 20% set aside for green infrastructure. Direct an additional \$10.5 billion for the Small & Disadvantaged Communities program, Alaska Native Villages and Rural Communities Water Grant program, US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure program, Sewer Overflow Grant program, and the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. Also, permanently extend the Buy America provision for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (see Sec. 22110 and Sec. 33104 of H.R. 2).

**Equity Research.** Provide adequate funding for national laboratories or EPA to develop and maintain a public-facing, community-specific impact modeling tool and an Environmental Justice Screening Tool for regulatory use.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

**Green Bank.** Establish a new organization or agency with \$100 billion to invest in clean energy, infrastructure, clean technology manufacturing, and resilient communities, with a focus on underserved communities (c.f., Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Act, Rep. Dingell’s H.R. 806 in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress or Sec. 33192 of H.R. 2 in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress). . Ensure labor standards and domestic content requirements.

**Community Development.** Provide full funding in Community Development Block (CDBG) grants at a minimum of \$30 billion annually, including disaster recovery and mitigation subcomponents, and \$2 billion for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) fund to support equitable and climate-resilient community development and investments in public health and social services to support communities in transition, environmental justice communities, and frontline communities.

**Federally Qualified Health Centers.** Expand funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) health center program to ensure that environmental justice communities have access to critical, affordable, and life-saving health care services during the pandemic and beyond.

**EJ Small Grants.** Increase funding for EPA’s Environmental Justice Small Grant (EJSG) Program to \$6 billion, increase the grant size to up to \$500,000, and increase the grant period from one to two years.

**Grants to Disadvantaged Communities.** Reduce disparities for frontline communities affected by climate change by increasing funding for EPA’s Multipurpose Grants to States and Tribes, Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, and Community Action for a Renewed Environment Grant Program.

**Engaging Communities in Planning.** Provide additional funding through DOE’s State Energy Program to incorporate social equity outcomes in state planning, conduct community outreach and planning engagement, and provide technical assistance to environmental justice communities.

**Workforce Development in Low-Income Communities.** Provide funding to promote high-quality, family-sustaining, environment- or infrastructure-related jobs in communities that need them the most (such as through Rep. Bass’ Build Local, Hire Local Act, H.R. 4101/S. 2404 or Rep. Rush’s Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act/H.R. 1315, OSHA’s Susan Harwood Training Grant Program, FEMA’s Community Emergency Response Training Program, the Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants Program, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS) Environmental Career Worker Training).

**Local Parks Investment in Underserved Communities.** Fund local parks to provide equitable access to nature and recreation, reduce the urban heat island effect, protect at-risk jobs, spur local economic development, and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure, while addressing historic inequities in park access (see Rep. Barragan’s Outdoors for All Act/H.R. 4512, Rep. Neguse’s 21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act/H.R. 7264, and Sen. Harris’ Outdoors For All Act/S. 1458; National Park Service’s Every Kid Outdoors Program; the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)), and support an emergency investment of \$500 million for local parks in underserved communities.

**Federal Water Assistance Program.** Establish a Federal Water Assistance Program, closely modeled around the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), to support water assistance and affordability for low-income families.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Coal Community Investment.** Provide \$4 billion over 10 years for community revitalization and economic development in coal-impacted communities through expanding the Appalachian Regional Commission’s POWER Initiative, Economic Development Administration’s Assistance to Coal Communities program, Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, and relevant programs at the USDA, EPA, DOE, SBA, and other agencies. This should include specific funding dedicated to increased staffing for these programs and requirements for measuring the impacts of investments.

**Abandoned Mine Reclamation.** Extend Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act for at least 15 years and commit \$1 billion over five years from the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund (AML fund) for the benefit of coal communities (such as through Rep. Cartwright and Sen. Manchin’s RECLAIM Act, H.R. 2156/S. 1232). Congress should also enact Sen. Booker’s Environmental Justice Legacy Pollution Cleanup Act/S. 4617, which would provide an additional \$10 billion for the AML fund.

