

September 8, 2021

From: Colorado businesses and non-profit organizations

To: The Honorable John Hickenlooper
United States Senator
SR-374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senator Hickenlooper,

On behalf of our organizations and your constituents who we represent, we urge you to ensure the [Clean Electricity Payment Program](#) receives \$150 billion in funding as part of the budget reconciliation package working its way through Congress.

The Clean Electricity Payment Program is an essential component of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda and is key to addressing climate change at a national level. 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, and maintain the reliability of the grid without increasing electricity costs, according to a [meta-analysis of seven independent models](#). The Clean Electricity Payment Program should also couple high-road labor standards and domestic content utilization with payments to utilities, showing we do not have to choose between good jobs and a clean economy.

Fully funding the Clean Electricity Payment Program is essential for it to function effectively and equitably. Congress must act to ensure utilities can retire dirty fossil fuel power plants that they have not finished paying off, without passing those costs on to ratepayers.

In Colorado and across the West, communities are witnessing the intensifying effects of climate change, and they want all levels of government to take steps to address it. Polling results released this month by Data for Progress and Western Resource Advocates show that a large majority of Colorado voters support the key climate and clean energy provisions in the American Jobs Plan, and 73% of those voters support the plan's provisions to transition to a 100% clean electricity grid.

Colorado has already taken important steps to address climate change. In 2019, the state enacted the Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution, which sets science-based targets of reducing statewide greenhouse gas pollution 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050 from 2005 levels. Earlier this year Colorado legislators passed measures to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from most electricity production 80% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, cut energy waste, and power homes and businesses with clean electricity. Colorado is doing its part, and while the state needs further measures to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, federal action is needed if we are to make real progress on this front. A national 80% by 2030 policy would lead to \$15-19 billion in clean energy investments in Colorado, according to [data underlying a recent study](#).

We cannot meet President Biden's greenhouse gas reduction goal of 50-52% by 2030 without rapidly decarbonizing the electricity sector. Providing the full \$150 billion for the Clean Electricity Payment Program is crucial for cleaning up that sector.

To ensure 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.

Since you are a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we ask that you work with your colleagues to ensure the Clean Electricity Payment Program is prioritized and fully funded.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Colorado and our country.

Sincerely,

- 350 Colorado
- Blue Wave Postcard Movement
- Clean Energy Action
- Colorado Sierra Club
- Conservation Colorado
- Denver Metro Chapter Climate Reality
- Empower our Future - Colorado
- Enel North America
- Fishpond-CEO
- Further Strategies
- Future Coalition
- Hunt or Gather Buying Club LLC
- Sheep Mountain Alliance
- Signal Tech Coalition
- Southeast Colorado Renewable Energy Society
- Sunrise Colorado
- Unite North Metro Denver
- Western Resource Advocates
- WildEarth Guardians