

July 13, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Majority Whip
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chair Patrick Leahy
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chair Dianne Feinstein
Senate Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: CONGRESSIONAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BIDEN'S RECENT DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT CLEAN ENERGY ORDERS

Dear Leader Schumer, Chair Leahy, and Chair Feinstein,

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, the undersigned environmental, conservation, and labor organizations¹, respectfully request that the Senate appropriate the maximum funds possible for the clean energy orders 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 shutoffs 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.

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.

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).

Now that President Biden has taken this necessary and historic step, we urge Congress to support this effort with equally expeditious and bold action. In order to realize the full potential of the DPA clean energy orders, it is imperative that Members of Congress appropriate the maximum funds possible for the DPA clean energy orders in the FY2023 appropriations package.

There is broad Senate support for funding the DPA to address energy insecurity and the climate emergency. Senators Bernie Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Elizabeth Warren, Chris Murphy, Alex Padilla, and Ed Markey co-sponsored the Energy Security and Independence Act of 2022, which calls for a \$100 billion investment in such DPA orders. 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 Senate to take a necessary step in this direction and appropriate maximum funding 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.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