

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.

¹ Thousands of organizations across the country support the President's invocation of the DPA for renewable energy and energy conservation technologies. See <https://buildbackfossilfree.org/letter/> (1,140 organizations), https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/energy-justice/pdfs/2022-4-27_Letter-to-Pres-Biden-re-End-Fossil-Fuel-Era-Accelerate-Transition-to-Renewable-Energy.pdf (520+ organizations), and <https://protectingamerica.net/national-climate-emergency-letter/> (569 elected officials), <https://www.stand.earth/bidendpasignon> (200+ organizations).

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.² 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.³

Sincerely,

[Signatures begin on next page.]

² See, e.g., America’s Zero Carbon Action Plan, The Zero Carbon Consortium, (2020), <https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/6f2c9f57/files/uploaded/zero-carbon-action-plan%20%281%29.pdf> (citing investments of \$500 billion per year, over 4 years, to achieve a clean energy economy); Elected Officials for Protecting America, “National Climate Emergency Plan”, <https://protectingamerica.net/plan/> (calling for \$350 billion in federal investment to respond to the climate emergency).

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

SIGNATORIES

APPALACHIAN VOICES

CEDAR LANE UU CHURCH

**CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

CLEAN ENERGY FREEDOM

CLIMATE & COMMUNITY PROJECT

CLIMATE HAWKS VOTE

COMMON DEFENSE

EARTHWORKS

**ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PROTECT
AMERICA**

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

FOOD AND WATER WATCH

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

**GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS
MOBILIZATION**

GREEN NEW DEAL NETWORK

GREEN WORKERS ALLIANCE

GREENLATINOS

GREENPEACE

**INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL
NETWORK**

INDIVISIBLE

**IUE-CWA (INDUSTRIAL DIVISION-
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF
AMERICA)**

**LABOR NETWORK FOR
SUSTAINABILITY**

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

**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