

June 2, 2021

From: Concerned West Virginia elected officials, businesses, and non-profit organizations

To: The Honorable Joseph Manchin
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Subject: West Virginia Urgently Needs Transformative Investments in Jobs and Clean Energy

Dear Senator Manchin,

As you know, the people of West Virginia have helped power our nation for over a century. Now, our neighbors in the coal industry and coal adjacent industries, are in danger of losing their livelihoods. Ongoing coal company closures will cause pension funds for miners to run out of money without sustained support from the federal government.

West Virginia can make new good jobs remediating extraction sites and building new clean energy infrastructure. Solar, wind, and energy efficiency already employ more than 7,000 West Virginians, and that number continues to grow every year.

Clean energy will improve our public health in West Virginia. Every year 10,000 children in West Virginia suffer asthma attacks. The health benefits of widespread adoption of renewables by the state's electrical utilities over the next 15 years is likely to be at least \$500 million and may exceed \$1 billion for West Virginia residents.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's preeminent climate research organization, has recommended that global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions be reduced by 45 percent by 2030, and that the world reach net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Considering all of this information, the undersigned groups urge you to support legislation that will:

- Ensure the pensions and health insurance plans of fossil fuel workers are fully funded, extend substantial benefits to displaced workers, and put communities to work reclaiming extraction sites
- Ensure that low income communities and communities of color do not pay a disproportionate cost for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions
- Enact ambitious legislation to achieve the IPCC's benchmark of a 45 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050

Sincerely,

West Virginia Elected Officials:

- Delegate John Doyle (District 67)
- Honorable Ron Dulaney Jr. (Mayor, City of Morgantown)
- Delegate Evan Hansen (District 51)
- Councilor Wm. A. Kawecki (2nd Ward Councilor, City of Morgantown)
- Delegate Danielle Walker (District 51)

West Virginia Businesses and Organizations:

- Advancing Solar Solutions
- American Friends Service Committee
- Appalachian Community Health Emergency (ACHE)
- Appalachian People's Front
- Appalachian South Folklife Center
- Appalachian Youth Climate Coalition
- Autumn Environmental LLC
- Bella The Corner Gourmet
- Big Laurel Learning Center
- Black Bear Burritos/Black Bear Evansdale
- Blossoms and Buds
- Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition
- Brightside Acres
- Cacapon Institute
- Catholic Committee of Appalachia
- Catholics for Common Good
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network
- Christians For The Mountains
- Citizens Climate Lobby West Virginia
- Coal River Mountain Watch
- Corazon Latino
- Covenant House
- Crowe's Nest AirBnB
- Democratic Women's Club of Greenbriar County
- Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition
- Edith's Store
- Eight Rivers Council
- Enterprise Inc / S&B VL retailer
- Franciscan Action Network
- Friend's of the Narrows of Hans Creek
- Funeral Swag
- Future Generations University
- Generations Saved

- Gesundheit Institute
- Ghost Palace Books
- Greenbrier River Watershed Association
- Grow Ohio Valley
- Headwaters Hemp LLC
- Helping Paws Claws Feathers and Hooves
- Hillsboro Maple Works
- Indian Creek Watershed Association
- Jefferson County Foundation
- Jefferson County NAACP
- Jefferson County Vision
- Keeper of the Mountains Foundation
- Kid in the Background
- Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN)
- Marlyn McClendon Photography
- Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
- Moms Clean Air Force West Virginia
- Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance
- National Association of Social Workers West Virginia Chapter
- National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
- Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
- On the Levels Farmstead
- On the Streets Committee
- Organized Uplifting Resources and Strategies
- Phoenix Bakery
- Potomac Valley Audubon Society
- Preserve Monroe
- Probst Furniture Makers
- Quicken Farm
- Rainbow Farm
- Renick Box Co. LLC
- Rise Up WV
- Save Our Soil
- Schyler Nichols, Realtor
- Southern Appalachian Labor School
- Starry Eyes Media
- Summers County Huddle
- The Brain Training Center WV
- The Levels Depot
- Three Rivers Democratic Women
- TRAILS
- TWB Odyssey LLC
- Two Rivers Treads
- Water stone outdoors

- Watkins Design Works
- West Virginia Citizen Action Group
- West Virginia Climate Action
- West Virginia Climate Alliance
- West Virginia Council of Churches
- West Virginia Environmental Council
- West Virginia Federation of Democratic Women
- West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition
- West Virginia Foster Adoptive & Kinship Parents Network
- West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
- West Virginia New Jobs Coalition
- West Virginia Rivers Coalition
- West Virginia Sierra Club
- West Virginia Working Families Party
- West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
- West Virginia Recovery Advocacy Project
- WildSky Creative, LLC
- Wild Unicorn Farmstead
- Wind Dance Farm & Earth Education Center
- Women's March West Virginia
- Xaiver Walter - Energy Efficiency consultant
- Yew Mountain Center