

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chair, Environment & Public Works
Committee
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Congress Should Ensure the National Climate Bank / Clean Energy & Sustainability Accelerator Invests in Disadvantaged Communities

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Majority Leader Hoyer, Chairman Pallone, and Chairman Carper:

As clean energy and environmental justice advocates, we write in support of a “Clean Energy Technology Accelerator”¹ in budget reconciliation with a specific focus on addressing the energy and climate needs of disadvantaged communities. The National Climate Bank Act, S. 283 and the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Act, H.R. 806 are a good start, however the reconciliation bill must include clear language in reconciliation requiring an annual look-back period to ensure that not less than 40% of the Bank’s investment activity is directed towards disadvantaged communities facing climate impacts.

The Accelerator has the potential to provide substantive capital investments in at-risk communities, providing access to clean energy technologies in addition to universal access to energy efficiency. This will result in direct positive impacts on surrounding industries, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other public facilities, achieving carbon reductions, healthier environments, energy savings, and reduced energy burdens.

¹ The term used in Senate Majority Leader Schumer’s August 9, 2021 [Memorandum](#) on the FY22 Budget Resolution. The proposal has also been called the National Climate Bank in the Senate (S. 283, Sen. Markey, 117th) and the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator in both the House (H.R. 806, Rep. Dingell, 117th) and [President Biden’s FY2022 Budget](#), where funding was requested at \$27 billion. A previous version of the bill passed the House last Congress in H.R. 2, the INVEST in America Act (116th), and this Congress it was included in House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats’ CLEAN Future Act (H.R. 1512, 117th) and LIFT America Act (H.R. 1848, 117th).

Climate banks were envisioned to solve a capital problem in the nation's march to a clean energy future. Nowhere is this need more apparent than in the homes, industries and businesses that are representative of the disadvantaged communities the Accelerator's 40% provisions are intended to address. Absent specific annual look-back language in final legislation, we run the risk of leaving disadvantaged communities behind and developing a new energy divide.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues, and we look forward to working with you on inclusion of clear 40% provisions in the Accelerator in reconciliation legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Vincent Barnes, Alliance to Save Energy, at vbarnes@ase.org, or Kara Saul Rinaldi at kara@anndyl.com.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
American Association of Blacks in Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Brighter Green
Building Performance Association
California Efficiency Demand Management Council
Center for Biological Diversity
Climate Action Campaign (San Diego, CA)
E4TheFuture
Efficiency for All
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Green America
Green Eco Warriors
GreenLatinos
Groundswell
Institute for Market Transformation
Interfaith Power & Light
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
National Association of Energy Service Companies
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Wildlife Federation
People's Justice Council
People's Party
Rachel Carson Council
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Green Building Council

Cc:

The Honorable James Clyburn, House Majority Whip

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, Senate Budget Committee

The Honorable Edward Markey, Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, Environment and Public Works Committee

The Honorable Debbie Dingell