September 8, 2021

From: Arizona elected officials, businesses, and non-profit organizations

To: The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senator
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Subject: Arizona Leaders Voice Strong Support for Clean Electricity Payment Program

Dear Senator Kelly,

On behalf of our organizations and your constituents who we represent, we urge you to ensure the Clean Electricity Payment Program receives the full funding of $150 billion dollars as part of the infrastructure reconciliation package and not a dollar less.

The Clean Electricity Payment Program is an essential component of President Biden’s build back better agenda. By ensuring that 80% of our electricity is powered by clean energy sources by 2030, this payment program will save 317,000 lives, create more than 500,000 new jobs, not increase electricity costs, and maintain the reliability of the grid according to a meta-analysis of 7 independent models.

Fully funding the Clean Electricity Program is essential for it to function effectively and equitably and it is something that particularly benefits Arizona with our enormous solar resources, but also with many communities that need additional investments, including areas such as the Navajo Nation. Congress must ensure there is enough funding to ensure utilities can retire dirty fossil fuel power plants that they have not finished paying off, without passing those costs on to ratepayers, especially those who can least afford it.

To guarantee the Clean Electricity Payment Program and all the other priorities such as the $300 billion clean energy tax incentives in the reconciliation package can be fully funded, it is important to ensure the topline number of $3.5 trillion remains constant. We urge you to oppose any attempt to decrease the overall spending level of the reconciliation package.

As you know, Arizona is on the front lines of the climate crisis -- we cannot afford to wait for actions. We continue to see extreme heat, weather, and drought, plus larger wildfires due to our changing climate. That is why we need to act now at a scale to address this significant issue. These important climate investments will both help us move toward stabilizing the climate, but also will benefit our communities with clean energy jobs, cleaner air, and reduced water use. Recent analysis estimated that a national 80% by 2030 policy would lead to $38-48 billion in clean energy investments in Arizona.

We cannot meet President Biden’s greenhouse gas reduction goal of 50-52% by 2030 without rapidly decarbonizing the electricity sector, and providing the full $150 billion for the Clean Electricity Payment Program is crucial to clean up the electric sector.

Thank you for representing Arizona in the US Senate and on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,
Arizona Elected Officials:

Arizona State Senate Lela Alston
Arizona House of Representatives Reginald Bolding
Arizona House of Representatives Andrés Cano
Arizona House of Representatives Andrea Dalessandro
Arizona House of Representatives Mitzi Epstein
Arizona State Senate Rosanna Gabaldon
Arizona State Senate Sally Gonzales
Arizona State Senate Christine Marsh
SRP Board of Directors at-large Seat 14 Randy Miller
Arizona State Senate Peshlakai
Arizona State Senate Martin Quezada
Arizona State Senate Rebecca Rios
Arizona House of Representatives Judy Schwiebert

Arizona Businesses and Organizations:

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
Arizonans for Community Choice
Champion PR + Consulting
Chispa Arizona
Climate Reality Project Phoenix Chapter
Defend Our Future Arizona
Earth Justice Ministry
Elders Climate Action - Arizona Chapter
Enel North America
Gardens for Humanity
Greater Phoenix Chapter of the Climate Reality Project
Healthy World Sedona
Kids Climate Action Network
Mi Familia Vota
Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance
Physicians for Social Responsibility AZ Chapter
Progressive Democrats of America, Tucson, AZ Chapter
Sierra Club - Arizona Grand Canyon Chapter
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
Sunrise Movement Tempe
The Arizona Climate Action Coalition
Union of Concerned Scientists
Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation - Environmental Action Team
Western Resource Advocates