

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

July 12th, 2022

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

We, the undersigned staffers of the United States Congress, demand that Congress pass robust climate policy this month on an emergency basis. We urge you to bring the Build Back Better agenda or a similarly broad and robust climate and social justice package to a vote, with confidence it will pass this month. The silence on expansive climate justice policy on Capitol Hill this year has been deafening. We write to distance ourselves from your dangerous inaction.

With Democrats in control of Congress and the White House, our country is nearing the end of a two-year window that represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to pass transformative climate policy. Many of us worked on the legislation contained in the Build Back Better agenda for years—gathering community input, consulting experts, drafting text, and moving bills through the committee process. We’ve crafted the legislation necessary to avert climate catastrophe. It’s time for you to pass it.

We voted with millions of others to secure Democratic control in Congress and the White House, knowing there are serious, long-lasting, and global stakes riding on how our government acts at this moment. For example, the number of 90-degree days in Washington, DC has nearly doubled since 1960, and that figure is expected to triple by the end of the century.¹ In congressional districts around the country, we’ve witnessed the constituents we serve suffer from dramatic increases in wildfires, hurricanes, heat waves, and drought.² If we are already witnessing the consequences of inaction in your lifetime, we can scarcely imagine what we will face in ours.

Many of us would prefer a far more expansive public investment at the scale of the Green New Deal. Build Back Better, while comprehensive and popular, did not come close to everything our country needs or wants.³ Nevertheless, we are committed to passing climate policy this Congress that lays the groundwork for a more just and sustainable economy. No later than the

¹ Nadja Popovich, Blacki Migliozi. “How Much Hotter Is Your Hometown than When You Were Born?” *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 30 Aug. 2018, <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/30/climate/how-much-hotter-is-your-hometown.html>.

² Usgcrp. “Fourth National Climate Assessment: Summary Findings.” NCA4, 1 Jan. 1970, <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>.

³ Blank, Lew. “Majority of Voters Still Want the Build Back Better Act Passed.” *Data For Progress*, *Data For Progress*, 4 Jan. 2022, <https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2022/1/4/majority-of-voters-still-want-the-build-back-better-act-passed>.

end of July, we urgently need a similar reconciliation policy that invests in renewable energy, takes on the price-gouging fossil fuel industry, centers environmental justice communities, and rejects false climate solutions.

Your legacies, and millions of lives, depend on how you act in this moment. Failing to deliver urgently needed climate justice, voting rights, and other critical investments across the finish line would represent a missed moment of historic proportions. It would not only harm our health, democracy, and economic security for generations, but it would also bolster the Republican Party this election cycle and beyond.

We are ready to get this done. Will you act now, or will you be forever remembered for your failure to outmatch one Senator and a handful of corporate lobbyists? Please look us in the eye when you step into the elevator or cafeteria: will you commit to fighting for countless lives and the places we call home?

Sincerely,

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AC	BC	CW
AC	BI	CW
AC	BK	DC
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AF	BMH	DJM
AG	BT	DK
AG	BW	DL
AG	CA	DL
AJ	CC	DM
AK	CC	DM
AK	CF	DM
AK	CK	DOA
AK	CM	DPP
AM	CM	DR
AM	CM	DRH
AM	CM	DS
AM	CO	EA
AO	CRL	EB
AP	CS	EC

EC	JW	MME
EF	JW	MP
EH	KA	MS
EK	KAM	MS
EKB	KD	MS
EM	KD	MS
EM	KD	MT
EN	KG	MWR
EO	KH	NBI
ER	KH	NC
ES	KRT	NGD
ESP	KS	NM
EV	LCW	NM
FR	LG	NS
GA	LG	NW
GC	LG	NW
GF	LJ	OH
GH	LK	OR
GK	LP	PB
GS	LR	PB
HM	LW	PB
HP	LX	PF
HS	M	PH
IA	MAD	RG
IR	MB	RG
JB	MC	RK
JG	MC	RL
JG	MC	RL
JH	MG	RM
JH	MG	RS
JJ	MG	SA
JK	MK	SC
JK	MK	SD
JK	MM	SD
JS	MM	SH
JT	MM	SJ
JTCJ	MM	SJ
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YE
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This letter represents our own views and not necessarily the views of our bosses.