

Letter Supporting 100% Clean Electricity Standard by 2035

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

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

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

To: President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy

We write to urge you to act now to pass bold Build Back Better economic recovery legislation that includes a federal Clean Electricity Standard (CES) requiring 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035 and achieving by 2030 at least 80% clean power and 80% carbon pollution reductions from the electricity sector below 2005 levels.

This approach is popular. Across the country, a historic 81 million people voted for President Biden and his transformative commitment to clean energy. Over 30 states and territories have passed clean or renewable electricity standards, and 16 are now committed to 100% clean power. Today, more than one out of every three Americans already live in a jurisdiction that has committed to 100% clean energy. And [two-thirds of Americans](#) support 100% clean electricity by 2035.

We must rapidly clean up our electricity system to reduce pollution and protect public health, including by using a CES as well as Clean Air Act standards and major new investments in renewable energy. Fossil fuel power plants are [disproportionately placed](#) in low-income communities and communities of color. Today, Black Americans are more likely than other Americans to die prematurely from pollution emitted from power plants. An ambitious CES will also help us build a more prosperous economy; a national CES would lead to a net increase of [500,000-1 million good-paying jobs](#) by 2030, and should be designed to cut pollution and create jobs in our most heavily impacted communities, and build more clean energy projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, pay prevailing wages, and utilize organized labor.

Renewable energy is now the cheapest form of energy, and a well-designed CES can save ratepayers money. Coal is so expensive that continuing to run uneconomical coal plants over the past three years has wasted [\\$3.5 billion in ratepayer funds](#)—a figure that doesn't even account for the costs to our healthcare system from fossil fuel pollution, or the massive and accelerating costs of the climate crisis.

Today electricity generation makes up [more than a quarter](#) of all greenhouse gas pollution. Clean electricity is the first linchpin in economy-wide decarbonization, as we electrify parts of transportation, buildings and heavy industry. This approach will let us use clean electricity to eliminate up to 80% of economy-wide greenhouse gas pollution in the next two decades.

For all these reasons, and many others, we support a national Clean Electricity Standard targeting 100% by 2035, with an interim goal of 80% by 2030. This standard must be coupled with large investments in environmental justice communities and requirements to protect and expand good-paying union jobs in the clean energy economy. In light of the tremendous job and economic benefits sorely needed to help ensure a rapid recovery and the immediacy of the climate crisis, we urge you to advance this legislation without delay, and using the budget reconciliation process if necessary.

Sincerely,

- 100% Campaign
- Acadia Center
- Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
- Alliance for Climate Education
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- American Sustainable Business Council
- Anthropocene Alliance
- Appalachian Voices
- Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
- Aspen Skiing Company
- Avaaz
- BIO2 AMERICA
- Care About Climate
- Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
- Center for American Progress
- Center for Energy and Environment
- Charlotte 350
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- Chispa Arizona
- Clean Energy for America
- Climate Action Rhode Island (350 RI)
- Climate Crisis Policy
- Climate Neutral
- Climate Reality Atlanta Chapter
- Climate Reality Boca Raton, FL Chapter
- Climate Solutions
- Coastal Conservation League
- Colorado Farm and Food Alliance
- Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)
- Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
- Community Environmental Council
- Conservation Minnesota
- Conservation Voters of South Carolina
- Data for Progress
- Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
- Delaware Interfaith Power & Light
- Dream Corps Green For All
- E2
- Earth Ministry
- Earth Rise Indivisible
- Earth Uprising
- EcoAmerica

- Elders Climate Action
- Empower our Future
- End Climate Silence
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Environmental Finance Center West
- Evergreen Action
- Fairfax 350
- Florida Clinicians for Climate Action
- Franciscan Action Network
- Fresh Energy
- Future Nexus
- GASP
- Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
- Gesundheit Institute
- Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
- Green Generation
- Green New Deal Virginia
- Green Towson Alliance
- Greenbelt Climate Action Network
- GreenLatinos
- GRID Alternatives
- Harambee House, Inc. / Citizens for Environmental Justice
- Heroes Cafe
- Hip Hop Caucus
- Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light
- Illinois Environmental Council
- Indivisible Northern Virginia
- Institute for Carbon Removal Law & Policy, American University
- Interfaith Power & Light
- Last Frontier Strategies
- League of Conservation Voters
- League of Women Voters of the US
- Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN)
- Loudoun Climate Project
- Michigan Climate Action Network
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
- Missouri Interfaith Power & Light
- Moms Clean Air Force
- Montana Interfaith Power & Light
- Mothers & Others For Clean Air
- Mothers Out Front
- Mountain Association
- MountainTrue
- NAACP Atlanta
- Natural Resources Council of Maine
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- NC APPPL: Alliance to Protect Our People and the Places We Live
- Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light
- Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp
- New Mexico Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy
- New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
- North Carolina Conservation Network
- North Carolina Council of Churches
- North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
- North Carolina Justice Center
- North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
- Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)
- NTS Group, Clean Energy Action - Colorado, City of Boulder, Community-Energy Task Force
- NW Energy Coalition
- Our Climate Education Fund
- OURS (Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies)
- Partnership for Southern Equity
- Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light
- People's Justice Council
- Phoenix Zones Initiative
- Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
- Physicians for Social Responsibility Florida
- Pivot Point
- Policy Solutions Institute
- Progressive Caucus of the North Carolina Democratic Party
- Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Rachel Carson Council

- Raise Green, Inc.
- Resurrection Restoration Center for the Homeless
- Rewiring America
- RVA Interfaith Climate Justice League
- Sideline Software Systems
- Sierra Club
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)
- Stand.earth
- Sunrise Movement
- Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light
- Tennessee Solar Energy Association
- Texas Interfaith Power & Light/Texas Impact
- Texas Interfaith Power & Light/Texas Impact
- The CLEO Institute
- The Climate Center
- The Climate Mobilization Montgomery Co Md
- The Climate Reality Project, NOVA Chapter
- The Imani Group
- The Outdoor Policy Outfit
- The Solar RN
- To Nizhoni Ani
- Turn the Tide for Tarpon
- Union for Reform Judaism
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis Sustainability Team
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun, Earth Justice Team
- United Parents Against Lead & Other Environmental Hazards (UPAL)
- Vermont Interfaith Power and Light
- Virginia Community Rights Network
- Virginia DC Metro Climate Save
- Vote Solar
- Western Environmental Law Center
- Western Resource Advocates
- World Wildlife Fund
- WV Climate Alliance