

August 23, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray,

On behalf of our collective millions of members and supporters across the environmental, environmental justice, and public health communities, we write to thank you for your strong leadership throughout the Senate Appropriations Committee's Fiscal Year 2024 bill markups. We appreciate your work to responsibly and expediently shepherd the Senate through the appropriations process. Most importantly, we commend you for defending critical climate funding and warding off potential poison pill riders. Our communities will continue to ardently oppose any attempts to hamstring regulations or repeal funding to protect the climate and our public health, especially funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

While we commend your committee for adhering to the spending deal struck in the House majority-manufactured default crisis, the budget caps set spending at levels far below what the President requested in his Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and far from what is required to adequately address the climate crisis, as you know. Insufficient funding limits agencies' abilities to develop and staff robust, impactful programs or enforce regulations to protect families, the environment, and the economy. Bad actors and polluters act with impunity, injecting harmful chemicals into our air, water, and land, disproportionately affecting communities of color.

As the country bakes under record-breaking levels of heat fueled by climate change, and as drought, flood and fire ravage communities, we cannot afford any cuts to climate funding. The climate crisis and its impacts are becoming more severe, more dangerous, and more costly with each day. As you well know, rescissions to the IRA and lower spending levels to the agencies implementing these critical investments would be a disastrous outcome for public health, the climate, the economy, and our future. It is incumbent on our Congressional leaders to enable agencies to do their critical work to combat climate change and to ensure a livable planet for all.

We support your efforts to protect this funding and defend against attempts to undermine the IRA. While our groups all work on many aspects of appropriations related to environmental protection, climate, and public health, our joint defense priorities for the Fiscal Year 2024 spending bills include:

- We oppose measures that rescind or cap IRA funds.

- We oppose measures that weaken programs aimed at alleviating pollution in overburdened communities, addressing environmental injustice, or meeting the Administration's Justice40 goals.
- We oppose measures that cut agencies' core capacities, including staffing, and restrict their ability to efficiently and effectively distribute funds and execute environmental, public health, and other climate-related programs and regulations.
- We oppose measures to limit or block agencies' ability to implement or enforce bedrock environmental laws or regulations.
- We oppose measures that weaken or undermine the climate wins gained through the IRA, redefine the IRA's pro-climate congressional intent, or inhibit the Administration's ability to abide by the IRA's pro-climate congressional intent.

Thank you again for your leadership. We stand with you and urge you to remain steadfast in fighting for climate funding and opposing attempts to further reduce spending levels. We look forward to continuing to work with you and other climate champions in Congress to protect our public health and our planet.

Sincerely,

Climate Action Campaign
Alaska Wilderness League
Alliance for Clean Energy New York
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Hiking Society
American Trails
Appliance Standards Awareness Project
Arizona Climate Action Coalition.
Change the Chamber*Lobby for Climate
Clean Water Action
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Mayors
Climate Nexus
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Dream.Org
Earthjustice
East Bay Community Energy (EBCE)
Elders Climate Action-Arizona
Elevate
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America

Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Investigation Agency
Environmental Working Group
Evergreen Action
Faith in Place
First Focus on Children
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL)
Green the Church
Greenlatinos
Health Care Without Harm
Impact Fund
Institute for a Progressive Nevada
Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Los Padres ForestWatch
Marin Clean Energy - MCE
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Michigan Sustainable Business Forum
Moms Clean Air Force
Moms Clean Air Force - Arizona
Moms Clean Air Force - Georgia
Moms Clean Air Force- Michigan
National Audubon Society
National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
New Progressive Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council
PennEnvironment
PennFuture
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Poder Latinx
Public Justice Center
Rachel Carson Council
Rewiring America
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources

Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)
Waterkeeper Alliance
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
West Michigan Environmental Action Council

CC:

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
House Appropriations Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
White House Deputy Chief of Staff John Podesta
National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi
Members of the Senate Democratic Caucus
Members of the House Democratic Caucus