

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States

Mr. John Podesta
Senior Advisor to the President of the United States

Mr. Ali Zaidi
White House National Climate Advisor

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden, Mr. Podesta and Mr. Zaidi,

Following the hottest decade and the hottest year [on record](#), scientists [anticipate](#) another record-breaking summer of extreme heat, violent hurricanes, and other climate disasters. Recent [polling](#) shows that swift, transformative action to address the climate crisis has a wide and increasingly popular mandate, [especially](#) from Black, Latine and other communities of color [and Indigenous people](#) who are most impacted by climate change, fossil fuel pollution, economic disinvestment, and systemic racism.

On behalf of millions of members and supporters that span generations, race, class, constituency, and geography, **we urge you to declare a national climate emergency, protect frontline communities and workers, and advance your administration’s historic [commitments](#) to “transition away from fossil fuels” to a just and renewable energy future.**

As young people, workers, and communities most harmed by the health and climate impacts driven by fossil fuels, we applaud and thank the administration for its decision to pause new fossil gas (LNG) export authorizations. There is no room in our carbon budget for new fossil fuel projects, evident by the International Energy Agency’s [report](#) that there can be no new investments in coal, oil, or gas to meet the world’s climate goals. The pause is an urgent first step toward ending fossil fuel expansion, phasing out fossil fuel production, and ensuring a just transition for workers and communities that [honors](#) the sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples and their stewardship of the land. The Department of Energy should use this time to develop a robust public interest test to evaluate new gas exports’ effects on environmental justice, public health, worker safety, domestic energy costs and supply, biodiversity, the climate, and the public at large.

The United States leads the world in oil and gas [production](#), [exports](#), and [expansion](#). Fossil fuel production and combustion are the core drivers of the global climate emergency – [responsible](#) for nearly 90% of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions and more than 75% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

We must instead invest trillions of dollars in renewable energy and transportation, green union jobs, and climate justice. The renewable energy transition must be grounded in justice including the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples to redress the climate, racial, socioeconomic, and ecological injustices of the fossil fuel era. Renewable energy innovation must also be accompanied by aggressive demand reduction and innovation in the way we obtain and use minerals to avoid perpetuating the harms of extraction – especially given the disproportionate impacts of U.S. domestic mineral extraction on Indigenous lands.

The administration maintains extensive executive authority to confront the fossil-fueled climate emergency. The president should wield his [full presidential powers under existing statutes](#) to reject new fossil fuel projects, phase out fossil fuel production, and hold big polluters accountable. We ask your administration to vigorously defend the LNG pause, as well as to halt all other federal fossil fuel approvals and phase down fossil fuel production on federal lands and waters.

Additionally, by declaring a climate emergency under the National Emergencies Act and the Stafford Act, the administration has the opportunity to unlock emergency powers to further scale up renewables, shift off fossil fuels, and protect workers and communities as follows:

Declare climate change a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (NEA) and advance the end of the fossil fuel era. Under the NEA, the President should use emergency powers to pause all new crude oil exports and halt the hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars that fund coal, oil, and gas projects abroad.

Declare climate change a national emergency under the Stafford Act and re-imagine FEMA to be an engine of the just and equitable energy transition. With a [practice](#) of building communities back to fossil fuel status quo and [discriminating against](#) low-income and communities of color for agency relief, FEMA is not fit to tackle the climate emergency. But the emergency agency can and should change. As a start, the President should [declare the climate crisis an emergency](#) – and a major disaster upon state requests – under the Stafford Act to unlock desperately needed federal funds for state, Tribal, and local governments. These funds should be directed toward advancing the just and clean energy transition in climate-vulnerable communities, including deploying community-based solar energy systems and storage, cooling and resilience worker centers, and energy efficiency technologies. FEMA should also be

reformed to recognize extreme heat and wildfire smoke as major disasters to deliver accessible financial help to communities.

Redirect all agency funds towards renewable energy and away from fossil fuels to build back fossil-free in impacted communities. Federal agencies currently invest billions in supporting the status quo fossil fuel system, including through false solutions like biomass, hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage. Instead, the funds that agencies currently direct toward fossil fuels should be redirected toward clean and renewable energy systems, including but not limited to:

- FEMA and HUD funds that currently support fossil fuel infrastructure ought to be redirected toward resilient, community-based renewable energy systems in environmental justice communities;
- Department of Interior, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, and other funds that currently support fossil fuel production and permitting ought to be redirected toward implementing programs like a managed decline of fossil fuel production on federal lands and waters; the American Climate Corps; renewable energy deployment on rooftops, canals, and other built structures, with no false solutions; and investing in new economies through oil well cleanup and remediation; and
- Development Finance Corporation and Export-Import Bank funds invested in fossil fuels projects abroad ought to be redirected toward the Green Climate Fund, Loss & Damage Fund, and renewable, clean energy projects bound by internationally recognized due diligence mechanisms including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Establish high labor standards to protect workers against extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate emergencies through strong Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. OSHA should expedite an emergency temporary standard for occupational heat exposure that applies when the heat index reaches 80°F—a temperature associated with increased rates of serious heat-related illnesses—and require employers to take the necessary and readily implementable steps to prevent harm to their workers, such as providing water, rest breaks, and access to cool or shaded areas.

