September 1, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

As Governors from across the country, we strongly support your joint efforts to pass landmark legislation that will create millions of good jobs, rebuild our country's infrastructure, improve public health, advance environmental justice, and tackle the climate crisis.

Climate change is intensifying the wildfires that burn in the West, hurricanes that threaten the East, and extreme heat that endangers people and animals throughout the country. Now is the time for bold climate action. The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report details what we already know – the window for preventing irreversible climate consequences is closing and we need to act quickly and comprehensively.

As we approach the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP 26) in November, it is imperative that the United States demonstrates that America is ready to lead and solve the climate crisis. President Biden has committed America to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions to 50 percent to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. America's ability to meet this goal rests on how we respond to climate change today.

President Biden proposed the Build Back Better Agenda to rebuild America in a just and equitable way and ensure America's economy flourishes in the 21st century. It is vital for Congress to adopt both the bipartisan infrastructure deal and a bold and comprehensive reconciliation bill to achieve the goals of the

Build Back Better Agenda. Each of the elements of the Build Back Better Agenda are worthy of inclusion in an infrastructure package, but as Governors of states on the front line of the climate crisis, we place particular emphasis that the combined package includes the most impactful actions to protect our climate:

- ***Carbon Free Grid:*** A Clean Electricity Performance Program, expansion of tax credits for clean energy generation and storage, and funding for new and upgraded electricity transmission.
- ***Transportation Electrification*:** Tax credits for manufacturing of zero-emission vehicles; incentives for consumers, especially low-income consumers, to purchase zero-emission vehicles; funding for zero-emission infrastructure; and elimination of statutory obstacles to charging on federal rights of way.
- ***Methane Emissions Reduction*:** Funding to plug orphan wells and adoption of a methane polluter fee for the venting or burning of excess methane.
- ***Climate-Smart Agriculture*:** Investment in climate-smart agricultural and forest management programs for farmers and rural communities.
- ***Climate Resilience***: Investment in protections for communities and transportation infrastructure from the impacts of climate change, as well as robust funding for a new Civilian Climate Corps.
- ***Clean Building Incentives*:** New consumer rebates for home electrification and weatherization.
- ***Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator:*** Establish an accelerator to mobilize private investment into distributed energy resources; retrofits of residential, commercial, and municipal buildings; and clean transportation.

We also respectfully request that any infrastructure package ensure 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investments are directed to disadvantaged communities and invests in rural communities and communities impacted by the market-based transition to clean energy. We are excited to build back better with both of you and are committed to taking action to advance this crucial agenda.

Sincerely,

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California

Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut

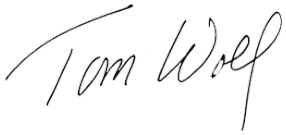
Governor David Ige
State of Hawaii

Governor Janet Mills
State of Maine

Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada

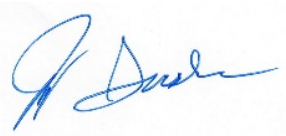
Governor Kathy Hochul
State of New York

Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon



Governor Tom Wolf
State of Pennsylvania

Governor Dan McKee
State of Rhode Island



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States
The Honorable Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor
The Honorable John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, Department of Energy
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Marcia Fudge, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development
The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary, Department of Commerce