

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We write today regarding the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on jobs in the clean energy industry. Your leadership has steered our nation through this unprecedented health emergency, and, as Congress debates legislation to respond to the economic impacts of the pandemic, we urge you to ensure that this crucial sector is given economic relief.

The clean energy industry, which includes renewable energy, clean vehicles, energy efficiency, and energy storage, is an integral and broad part of the American economy. Before the current crisis, this sector employed 3.4 million people, two thirds of whom worked at companies with less than 20 employees. These were blue-collar and white-collar jobs in every state of the country. Over the past five years, this sector grew at a rate that is 70% higher than the national average, particularly in states such as California, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio.

However, the current crisis has decimated the clean energy industry. We are particularly alarmed at a recent analysis showing that the industry has already lost 594,300 jobs through April, and is on a path to lose additional jobs by the end of June.¹ Clean energy jobs are being lost at a rate faster than the national average, revealing COVID-19's disproportionate impact on this vulnerable industry.

Your leadership has provided relief to millions of Americans through the enactment of the Paycheck Protection Program, direct payments to many Americans, an expansion of our nation's safety net, free coronavirus testing, and expanding lending authority for the Federal Reserve and the Department of the Treasury (Treasury). Unfortunately, the industries that make up the clean energy sector rely on capital-intensive projects that require significant upfront costs. Many of these projects are in limbo due to constrained financing and supply chains, and many companies fear imminent cancellations. Others are on pause in order to abide by social distancing

¹ Jordan, P. (2020, May 13). Clean Energy Employment Initial Impacts from the COVID-19 Economic Crisis. *[BW] Research Partnership*.

requirements or due to delays in permitting because of COVID-19. This sector is also facing tax credit deadlines and reductions, which are forcing the industry to restrict investment instead of quickly rehiring laid-off workers.

To put it simply, this is a project pipeline problem – if these companies do not have projects to work on, they cannot keep their workers employed. We urge you to enact a series of policies that will provide relief and certainty to this sector. This includes providing relief and certainty for constrained tax equity financing by allowing tax credits to be received as a direct payment. Additionally, by delaying the phasedown of existing renewable energy tax incentives, we can ensure that we actually see the benefits of policies and provide more certainty.

You have fought for the clean energy industry time and time again, and your work has ensured that this industry has become a cornerstone of the American economy. Now this industry needs economic relief, and Congress must act soon. Investments in clean energy pay back dividends because of the breadth and geography that are impacted – either job losses will devastate the communities we represent, or economic relief for this sector will help them weather this crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress

/s/

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

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Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

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Joyce Beatty
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

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Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

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Suzanne Bonamici
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Anthony G. Brown
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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

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Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

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Ed Case
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Judy Chu
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Katherine M. Clark
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Joe Courtney
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Charlie Crist
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Ilhan Omar
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