We look forward to working with your administration to implement these actions and we thank you in advance for your leadership.

Original Signers

1. Better Brazoria
2. Campus Climate Network

3. Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
4. Center for Biological Diversity
5. Center for Popular Democracy
6. Churches United for Fair Housing
7. Climate Justice Alliance
8. Earthworks
9. Food & Water Watch
10. Fridays For Future NYC
11. Fridays For Future USA
12. Green New Deal Network
13. GreenFaith
14. Hip Hop Caucus
15. Indigenous Environmental Network
16. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
17. Labor Network for Sustainability
18. Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
19. Movement Rights
20. Oil Change International
21. One PA
22. Port Arthur Community Action Network(PACAN)
23. Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights
24. RISE St. James
25. Rutgers AAUP-AFT
26. Society of Native Nations
27. Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic (SILA)
28. Sunrise Movement
29. United Teachers Los Angeles
30. Vessel Project of Louisiana
31. Youth United for Climate Crisis Action
32. 7 Directions of Service

National Organizations

33. AFGE Council 238
34. Alaska Wilderness League
35. Alliance for Democracy
36. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
37. Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc
38. Animas Valley Institute
39. Anthropocene Alliance

40. Backbone Campaign
41. Between the Waters
42. Beyond Extreme Energy (BXE)
43. Black Girl Environmentalist
44. Bold Alliance
45. Breast Cancer Action
46. CASA
47. Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
48. Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)
49. Cheyenne River Grassroots Collective
50. Climate Crisis Solutions
51. Climate Defenders
52. Climate Equity Policy Center
53. Climate Families NYC
54. Climatedama
55. Coalition to Protect New York
56. Common Defense
57. Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona University
58. Ecoaction Committee of the Green Party of the United States
59. Ecology Network
60. EcoPoetry.org
61. Elders Climate Action
62. Elders Climate Action - Arizona Chapter
63. Empathy Surplus Network USA
64. Endangered Species Coalition
65. Energy Equity Project
66. Extinction Rebellion DC
67. Extinction Rebellion Seattle
68. Faculty Staff Divestment Network (FSDN)
69. Flight Free USA
70. FracTracker Alliance
71. Fuerza Mundial Global
72. Gen-Z for Change
73. Global Warming Education Network (GWEN)
74. GreenLatinos
75. Greenpeace USA
76. Healthy Ocean Coalition
77. Heartwood
78. Intheshadowofthewolf
79. Jane Fonda Climate PAC

80. Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary
81. LaPlaca and Associates LLC
82. Make the Road Nevada
83. Mother Earth Sustainable Agriculture Association MASAA
84. Mothers Out Front NY
85. Move to Amend
86. Music Declares Emergency US
87. National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR)
88. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
89. Nicaragua Center for Community Action
90. Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
91. Nuclear Information and Resource Service ("for a nuclear-free, carbon-free world")
92. Oil and Gas Action Network
93. Paradise Las Vegas Indivisible
94. Pelican Media
95. People Power United
96. Presente.org
97. Property Rights and Pipeline Center
98. Putnam Progressive
99. Rachel Carson Council
100. Re:wild Your Campus
101. Resource Renewal Institute
102. RESTORE: The North Woods
103. Rise to Thrive
104. Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
105. Scientist Rebellion, Turtle Island
106. Seeding Sovereignty
107. Sequoia ForestKeeper
108. Seventh Generation
109. SoCal 350 Climate Action
110. SolidarityINFOService
111. South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
112. Syracuse Cultural Workers
113. The Climate Museum
114. The Enchanted Biscuit
115. The Enviro Show
116. Third Act Virginia
117. Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
118. Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley
119. Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

120. Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
121. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
122. United for Peace and Justice
123. US High Speed Rail Association
124. Warheads to Windmills Coalition
125. WE ACT for Environmental Justice
126. Wild Heritage Planners
127. Young, Gifted & Green
128. #unify Movements
129. 198 methods
130. 350.org

