

Dear Members of Congress and President Biden,

We, the undersigned, are writing to urge you to prioritize enacting and implementing clean energy policies this summer that make energy and transportation more affordable, protect public health, provide good jobs and grow the economy, and address the climate crisis.

The climate crisis and fossil fuel pollution are harming Georgians. In recent years, Georgians have faced destructive hurricanes super-powered by warmed oceans, dangerous heat waves amplified by a warming climate, compromised air quality that causes respiratory and heart health problems, and the burden of unaffordable bills. These outcomes threaten all Georgia residents, but often disproportionately impact minority, low-income, and historically marginalized communities. We know that as the climate continues to warm, our state will face ever more severe disruptions. Every day that we delay action, the human toll and economic price tag of fossil fuel pollution and climate change grows.

Investment in clean energy with a focus on disadvantaged communities means cleaner air, healthier residents, and lower bills. It also brings jobs. Georgia is quickly becoming a hub for electric vehicle, battery, and solar panel manufacturing—technologies that will form the backbone of a clean energy economy—with thousands of Georgians making livelihoods in these industries. But, the benefits from our clean energy growth so far is just a fraction of what could come with additional investments and supportive policies.

Our communities need the support of federal policy that provides incentives and regulations for transitioning to clean energy and transportation at the scale necessary to mitigate the crises our communities face. We need federal investment to strengthen and scale up local innovation. We need to support the current workforce in training for new career opportunities as the fossil fuel industry is necessarily phased out. And, we need federal support to guide resources to historically marginalized communities so that the benefits of the clean energy transition are equitably shared and our communities can be more resilient when standing together and caring for the vulnerable among us when disasters strike.

The majority of Georgians want Congress and the White House to do more to address climate change, according to public opinion polling. We urge you to invest in a just, equitable, clean energy transition through the budget reconciliation process and include provisions that will ensure that the benefits of the investments go to

disadvantaged communities, following the guidelines of the Justice40 Initiative. Provisions to meet the needs of Georgia communities include¹:

- Environmental and climate justice and pollution deductions
- Pollution-free energy and energy efficiency
- Education, workforce development, job creation, and investments in energy workers
- Clean transportation and goods movement
- Affordable and sustainable housing
- Clean air and water
- Climate resilience
- Data collection on disproportionate impacts on minority communities
- Oversight, transparency, and accountability

We are counting on you to deliver clean energy policy that will save Georgians' lives, improve public health, lower our bills, create jobs and economic opportunity, reverse historical injustices, and prevent the worst of the climate crisis.

Respectfully, the undersigned parties and individuals request your support for federal investments, and we urge you to enact budget provisions this summer that meet these aims.

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Mayor
Hull, Georgia

Bruce Johnson

City Council Member
Winterville, Georgia

Heidi Davison

Former Mayor
Athens, Georgia

Gwen O'Looney

Former Mayor
Chair of Historic
Cobbham Foundation
Athens, Georgia

Jane Kidd

Former State
Representative
Former Chair,
Democratic Party of
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John Barrow

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¹ <https://ajustclimate.org/pressrelease.html?pld=1018>

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