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