



September 23, 2021

Members of the United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol  
First Street SE  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Representatives,

We write to you at a consequential moment, when our country confronts multiple, severe crises—and when Congress has made substantial progress in crafting legislation that offers real solutions and can put us on a path to a thriving future.

The full Build Back Better plan currently being negotiated would put our country on the path to 100 percent clean energy, provide home health care to those who need it, replace all lead pipes that poison drinking water, build a million new units of affordable housing, add hearing, dental, and vision coverage to Medicare, ensure child tax credits aren't taken away from parents who need them, expand and electrify public transit, boost rural broadband, lower the cost of prescription drugs, provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of people, paid family and medical leave and child care, and much more. These wildly popular investments are paid for with taxes on corporations and the wealthy, which have for decades avoided contributing their fair share. Collectively, the investments would create millions of good, union jobs.

**The full Build Back Better plan makes transformational investments in our future, and all of the organizations signing this letter support it. Unfortunately, this plan—and the prospect of a successful Biden presidency—could be torpedoed by a maneuver being orchestrated by corporate lobbyists, if members of Congress go along.**

There are two parts to Build Back Better: a \$3.5 trillion investments package via the reconciliation process, as well as a smaller bipartisan infrastructure bill that goes alongside it. The vast majority of Democrats in Congress have signaled they are ready to move forward with both of these pieces of legislation. Polling shows the full package is popular. But because the full Build Back Better plan would reduce big corporations' ability to avoid taxes and engage in harmful behavior such as polluting our air and charging obscene prices for prescription drugs, corporate lobbyists are doing all they can to prevent its passage.

These lobbyists' strategy is to pass the bipartisan bill first, knowing that if it is taken off the table, that would reduce the incentive for conservative Democrats to vote for the bigger reconciliation bill. **The way to secure the best deal for the American people is to ensure**

**both bills move together—and that means rejecting lobbyists’ strategy of passing the smaller bipartisan bill through the House on September 27 without having first passed a larger reconciliation bill.**

A significant majority of voters put Democrats into power in the last elections because they wanted our government to start acting in the best interest of the public. Now it is time for Democrats to deliver. For this to happen, because their majority is narrow, Democrats from all sides of the party must come together and compromise. That’s what the full Build Back Better plan represents. It’s much smaller than policy experts’ call for \$10 trillion of investments or more. It’s much smaller than the \$6 trillion figure advanced by congressional leaders like Majority Leader Schumer. The \$3.5 trillion reconciliation figure is already a compromise, hammered out by conservative and progressive Democrats in the Senate, and it omits many wise investments while leaving significant potential revenue on the table. Progressives in Congress have been flexible and constructive throughout this negotiation and continue to work to land a reconciliation deal, but they have also been clear: they will oppose passage of just the smaller bill by itself—because it doesn’t contain the climate solutions and care, education, and economic investments we need. Passing just that small bill alone wouldn’t be a compromise; it would be a capitulation. We strongly support the position of the Congressional Progressive Caucus that **two bills must pass together**, as a critical step on the journey toward tackling the climate crisis and furthering racial and economic justice. We urge progressives to hold strong. We will have your back.

We urge all members of Congress to support the full deal including the reconciliation bill. To be clear: should the smaller, bipartisan bill come up for a vote before a reconciliation bill has passed, we urge representatives to vote no—in order to get to **yes** on Build Back Better.

Sincerely,

Green New Deal Network  
198 methods  
350 Chicago  
350 New Hampshire  
350 Triangle  
350 Vermont  
9to5 Colorado  
Alabama Interfaith Power & Light  
ARTivism Virginia  
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA  
Association of Young Americans  
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism  
AZIPL  
Backbone Campaign

Blue America  
Broward for Progress  
California Green New Deal Coalition  
Center for Coalfield Justice  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center For Sustainable Communities  
Central Florida Jobs with Justice  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Climate Reality Project, NOVA Chapter  
CODEPINK  
Colorado Fiscal Institute  
Colorado Jobs with Justice  
Colorado Working Families Party  
Communities United For Action  
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action  
DBA: A.C.E.S. 4 Youth  
Delaware Working Families Party  
Down Home NC  
Earth Rise Indivisible  
Evergreen Action  
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition  
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Family Values @ Work  
Florida Clinicians for Climate Action  
Florida Rising  
Georgia Conservation Voters  
Green Education and Legal Fund  
Green New Deal Virginia  
GreenFaith  
Greenpeace USA  
Herndon Reston Indivisible Science-Environment  
Hometown Action  
Indivisible  
Insight Center for Community Economic Development  
Iowa CCI  
JOLT USA  
Loudoun Climate Project  
Maine People's Alliance  
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action  
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light  
MoveOn Political Action  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas  
NC Climate Justice Collective

New Mexico Thrives  
New Mexico Working Families Party  
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment  
NJ Working Families  
People's Action  
Peoples Climate Movement - NY  
POWER interfaith  
Ramsey Pins  
RI Interfaith Power & Light  
Right To The City Alliance  
Rights & Democracy - NH & VT  
SEIU Local 1  
Solutionary Rail  
Sunrise Movement  
Sunrise Movement Asheville  
Sunrise Worcester  
Sustainable Roanoke  
TakeAction Minnesota  
The Climate Mobilization  
The People's Lobby  
Together Colorado  
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)  
United Vision for Idaho  
US High Speed Rail Association  
VA Justice Democrats  
Vets for the People  
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light  
Waldwick Progressives  
Women's March  
Working Families Party  
WV New Jobs Coalition  
WV Working Families