**Hardrock Mining Reform.** Require companies to pay royalties for the ability to extract hardrock mineral resources from public lands (such as through Sen. Udall’s Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act/S. 1386) to minimize community responsibility for cleaning up abandoned mines.

**Abandoned Hardrock Mine Clean-up.** Reform the 1872 mining law and end patenting; require a fair royalty for mining on public lands as well as a displaced materials fee; and use both to create a reclamation fund addressing hardrock clean-up (see Rep. Grijalva’s Materials Act of 1947/H.R. 2579 and Sen. Udall’s Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act/S. 1386.). Pair reform with \$5 billion investment to begin tackling an EPA-estimated \$50 billion dollar backlog. H.R. 2579’s CBO score generates \$3.4 billion over 10 years.

**Abandoned Mine Clean-up.** According to OSMRE, it will cost at least \$10 billion to reclaim the remaining high priority abandoned mines across the country. Reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Land Program fees, and expand the payments from the fund for abandoned coal mine clean-ups (see Rep. Cartwright’s AML Reauthorization Act/H.R. 4248, included in H.R. 2). Reclamation and remediation require a sizable workforce that can immediately mitigate the impact of layoffs and put former coal employees back to work.

**Black Lung Disability Trust Fund.** The Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, set to be \$15 billion in debt by 2050, provides critical benefits and medical care for miners and families. Congress should hold coal companies liable for continued contributions to the fund by extending and increasing the coal excise tax for at least 10 years to ensure fund solvency (see Rep. Scott’s Black Lung Benefits Disability Trust Fund Solvency Act/H.R. 3876.)

**Orphan Well Clean Up.** Establish an orphan well cleanup fund (such as the \$2 billion fund created through Sec. 84101 of H.R. 2) to plug and reclaim dangerous and polluting abandoned oil and gas wells. Federal bonding, idle well, and idle well transfer reform should also be included either through administrative action, separate legislation (such as Rep. Lowenthal’s Bonding Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act/H.R. 4346, also included in H.R. 2), or paired legislation (such as Sen. Bennet’s Oil and Gas Bonding Reform and Orphaned Well Remediation Act/S. 4642) to ensure the program is not an industry bailout and addresses both the existing population of orphan wells and the drivers of potential future orphan wells.

**Royalties Buyout.** Invite states that lease fossil fuels on federal lands to opt in to a federal buyout of their estimated revenue shares, providing \$11 billion that would stabilize state budgets and extricate them from unsustainable and unpredictable fossil fuel markets.

**Broadband Access.** H.R. 2 (Sec. 31301, 31141) would provide \$100 billion to deliver affordable, high-speed broadband Internet access to every part of the country, prioritizing underserved communities.

**Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.** Fully fund the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC), including back payments. The program was authorized to receive at least \$30 million every year from 2009 through 2019; it was never appropriated more than \$250,000.

## ADAPTATION

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation.** Provide \$4 billion as a direct appropriation to supplement the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 6% set aside in the Stafford Act and prioritize investments in disadvantaged communities. Increase funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

(HMGP) to supplement the sliding scale set aside in the Stafford Act (c.f., Sec. 23002 of H.R. 2 regarding low-interest loans).

**Wildfire Resilience.** Rep. Neguse's 21st Century Conservation Corps for Our Health and Our Jobs Act/H.R. 7264 proposes \$200 million for the National Fire Capacity Program through states to support community development and implementation of wildfire defense plans.

**Flood Mitigation.** H.R. 2 (Sec. 60005) provides \$1 billion for flood mitigation. Rep. Waters' National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reauthorization Act/H.R. 3167 would provide \$500 million per year for flood mapping. Prioritize investments in disadvantaged communities.

**Safe Dams Fund.** Create a \$1 billion fund to remove unnecessary and unsafe dams with matching grants to states.

**Water Supply.** H.R. 2 provides \$1 billion to municipalities for watershed, wet weather, and resiliency projects (Sec. 22104) and \$3.5 billion for western water infrastructure and drought resiliency measures (Sec. 81201-81252).