State and Local Organizations

131. Action Together New Jersey
132. Active San Gabriel Valley
133. AFGE Local 704
134. Air Alliance Houston
135. Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
136. Alliance for a Green Economy
137. Alliance for Collective Action
138. Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Dem. Party
139. Arizona Climate Action Coalition
140. ARTivism Virginia
141. Athens County's Future Action Network, ACFAN.org
142. Bay Area-System Change not Climate Change
143. Be The Change - Colorado
144. Bergen County Immigration Strategy Group
145. Big Reuse
146. Breach Collective
147. Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
148. Breathe Project
149. CA Youth vs. Big Oil
150. California Communities Against Toxics
151. CASE Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
152. Center for Coalfield Justice
153. Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War
154. Chatham Research Group
155. Church Women United in New York State
156. Citizen Action of New York

157. Citizens Caring for the Future
158. Clean Energy Action
159. Climate & Resilience Education Task Force
160. Climate Collaboratory
161. Climate Conversation Brazoria County
162. Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG)
163. Climate Generation
164. Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast
165. Climate Reality Project - Northern Colorado Chapter
166. Climate Reality Project Bay Area Chapter
167. Climate Reality Project NEO
168. Climate Reality Project No. Virginia
169. Climate Reality Project San Francisco Policy Action
170. Climate Reality Project, North Broward and Palm Beach County, FL Chapter
171. Climate Reality Project, NOVA Chapter
172. Color Brighton Green
173. Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate
174. Colorado Thrives Coalition
175. Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
176. Connected Chef
177. Delaware Riverkeeper Network
178. Democrat Socialists of America - Knoxville, TN
179. Divest NJ
180. Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
181. Don't Waste Arizona
182. DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving
183. Earth Ethics. Inc
184. Earth Justice Action Group of ERUUF (Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)
185. Earth Justice Team, Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun
186. Earthrise Indivisible
187. East Valley Indivisibles
188. Eco Justice Collaborative (Quaker)
189. Ecologistics, Inc.
190. Elders Climate Action - Massachusetts Chapter
191. Elders Climate Action (ECA) Northern California (NorCal) Chapter
192. Elders Climate Action (ECA) Southern California (SoCal) Chapter
193. Electrify Corvallis
194. Empower Our Future
195. Environmental Justice Ministry, Emerson UU Church
196. Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint

197. Extinction Rebellion Houston
198. Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
199. Florida Rising
200. For the Many
201. Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice (Illinois)
202. FreshWater Accountability Project Ohio
203. Fridays for Future Orange County
204. Friends of the Bitterroot
205. Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.
206. Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia
207. Granite State Organizing Project
208. Great Plains Action Society
209. Green Party of Florida
210. Green Party of NY
211. Green Party of Onondaga County
212. Greenbelt Climate Action Network
213. Greenpeace Hawaii
214. Gulf of Maine EcoArts
215. HealthLink
216. Healthy Gulf
217. Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group
218. Idle No More SF Bay
219. Immaculate Heart Community Environmental Commission
220. Indivisible Colorado
221. Indivisible San Jose
222. Indivisible Tacoma
223. Inland Mendocino Democratic Club
224. Inspiration of Sedona
225. Interfaith EarthKeepers
226. Judson Memorial Church
227. Just Transition Collective
228. Justice Ministries Committee, Presbytery of New York City
229. Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition
230. Kickapoo Peace Circle
231. Labor Rise Climate Jobs Action Group
232. Liveable Arlington
233. Locust Point Community Garden
234. Long Island Progressive Coalition
235. Louisiana Just Recovery Network
236. LUCHA (Living United for Change in AZ)

237. Maine People's Alliance
238. Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
239. Maryland Ornithological Society
240. Mass. Peace Action
241. Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
242. Michigan Alliance for Justice In Climate
243. Michigan Climate Action Network
244. Michigan United
245. Milwaukee Riverkeeper
246. MN350
247. Mothers Out Front
248. Mothers Out Front Tompkins
249. Mountain Watershed Association
250. Move the Money–NYC
251. Native Daily Network
252. Native Movement
253. NC Climate Justice Collective
254. NC Council of Churches
255. NC Interfaith Power & Light
256. NEPA Green Coalition
257. New Hampshire Youth Movement
258. New Jersey Poor People's Campaign
259. New Mexico Climate Justice
260. New York City Labor Chorus
261. NJ State Industrial Union Council
262. North Braddock Residents For Our Future
263. North Country Earth Action
264. North Country NYPAN
265. Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
266. Northern Alaska Environmental Center
267. NYC Metro Raging Grannies
268. Occupy Bergen County
269. Oilfield Witness
270. Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
271. Outdoor Promise
272. PASUP Pittsburghers Against Single Use Plastic
273. Pax Christi New York State
274. Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
275. People of Albany United for Safe Energy (PAUSE)
276. Peoples Climate Movement - NY

277. Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
278. Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter
279. PJALS
280. Pollution Free Society
281. Pop Earth
282. Progress Texas
283. Progressive Democrats of America, Oregon Chapter
284. Progressive Maryland
285. Progressives for Climate
286. Project Outreach: The Frac Sand Sentinel
287. Public Justice Center
288. Putting Down Roots
289. Quittapahilla Watershed Association
290. Raptors Are The Solution
291. Rise Up WV
292. Rowan Environmental Action League
293. Rutgers Adjunct Union (PTLFC-AAUP-AFT)
294. Salish Sea Action Collective
295. San Antonio Alliance of Teachers and Support Personnel (NEA/AFT Local 67)
296. San Antonio Bay Waterkeeper
297. San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
298. San Francisco Climate Emergency Coalition
299. San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
300. SanDiego350
301. Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
302. Santa Fe Forest Coalition
303. Save Our Shores
304. Save RGV
305. Save the Dismal
306. SEE (Social Eco Education)
307. Selkirk Conservation Alliance
308. Seneca Lake Guardian
309. Sheffield Saves
310. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
311. Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
312. Sixth Fest
313. Sixth Street Community Center
314. Snake River Alliance
315. Social Justice Ministry, Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
316. Society of Fearless Grandmothers Santa Barbara

317. South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc
318. South Seattle Climate Action Network
319. South Shore Audubon Society | Freeport, NY
320. Sprout NOLA
321. Start:Empowerment
322. Stone Crab Alliance
323. Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
324. Sunrise Durham
325. Sunrise Movement New Orleans
326. Sunrise Movement San Diego
327. Sunrise Seattle
328. Sustainable Arizona
329. Sustainable CSRA
330. Sustainable Mill Valley
331. Sustainable Resilient Longmont
332. TakeAction Minnesota
333. Tenakee Logging Company
334. Texas Campaign for the Environment
335. The Clean Air Coalition of Western New York
336. The Wei LLC
337. Third Act North Carolina Working Group
338. Tongass Forest Women's Earth & Climate Action Network
339. Trade Justice New York Metro
340. Transition Sebastopol
341. Turtle Island Restoration Network
342. Unitarian Universalist Community Congregation of Santa Monica
343. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey
344. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis Climate Action Team
345. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hidalgo County Texas
346. Unite North Metro Denver
347. United Student Leaders
348. United University Professions
349. Upper West Side Recycling
350. Uptown Progressive Action, a NYPAN chapter
351. Valley Watch, Inc
352. Vote Climate
353. Wall of Women
354. Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
355. Waterspirit
356. WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

- 357. West Dryden Residenta Against the Pipeline
- 358. West End Revitalization Association WERA
- 359. Wild Watershed
- 360. Workers Defense Action Fund
- 361. WV Citizen Action
- 362. Youth Climate Strike Los Angeles
- 363. 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
- 364. 350 Bay Area Action
- 365. 350 Bucks County
- 366. 350 Chicago
- 367. 350 Colorado
- 368. 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
- 369. 350 Côte d'Ivoire
- 370. 350 Eugene
- 371. 350 Humboldt
- 372. 350 Mass
- 373. 350 Montana
- 374. 350 Montgomery County LLC
- 375. 350 New Hampshire
- 376. 350 Pittsburgh
- 377. 350 Seattle
- 378. 350 Triangle
- 379. 350Brooklyn
- 380. 350Hawaii
- 381. 350Kishwaukee
- 382. 350PDX
- 383. 350VT

International Organizations

- 384. ActionAid USA
- 385. American Jewish World Service
- 386. Awasqa: The Green Network Project
- 387. Care About Climate
- 388. Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)
- 389. Conceivable Future
- 390. Ecological Health Network
- 391. End Fossil Occupy Uganda
- 392. Fast Action on Climate to Ensure (FACE) Intergenerational Justice
- 393. Green Cross Hungary

394. Happy Crone Activists for the Future
395. HBS/Harvard Alumni for Climate Action
396. Human Nature
397. IDEAS For Us
398. International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
399. International Monitor Formosa Plastics Alliance
400. International Student Environmental Coalition
401. Justice Environment
402. Justice for Formosa Victims
403. Justice is Global
404. Liberty Tree
405. Mission Blue
406. Natural Capitalism Solutions
407. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
408. Ocean Conservation Research
409. Plastic Pollution Coalition
410. Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition
411. Project Dandelion
412. Rainforest Action Network
413. Stand.earth
414. Terra Advocati
415. The Forest Foundation
416. The Last Plastic Straw
417. The Ocean Project
418. The People's Justice Council
419. The Quantum Institute
420. The Resilient40 (R40)
421. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
422. Vegan Flag
423. Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
424. Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
425. Zero Hour
426. Znetwork.org