

May 30, 2023

To: The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, House Minority Leader  
Members of Congress

**Re: Support for Voting for Clean Debt Ceiling Bill and Opposition to Poison Pills:  
Completing Mountain Valley Pipeline, Undermining the National Environmental Policy  
Act, Harming Disadvantaged Communities**

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, House Minority Leader Jeffries, and all Members of Congress:

On behalf of frontline communities, as well as environmental, environmental justice, and other organizations representing millions of members and supporters nationwide, we are writing to express our great opposition to several poison pills in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, including but not limited to the completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, rollbacks to the National Environmental Policy Act, and the stripping of social benefits for disadvantaged communities. **We strongly urge Congress to vote on a clean debt ceiling bill and reject these poison pills.**

We urge Congress to pass a clean debt ceiling bill free of unnecessary poison pill riders that would harm disadvantaged communities, Tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples, working families, and the physical environment.

We oppose several poison pills in the bill that have no place in legislation addressing the country's financial debt obligations:

- **Greenlighting the climate-killing Mountain Valley Pipeline**, which [over 750 frontline communities and environmental justice organizations](#) have vehemently opposed. This project is equivalent to the emissions from 26 coal plants and would sacrifice Appalachian communities to decades more of hazardous pollution.
- **Rolling back the National Environmental Policy Act**, including provisions that limit the public's ability to provide input on fossil fuel projects and other destructive developments that would harm the communities most burdened by pollution, while allowing corporate polluters to effectively rubberstamp the projects they're proposing.
- **Freezing non-defense spending** and weakening agencies' ability to protect communities and the environment.
- **Stripping families of vital social safety net benefits** like food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by imposing work requirements.

- **Cutting the IRS' budget** which weakens its ability to crack down on wealthy individuals and big corporations evading tax payment.
- **Restarting student loan payments** for millions of Americans.

Congress must pass a clean debt ceiling bill. This is the only moral and just path forward for lawmakers.

Sincerely,

1. Center for Biological Diversity
2. Food & Water Watch
3. Friends of the Earth
4. Indigenous Environmental Network
5. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
6. Oil Change International
7. Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)
8. People's Justice Council
9. 7 Directions of Service
10. 198 methods
11. Greenpeace USA
12. WE ACT for Environmental Justice
13. GreenLatinos
14. Earthworks
15. 350.org
16. Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
17. Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
18. Sunrise Movement Education Fund
19. Our Revolution
20. Chesapeake Climate Action Network
21. 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
22. 350 Bay Area Action
23. 350 Chicago
24. 350 Colorado
25. 350CT
26. 350 Eugene
27. 350 San Luis Obispo
28. 350 Seattle
29. 350 Triangle
30. 350Hawaii
31. 350MA- Berksires

32. 350Merced
33. Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
34. Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
35. American Rivers
36. Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc
37. Arm in Arm 4 Climate DC
38. ARTivism Virginia
39. Better Brazoria Clean Air & Water
40. Better Path Coalition
41. Between the Waters
42. Beyond Extreme Energy
43. Beyond Nuclear
44. Black Millennials 4 Flint
45. Bold Alliance
46. Boston Clean Energy Coalition
47. Building Equity & Alignment
48. Businesses for a Livable Climate
49. Call to Action Colorado
50. CatholicNetwork US
51. Center for International Environmental Law
52. Center for Popular Democracy
53. Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)
54. Chatham Research Group
55. Chicago Benedictines for Peace
56. Christians For The Mountains
57. Church Women United in New York State
58. Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
59. Citizens Awareness Network
60. Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
61. Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)
62. Clean Water for North Carolina
63. Climate Action Team, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth
64. Climate and Community Project
65. Climate Critical
66. Climate Justice Alliance
67. Climate Reality Project, North Broward and Palm Beach County Chapter
68. CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
69. Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
70. Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
71. Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate

