

July 24, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Thank you for your leadership and work on behalf of the American people this year, as our nation navigates the pandemic and its painful effects. We are grateful for your meaningful efforts to relieve the hardships facing individuals, families, and businesses in this difficult time.

COVID-19 has changed the lives of every American, disrupted the operations of nearly every business, and left millions suffering from job and business losses. As representatives of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that make up the backbone of American business, we have experienced first-hand the true costs of the pandemic. As companies with operations throughout the entire agricultural supply chain, from farm to consumer, we also see this crisis as an important harbinger of future business risk.

If we have learned anything from COVID-19, it is that we cannot wait to prepare for future risks. While we recover from the pandemic and revive our economy, we *must* simultaneously make our supply chains more resilient and prepared for the looming threat of climate change.

At this moment, we have a rare opportunity to develop win-win solutions, create millions of well-paying jobs, revive our nation's economy, and create stronger and more resilient communities. Chief among these opportunities is doubling down on clean energy infrastructure to put Americans back to work. For every dollar spent, investments in clean energy create about [three times more jobs](#) than investments in fossil fuels.

We ask that as you consider short-term economic relief legislation or any economic stimulus packages, you include the necessary resources to ensure the continued viability and growth of the renewable energy sector. We want to invest more in renewables across our businesses, communities and homes. We need this support so that we can use our buying power to drive job creation and economic growth in the renewable energy industry.

### **COVID-19 RELIEF PACKAGE**

**As you negotiate the next COVID-19 relief package, we request you create a direct pay option for the production tax credit (PTC)/investment tax credit (ITC) value to address liquidity and tax equity availability issues for those same projects. Additionally, we request that you delay the PTC and ITC phasedowns to account for COVID-19 related economic and workforce impacts.**

## DIRECT PAY OPTION

**Renewable energy is an important source of economic growth and job creation, making up more than half of all new U.S. power generation capacity over the past decade.**

Commitments from companies to buy clean energy has been critical to this growth, and so have federal government policies to stimulate clean energy projects and the accompanying high-quality jobs.

The industry was on track for 2020 to continue and build on this growth, with additional job creation and accelerated investment in communities across the nation, but COVID-19 has had a negative impact on that progress. Shelter-in-place requirements, supply chain disruptions, delays in permitting, inspection and construction, and a constrained tax equity market have combined to exact a sobering toll on the industry.

Project developers are experiencing delays related to COVID-19, which significantly affects their ability to secure financing. This financing requires the participation of tax equity providers who can absorb the large quantity of tax credits that come from these projects. However, the ability to utilize these tax credits require strong taxable income, which is substantially lower because of the pandemic.

COVID-19 delays, combined with the reduction in available tax equity, have had severe long-term impacts on clean energy projects. **To address these concerns, we request you provide direct pay for qualifying projects under the Production Tax Credit (PTC)/Investment Tax Credit (ITC).** This would provide clarity and certainty to address financing constraints being encountered because of the economic downturn.

## DELAY THE FEDERAL PHASEDOWNS OF PTC & ITC

Due to project delays caused by the pandemic, projects that otherwise would have started construction this year will not be able to go forward. As a result, we ask you to delay the scheduled phasedown of the ITC and push the 2020 PTC and ITC credit values into 2021 and 2022 so that companies and workers have a chance to rebuild in these harsh economic times, and projects can avoid getting mothballed or dropped entirely.

## COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGE

In addition to renewable energy projects being negatively impacted by the pandemic, the sector's workforce has also been affected. At the end of 2019, nearly 3.4 million Americans worked in clean energy and the industry was one of the fastest growing sectors of the American economy. However, according to a recent analysis, [nearly 620,000, or 18 percent](#), of clean energy workers filed for unemployment in March, April and May 2020. Investment in the industry will undoubtedly help bring back the workforce and shore up the industry.

