July 13, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chair Rosa DeLauro  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chair Marcy Kaptur  
House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Boost in Congressional Funds Needed for Biden’s Recent Defense Production Act Clean Energy Orders

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Chair DeLauro, and Chair Kaptur,

In June, President Biden invoked the Defense Production Act (DPA) to spur domestic manufacturing of solar and energy conservation technologies to combat the country’s energy insecurity and climate crises. We applaud and express great gratitude for the inclusion of $100 million in initial funding in the base House Energy & Water Appropriation for the Department of Energy. While this is an excellent first step, the Supreme Court in West Virginia v. EPA has since dealt a devastating blow to the administration’s ability to regulate greenhouse gasses. As a result, it is absolutely critical Congress do everything in its power to end our reliance on dirty and expensive fossil fuels, and usher in a swift transition to renewable energy. In order to meet these urgent goals, we, the undersigned environmental, conservation, and labor organizations1, respectfully request that the House of Representatives urgently increase funding for these DPA clean energy orders to the maximum amount possible in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations package.

Currently, families are struggling under the crushing weight of inflation, skyrocketing utility bills, and a persistent cycle of utility shut offs and debt. At the same time, our over reliance on volatile dirty energy continues to fuel ever-intensifying climate disasters that threaten our grid’s resilience and communities’ safety and ability to adapt to the climate emergency.

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The President’s DPA clean energy orders directly address rising energy insecurity, the climate emergency, and the opportunity to generate thousands of clean energy jobs with strong labor standards. The orders recognize that “clean energy technologies are a critical part of the arsenal we must harness to lower energy costs for families, reduce risks to our power grid, and tackle the urgent crisis of a changing climate.” Moreover, the Administration’s prioritization of strong labor standards, due diligence standards, community benefits, and environmental justice is integral to facilitating a just transition for workers and frontline communities to a renewable and just energy system.

Now that President Biden has taken this necessary and historic step to authorize action, we urge Congress to support this effort with equally expeditious and complementary action through appropriations. In order to realize the full potential of the DPA clean energy orders, it is imperative that Members of Congress—and particularly the House Appropriations Committee—appropriate the maximum amount possible to the Department of Energy’s relevant offices, including the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains Offices.

There is broad House support for funding the DPA to address energy insecurity and the climate emergency. Congresswoman Cori Bush, Congressman Jason Crow, and Senator Bernie Sanders—and 44 other House representatives—introduced the Energy Security and Independence Act of 2022, which calls for a $100 billion investment in such DPA orders. The House Congressional Progressive Caucus, the League of Conservation Voters, and more than 80 other organizations have supported this effort, but 1/1000th of the funding in that bill will not be sufficient to meet the President’s goals. Estimates have demonstrated that funding upwards of $100 billion is needed to spur the renewable and just energy transition we urgently need to meet the President’s climate goals. While we understand the limitations of the appropriations process to provide this level of funding, we request the Committee to take a necessary step in this direction and appropriate the maximum possible towards building a more secure energy future.

Our energy system must undergo a transformation if we are to tackle the climate emergency with the urgency it necessitates, meet the President’s clean electricity goals, and importantly build an energy system that ensures all Americans have access to a secure, safe, and renewable future. Robust funding for these DPA clean energy orders through the DOE is an essential next step.

Sincerely,

[Signatures begin on next page.]

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3 For any inquiries, please contact Gaby Sarri-Tobar (gsarritobar@biologicaldiversity.org).
**SIGNATORIES**

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Michigan Environmental
Justice Coalition

Revolving Door Project

Sierra Club

Solar United Neighbors

Stand.Earth

Sunrise Movement

The Association of Young
Americans

The Climate Mobilization MoCo

Vote Solar