



March 22, 2021

To:

The Honorable Charles Schumer,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker, U.S. House,
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy,
Minority Leader, U.S. House,
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Congress Should Pass 100% Clean Electricity Standard Now

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We represent six of the largest state and regional nonprofits in America devoted to fighting climate change through clean energy. Between us, our organizations have nearly 160 years of advocacy experience in states with a collective population of 155 million people.

Based on our proven legislative success of reducing pollution and creating new jobs through renewable energy in our states, we now ask you to take the next step. **Please pass, this year, President Biden's priority legislation of achieving 100% clean electricity in the United States by 2035.**

Achieving a national grid free of carbon pollution is at the vital center of our nation's fight against climate change and for a future where the United States is competitive on the world stage. As we electrify our transportation fleet and move our homes and businesses toward electrical space-heating and cooling, that power must be clean.

But we must make this transition the right way, prioritizing the flow of new jobs and benefits to displaced fossil fuel workers wherever possible. And, per the President's commitment, we must ensure that at least 40% of all economic investments and benefits of this transition accrue to historically disadvantaged communities and communities of color. Poor air quality, substandard housing, weatherization challenges, and high energy burdens disproportionately impact communities of color and areas of rural poverty. Equity must now be at the center of our clean energy future.

Currently, [30 different states](#) require some degree of clean electricity in their grids, with [eight states mandating a 100%](#) conversion to wind and solar and other clean sources in the coming

years. Collectively, these states have already created [2.5 million jobs](#) and [\\$356 billion](#) in new economic growth through these policies.

A new [report](#) from the groups Evergreen Action and Data for Progress shows similar results will accrue nationwide under a 100% clean power standard for all states by 2035. Fully decarbonizing the power sector would eventually trigger a 70-80 percent reduction in US greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide, through electrification, helping us to fulfill our commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement while creating, ultimately, as many as [15 million jobs](#).

So we urge you to act now. Passing a 100% clean electricity standard can and must be a core part of our fight in 2021 for climate stability, economic justice, and Covid recovery.

Sincerely,

Mike Tidwell,

Executive Director, Chesapeake Climate
Action Network.
Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, D.C.

Daniel Sosland,

President, Acadia Center
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York

Gregg Small,

Executive Director, Climate Solutions
Oregon, Washington

Jon Goldin-Dubois,

President, Western Resource Advocates
Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New
Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Stephen Smith,

Executive Director, Southern Alliance for
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Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina,
North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi

Michael Noble,

Executive Director, Fresh Energy
Minnesota