**Coastal Resilience.** Increase funding for grant programs in NOAA Fisheries to address climate change impacts on fisheries (e.g., Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program); promote scientific research and coordination (c.f., Rep. Panetta's Coastal Resilience Research and Education Act/H.R. 5102); fund planning and response (c.f., Rep. Carbajal's Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act/H.R. 3541).

**Transportation Resilience.** H.R. 2 (Sec. 1201-1202) would provide \$6.25 billion for resilience projects identified by Metropolitan Planning Organizations and expand Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program eligibility. Sec. 14017 of the Senate ATIA would provide \$4.9 billion for PROTECT grants to states, and Sec. 1106 would provide guidance.

**Public Health Resilience.** Increase funding for the Health Human Services (HHS)' Hospital Preparedness Program to support hospitals and other critical health facilities to prepare emergency plans that address increasing climate-related risks, including provisions to ensure reliable power and water supplies during disasters. Increase funding to HHS Public Health Service's Ready Reserve Corps to enhance capacity for the public sector. Expand eligibility and increase funding to the CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement to provide state and local public health departments with the resources to help hospitals and health care facilities increase capacities and capabilities to confront climate threats.

**Climate Planning.** Establish a National Climate Adaptation Program that provides grants, finance capacity, and skilled technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to finance and insure projects identified through hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plans, prioritizing low-income communities and communities of color that are disproportionately affected by climate impacts.

**Community Resilience:** Establish a new long-term climate adaptation funding program (through grants, financing, and/or a revolving loan fund). Fund and direct FEMA's Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) to develop and maintain an accessible inventory of resources for state and local governments for climate resilience training and education. Increase funding for the CDC's Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative (CRSCI) and Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) programs. Create a new federal grant program for the development of local resilience hubs supported by local public services.

**Post-Disaster Investment.** Increase funding for the Defense Production Act to be used for post-disaster climate mitigation and adaptation investments. Prioritize investments in disadvantaged communities.

**Resilience Training and Emergency Networks.** Provide caregivers and other de facto first responders with additional training and certification. Provide grants to support the pre-disaster development of response networks by increasing funding for the CDC Climate Ready Cities and States Initiative using the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework.

## TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

**Mission Innovation.** Triple the funding for all clean energy research and development and provide significant new funding for clean energy demonstrations (i.e., in the ballpark of \$50 billion over the next 10 years).

**Carbon Removal Technology.** Invest approximately \$1 billion annually for RD&D in direct air capture, carbon, mineralization, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), enhanced root crops, and geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage, with additional RD&D investments for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines.

**Engineered Geothermal Systems.** Provide \$500 million over five years to demonstrate “geothermal anywhere,” zero carbon power, heat and hydrogen generation from superhot/supercritical geothermal systems.

**Hard to Decarbonize Sectors.** Fund RD&D that would be authorized by the Clean Industrial Technology Act (CITA) programs for cement, steel, chemicals, aviation, heavy transport, and sectors where research and development would be especially beneficial.

**Commercialization Support.** Provide funding for the commercialization of new technologies through a national climate bank or similar proposal (as discussed above under “Community Development”) and through the DOE’s loans programs. The DOE should be directed and funded to enforce the rules on domestic manufacturing of technologies and utilization of intellectual property (e.g. patents) developed with taxpayer-funded R&D, especially if technology is not commercialized domestically.

## INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

**U.S. Climate Change Foreign Assistance.** Allocate \$25 billion over five years for U.S. bilateral and multilateral assistance activities.

**Green Climate Fund contribution.** Allocate \$8 billion over four years for the State Department to make U.S. contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to fund developing country mitigation and adaptation projects.

**U.S. International Development Finance Corporation equity investment authorities.** Boost the Development Finance Corporation (DFC)’s equity authority to \$300 billion and change the scoring for DFC equity investment outlays to a net present value basis (from its current grant-based scoring) to increase the leveraging power of DFC resources.