

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2022

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We share your belief that climate change is not only a crisis, but also an unprecedented opportunity to revitalize communities across the United States. We applaud that your administration has worked to prioritize climate since day one, despite many challenges. Given the scope and urgency of the crisis, we request that you move to use the full power of the executive branch to combat climate change by declaring a national climate emergency. Such a declaration would unlock the broad powers of the National Emergency Act (NEA), the Defense Production Act (DPA), and the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to revitalize the economy, create millions of new, well-paying American jobs, and invest in healthy and resilient communities.

Under the NEA, we can reinstate the ban on crude oil exports, suspend offshore fossil fuel leases, curb fossil fuel imports, and halt the hundreds of billions of dollars in investments in fossil fuel projects abroad. Reining in our reliance on dirty fossil fuels is a critical part of protecting and ensuring the health of our communities, particularly Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other communities of color who disproportionately suffer at the hands of polluters. In addition, invoking the Stafford Act and DPA will allow your administration to take essential steps toward strengthening our emergency preparedness, a critical component of dealing with the realities of climate change for millions of vulnerable Americans in thousands of high-risk communities. The most recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change urges us to do just that: adapt, while protecting our most vulnerable communities.

A national emergency declaration will also allow the United States to mobilize domestic industry, ramp up domestic manufacturing of clean energy technologies, and deploy resilient energy infrastructure. The recent conflict between Russia and Ukraine underscores the need to shift from reliance on foreign oil and gas toward domestic renewable energy. We have the tools to build up a stronger renewable energy industry in America, generating millions of high-quality American jobs and rejuvenating our post-pandemic economy.

We urge you to support the National Climate Emergency Act of 2021 (H.R. 794/ S. 938), introduced by Representatives Blumenauer and Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Sanders, which mandates a national climate emergency declaration and outlines the federal response, including principles of a just transition.

We do not request this declaration lightly. We recognize the gravity of invoking a president's emergency powers. If ever there was ever an emergency that demanded this level of ambitious action, it is the climate crisis. We urge you to act boldly, treating this like the emergency it is, by declaring a national climate emergency.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed. D.
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver II
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Marie Newman
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress