

July 24, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Thank you for your leadership and work on behalf of the American people this year, as our nation navigates the pandemic and its painful effects. We are grateful for your meaningful efforts to relieve the hardships facing individuals, families, and businesses in this difficult time.

COVID-19 has changed the lives of every American, disrupted the operations of nearly every business, and left millions suffering from job and business losses. As representatives of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that make up the backbone of American business, we have experienced first-hand the true costs of the pandemic. As companies with operations throughout the entire agricultural supply chain, from farm to consumer, we also see this crisis as an important harbinger of future business risk.

If we have learned anything from COVID-19, it is that we cannot wait to prepare for future risks. While we recover from the pandemic and revive our economy, we *must* simultaneously make our supply chains more resilient and prepared for the looming threat of climate change.

At this moment, we have a rare opportunity to develop win-win solutions, create millions of well-paying jobs, revive our nation's economy, and create stronger and more resilient communities. Chief among these opportunities is doubling down on clean energy infrastructure to put Americans back to work. For every dollar spent, investments in clean energy create about [three times more jobs](#) than investments in fossil fuels.

We ask that as you consider short-term economic relief legislation or any economic stimulus packages, you include the necessary resources to ensure the continued viability and growth of the renewable energy sector. We want to invest more in renewables across our businesses, communities and homes. We need this support so that we can use our buying power to drive job creation and economic growth in the renewable energy industry.

COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE

As you negotiate the next COVID-19 relief package, we request you create a direct pay option for the production tax credit (PTC)/investment tax credit (ITC) value to address liquidity and tax equity availability issues for those same projects. Additionally, we request that you delay the PTC and ITC phasedowns to account for COVID-19 related economic and workforce impacts.

DIRECT PAY OPTION

Renewable energy is an important source of economic growth and job creation, making up more than half of all new U.S. power generation capacity over the past decade.

Commitments from companies to buy clean energy has been critical to this growth, and so have federal government policies to stimulate clean energy projects and the accompanying high-quality jobs.

The industry was on track for 2020 to continue and build on this growth, with additional job creation and accelerated investment in communities across the nation, but COVID-19 has had a negative impact on that progress. Shelter-in-place requirements, supply chain disruptions, delays in permitting, inspection and construction, and a constrained tax equity market have combined to exact a sobering toll on the industry.

Project developers are experiencing delays related to COVID-19, which significantly affects their ability to secure financing. This financing requires the participation of tax equity providers who can absorb the large quantity of tax credits that come from these projects. However, the ability to utilize these tax credits require strong taxable income, which is substantially lower because of the pandemic.

COVID-19 delays, combined with the reduction in available tax equity, have had severe long-term impacts on clean energy projects. **To address these concerns, we request you provide direct pay for qualifying projects under the Production Tax Credit (PTC)/Investment Tax Credit (ITC).** This would provide clarity and certainty to address financing constraints being encountered because of the economic downturn.

DELAY THE FEDERAL PHASEDOWNS OF PTC & ITC

Due to project delays caused by the pandemic, projects that otherwise would have started construction this year will not be able to go forward. As a result, we ask you to delay the scheduled phasedown of the ITC and push the 2020 PTC and ITC credit values into 2021 and 2022 so that companies and workers have a chance to rebuild in these harsh economic times, and projects can avoid getting mothballed or dropped entirely.

COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGE

In addition to renewable energy projects being negatively impacted by the pandemic, the sector's workforce has also been affected. At the end of 2019, nearly 3.4 million Americans worked in clean energy and the industry was one of the fastest growing sectors of the American economy. However, according to a recent analysis, [nearly 620,000, or 18 percent](#), of clean energy workers filed for unemployment in March, April and May 2020. Investment in the industry will undoubtedly help bring back the workforce and shore up the industry.

Federal clean energy support leverages billions in private capital multiplying the economic recovery impact of each federal dollar invested. It also helps improve U.S. energy independence/security while creating a range of high-quality jobs in diverse communities in every state and Congressional district in the country.

As you possibly negotiate a COVID-19 stimulus package, we respectfully request you include provisions that would (1) increase grid flexibility and improve the integration of renewable resources (i.e. wind and solar); (2) invest in infrastructure expansion and grid

modernization; (3) create opportunities for new clean energy jobs; (4) incentivize transport electrification; and (5) improve and incentivize energy efficiency.

Each signer of this letter has made a commitment to reducing our contribution to climate change through purchasing renewable energy, increasing our energy efficiency, increasing regenerative agriculture in our supply chain, reducing food waste or through other means.

The business community is acting already—across our operations and supply chains—but strong government signals and partnerships are vital for our efforts to succeed in mitigating the risks climate change poses to our bottom line. We need the help of Congress to ensure our businesses stay prosperous.

These investments will be returned many times over through job creation for millions of Americans, and through avoided costs from climate disruptions. This is an investment not just in recovery, but in the long-term prosperity of our nation by preparing for and being a global leader in developing solutions to climate change.

Thank you for stepping up in this vital moment, to ensure the best interest of American businesses and citizens and for considering our policy suggestions. Your leadership will be remembered in this decisive moment in American history.

Sincerely,

This letter is signed by seventy-nine companies, most of whom are small-and-medium sized businesses operating across forty states and the District of Columbia. They represent multiple industries such as cosmetics, personal care, travel and tourism as well as the entire food supply chain including farmers, ingredient suppliers, manufacturers, packaging suppliers, and retailers.ⁱ

All Good
Alter Eco
Amalgamated Bank
Amy's Kitchen, Inc.
Ashland Food Co-op
Avegan Beauty, Ecco Bella, New Earth Beauty
Biotic Brands Kvass
Boise Consumer Co-op
Boulder Organic Foods
Briar Patch Food Co-op
Brigantine Villas Condominium Association, Inc.
Califia Farms
Cambridge Naturals
Carbon Credit Capital, LLC
Cheer Pack N.A.
Clif Bar & Co
Climate Dads
Clover Sonoma
Community Food Co-op
Dr. Bronner's

Elk Packaging
Falcon Trading Company/SunRidge Farms
Fresca Foods
Future/ Proof Brands LLC
Gaia Herbs
Glen's Garden Market
Grove Collaborative
Guayaki Yerba Mate
Healthy Way Market
HigherRing
Hummingbird Wholesale
Imagine Baking
inNative
Just Salad LLC
Kamut International, Ltd.
Keap Candles
Kimberton Whole Foods
KitchenTown

Lopez Foods & Dorada Foods
Lotus Foods
Lundberg Family Farms
Mango Materials
Marin Restorative Communications
MMercer Consulting
MOM's Organic Market
Moon Valley Organics
Nana Joe's
Napa Green
Nature's Path
Navitas Organics
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp.
NY NJ Food Guru
Okina
Organic Valley
Perfect Supplements
Planet FWD
Plastic Pollution Solutions
Pure Strategies
r.Cup

Resort World of Orlando, Inc.
Rivanna Natural Designs
Runaton
Salt Palm Development, Inc
Source Organic
Straus Family Creamery
Studio Airstream
SunLeaf Naturals
Teadora Beauty
The Green Engineer
The Reno Spa Owners Association, Inc.
The Suites at Steamboat Owners Association, Inc.
Thinkshift
Ucapture Inc
Uncommon Cacao
United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI)
Vital Plan
W.S. Badger Company
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates
Yellow Emperor

ⁱ Locations where these businesses have headquarters or operations:

CA, CO, CT, D.C., FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IN, KY, MA, MI, MD, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NM, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, , SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, , VT, WA, WI, WV, WY