72. Common Ground Rising
73. Community for Sustainable Energy
74. Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
75. CT Climate Crisis Mobilization
76. Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
77. Democratic Socialists of America - Knoxville, TN
78. Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
79. Earth Ethics, Inc.
80. Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking
81. End Climate Silence
82. Energy Allies
83. Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC
84. Equation Campaign
85. Extinction Rebellion Delaware
86. Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
87. Farmworker Association of Florida
88. Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce
89. Forest Keeper
90. Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
91. FracTracker Alliance
92. Freedom BLOC
93. Freedom Forward
94. FreshWater Accountability Project
95. Fridays For Future NYC
96. Fridays for Future US
97. Friends of the Chicago River
98. GASP
99. Giniw Collective
100. Grassroots International
101. Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
102. Green House Collaboration Center
103. GreenFaith
104. Haw River Assembly
105. Healthy Ocean Coalition
106. Honor the Earth
107. Howling For Wolves
108. Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Climate Action Campaign
109. I-70 Citizens Advisory Group
110. Indivisible Ambassadors
111. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

112. Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
113. Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group
114. IPSEC
115. Jewish Climate Action Network DMV
116. John Muir Project
117. Kickapoo Peace Circle
118. KIWA
119. Labor Network for Sustainability
120. Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & Environment
121. Littleton Business Alliance
122. Local Clean Energy Alliance
123. Los Padres Forestwatch
124. Loudoun Climate Project
125. Lutherans Restoring Creation
126. Maryland Ornithological Society
127. Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board
128. Memphis Community Against Pollution
129. Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
130. Micronesia Climate Change Alliance
131. Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
132. Mind Eye World
133. Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association
134. Mothers Out Front Tompkins
135. Movement Rights
136. MoveOn.org Hoboken
137. Natural Capitalism Solutions
138. Nature Coast Conservation
139. NC Alliance to Protect Our People and the Places We Live (APPPL)
140. NC Climate Justice Collective
141. New Mexico Climate Justice
142. New York Climate Action Group
143. New York Communities for Change
144. No North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance
145. North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
146. North Range Concerned Citizens
147. Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
148. Nuclear Information and Resource Service
149. Nukewatch
150. NYC H2O
151. Oil and Gas Action Network

152. Our Revolution Hawaii
153. Our Revolution Ocean County
154. PAEAN: Peoples Alliance for Earth Action Now
155. Pelican Media
156. Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
157. People for a Healthy Environment
158. Peoples Climate Movement-NY
159. Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
160. Plastic Pollution Coalition
161. Portland Harbor Community Coalition
162. Presente.org
163. Preserve Monroe
164. Preserve Montgomery County VA
165. Preserve Wild Santee
166. Project Eleven Hundred
167. Project Outreach: Frac Sand Sentinel
168. Protect Our Aquifer
169. PSR Arizona
170. Putnam Progressives
171. RapidShift Network
172. Raptors Are The Solution
173. RedTailed Hawk Collective
174. Resource Renewal Institute
175. Rise Up WV
176. River Guardian Foundation
177. Rogue Climate
178. Sane Energy Project
179. San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
180. Santa Cruz for Bernie
181. Santa Fe Forest Coalition
182. Save EPA
183. Save the Environmental Protection Agency
184. SAVE THE FROGS!
185. Science and Environmental Health Network
186. Scientist Rebellion
187. SEE (Social Eco Education)
188. Sequoia ForestKeeper®
189. Small Business Alliance
190. Snake River Alliance
191. SoCal 350 Climate Action

192. Social Justice Ministry of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
193. South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc
194. Southwest Organization for Sustainability
195. Sowing Justice
196. Spirit of the Sun
197. Spirit of the Sun, Inc.
198. Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
199. Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
200. Sunrise Movement NYC
201. Sustainable Practices
202. System Change Not Climate Change
203. Taproot Earth
204. Terra Advocati
205. Texas Campaign for the Environment
206. The Climate Center
207. The Green House Connection Center
208. The Manzanita Foundation
209. The Revolving Door Project
210. Third Act
211. Third Act NYC
212. Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
213. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
214. Unite North Metro Denver
215. United For Clean Energy
216. Vets for Peace
217. Wall of Women
218. Western Environmental Law Center
219. Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
220. Wild Nature Institute
221. WildEarth Guardians
222. Women Working Together USA
223. Womxn from the Mountain
224. Working for Racial Equity
225. Youth Vs Apocalypse
226. Zero Hour