



April 8, 2019

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We, the members of the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club board, recognize the urgency of the climate crisis facing our planet. A divided Congress and a flood of fossil fuel money stand in our way, but we have the ability, and the responsibility, to build a solid legislative foundation for the future.

Fortunately, a roadmap was laid out by our Democratic Party leaders 86 years ago in the form of the New Deal. It was a bold plan, derided as socialist and unaffordable during the intense hardship of the Great Depression. The coalition of labor unions; blue-collar workers; racial, ethnic, and religious minorities; farmers; white Southerners; intellectuals, and Democratic state party organizations and city machines pushed to make it happen. Our party dominated the political landscape for the next 35 years thanks to the effectiveness of the audacious plan and consolidation of the coalition.

Our board recognizes the many benefits bestowed upon us personally by the New Deal. We have utilized schools built by the Works Progress Administration, enjoyed recreation areas built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and know well the local, iconic works created by the Federal Art Project. Therefore, we have seen the impossible achieved and know the effects of the programs have carried on to this day.

A strong Green New Deal is our opportunity to lead boldly in the face of the seemingly insurmountable crises of the 21st Century. Last month, children from all over the world participated in the Climate March. They are begging us to find answers. We must not let them down.

Moneyed interests and naysayers are blocking us. To allow them to win is to give our planet up for dead. This is not an option. Our parents and grandparents invested in our futures with the New Deal. They had the courage to stand up to the titans of their day. We feel it is our duty to do the same for our heirs.

Our historical coalition thirsts for legislative leadership in the evolution of the Green New Deal. The 80th anniversary of important New Deal projects, such as the legendary Santa Monica City Hall, dedicated on November 24, 1939, is on the horizon. Thousands of New Deal anniversaries will pass before the 2020 elections. Each remembrance is an opportunity to coalesce our coalition around a Green New Deal. The opportunity to present a modern legislative package connected with the historical validation of our ideas creates a perfect storm. We will need it to defeat the catastrophic storms.

We ask you to work to build the Green New Deal from a hashtag to concrete legislation with the spirit of our New Deal forbearers. We ask you to do this despite the realities of the current Congressional make-up, despite events such as the historical oil boom in the Permian Basin. To do so will guarantee our grandchildren the opportunity to enjoy a most precious gift, a stable planet. Without it, nothing else matters.

Thank you,

Edie Ortenberg, PPDC board member
On behalf of the board of the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club