Federal clean energy support leverages billions in private capital multiplying the economic recovery impact of each federal dollar invested. It also helps improve U.S. energy independence/security while creating a range of high-quality jobs in diverse communities in every state and Congressional district in the country.

**As you possibly negotiate a COVID-19 stimulus package, we respectfully request you include provisions that would (1) increase grid flexibility and improve the integration of renewable resources (i.e. wind and solar); (2) invest in infrastructure expansion and grid**

**modernization; (3) create opportunities for new clean energy jobs; (4) incentivize transport electrification; and (5) improve and incentivize energy efficiency.**

Each signer of this letter has made a commitment to reducing our contribution to climate change through purchasing renewable energy, increasing our energy efficiency, increasing regenerative agriculture in our supply chain, reducing food waste or through other means.

The business community is acting already—across our operations and supply chains—but strong government signals and partnerships are vital for our efforts to succeed in mitigating the risks climate change poses to our bottom line. We need the help of Congress to ensure our businesses stay prosperous.

These investments will be returned many times over through job creation for millions of Americans, and through avoided costs from climate disruptions. This is an investment not just in recovery, but in the long-term prosperity of our nation by preparing for and being a global leader in developing solutions to climate change.

Thank you for stepping up in this vital moment, to ensure the best interest of American businesses and citizens and for considering our policy suggestions. Your leadership will be remembered in this decisive moment in American history.

Sincerely,

*This letter is signed by seventy-eight companies, most of whom are small-and-medium sized businesses operating across forty states and the District of Columbia. They represent multiple industries such as cosmetics, personal care, travel and tourism as well as the entire food supply chain including farmers, ingredient suppliers, manufacturers, packaging suppliers, and retailers.<sup>i</sup>*

All Good	Elk Packaging
Alter Eco	Falcon Trading Company/SunRidge Farms
Amalgamated Bank	Fresca Foods
Amy's Kitchen, Inc.	Future/ Proof Brands LLC
Ashland Food Co-op	Gaia Herbs
Avegan Beauty, Ecco Bella, New Earth Beauty, LLC	Glen's Garden Market
Biotic Brands Kvass	Grove Collaborative
Boise Consumer Co-op	Guayaki Yerba Mate
Boulder Organic Foods	Healthy Way Market
Briar Patch Food Co-op	HigherRing
Brigantine Villas Condominium Association, Inc.	Hummingbird Wholesale
Califia Farms	Imagine Baking
Cambridge Naturals	inNative
Carbon Credit Capital, LLC	Just Salad LLC
Cheer Pack N.A.	Kamut International, Ltd.
Clif Bar & Co	Keap Candles
Climate Dads	Kimberton Whole Foods
Clover Sonoma	KitchenTown
Community Food Co-op	
Dr. Bronner's	

Lopez Foods & Dorada Foods  
Lotus Foods  
Mango Materials  
Marin Restorative Communications  
MMercer Consulting  
MOM's Organic Market  
Moon Valley Organics  
Nana Joe's  
Napa Green  
Nature's Path  
Navitas Organics  
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp.  
NY NJ Food Guru  
Okina  
Organic Valley  
Perfect Supplements  
Planet FWD  
Plastic Pollution Solutions'  
r.Cup

Resort World of Orlando, Inc.  
Rivanna Natural Designs  
Salt Palm Development, Inc  
Source Organic  
Studio Airstream  
SunLeaf Naturals  
Teadora Beauty  
The Green Engineer  
The Reno Spa Owners Association, Inc.  
The Suites at Steamboat Owners Association, Inc.  
Thinkshift  
Ucapture Inc  
Uncommon Cacao  
United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI)  
Vital Plan  
W.S. Badger Company  
Wolf, DiMatteo + Associates  
Yellow Emperor

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<sup>i</sup> Locations where these businesses have headquarters or operations:

CA, CO, CT, D.C., FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IN, KY, MA, MI, MD, MN, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NM, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, , SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, , VT, WA, WI, WV, WY