

March 11, 2020

Re: Coronavirus aid package and the fossil fuel industry

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

On behalf of our millions of members and activists nationwide, we write to you with deep concerns about pending disaster relief legislation. According to recent reports, support for the domestic shale industry could become part of a potential coronavirus aid package. This must be stopped at all costs.

Whether in the form of low-interest loans, purchases into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, royalty relief, or new tax subsidies, any additional giveaways to polluters should be stripped from the relief package. The current bill for federal polluter subsidies is some \$15 billion per year. For the sake of our climate and our communities, it is reprehensible to add to this considerable bill.

An economic transition driven by the market alone is invariably cruelest to workers. While we support a just transition for the entire fossil fuel sector, we vehemently oppose government intervention to protect the extractive status quo. The coronavirus must not become a pretext for a fracking bailout.

This time of climate crisis and economic peril calls for a forward-thinking approach that serves the people, not another bailout to prop up the dirty energy industry. If the federal government is going to use this moment to justify new spending, it should lift up vulnerable communities in this time of crisis, not corporations already receiving billions of our tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Assateague Coastal Trust/Assateague COASTKEEPER
Avodah
Center for Biological Diversity
Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

Clean Water Action
Climate Hawks Vote
Endangered Species Coalition
Faithful America
Food & Water Action

Friends of the Earth
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Oil Change U.S.

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Progressive Democrats of America
Public Citizen

Partnership for Policy Integrity
Sierra Club

Sunrise Hub DC
Sunrise Movement
The Leap
The Climate Reality Project
WISE

Waterkeeper Alliance
198 Methods