April 21, 2020

Open Letter to Our Networks: Joint Request to Congressional Leaders

Dear Higher Education Colleagues and Friends:

On March 24, we sent a joint letter to Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and House Minority Leader McCarthy, urging these esteemed leaders to ensure that their response to the COVID-19 crisis wouldn’t also compound the public and economic crisis that is climate change.

Each of you is not simply just a member of one or more of our organizations; you are our organizations. Your knowledge, experience, and expertise is what drives the work that we do to address and solve global environmental problems. The research and work that is done at your institutions, helps improve your campuses, communities, and our global economy. We are proud to work with you in partnership to support that work, and to carry out joint organizational efforts such as this letter to Congressional Leaders to ensure that the higher education sector voice is heard.

While the $2 trillion stimulus package does not include any clean energy incentives, it does include one major environmental and public health win. President Trump and some Congressional members asked for a measure that would result in funding going toward filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and thankfully, this measure was not included in the final bill.

As independent organizations and as a united voice when the opportunity presents itself, we will continue to ensure that the higher education sector is represented in climate policy.

We remain united as one community.

Thank you,

Tim Carter
President
Second Nature

Georges Dyer
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Intentional Endowments Network

Mike Moss
President
Society for College and University Planning

Debra Rowe
President
U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development

Meghan Fay Zahniser
Executive Director
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Michelle Wyman
Executive Director
National Center for Science and the Environment

E. Lander Medlin
Executive Vice President
APPA – Leadership in Educational Facilities