

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies in the Build Back Better Act.

We appreciate your past and ongoing support on this crucial issue. In 2011, you rose on the floor of the Senate in support of eliminating a raft of fossil fuel subsidies enshrined in federal law. And as recently as September 12, you called again for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies in this Act.

Following the devastating storms and wildfires that we have witnessed not only here in the United States, but across the world, President Biden rightly declared that we are in a “Code Red” situation in regards to the climate crisis. These impacts fall hardest on historically marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous, and Latino communities in particular.

Unfortunately, thus far, your colleagues in the House have not delivered in meeting this moment. In fact, they have failed to express the same commitment to eliminating these domestic subsidies that you have long championed. As we write to you, eliminating domestic fossil fuel subsidies are absent from the House version of the Build Back Better Act. Should the House fail to add provisions eliminating these subsidies before passing the Act, we urge you to add those provisions in the Senate.

As you know, the federal government continues to promote the fossil fuel industry – the very industry responsible for driving the climate crisis – through billions of dollars in subsidies. What is more, new research demonstrates that the vast majority of these subsidies simply go to the oil and gas industry’s profit margin, instead of creating the jobs industry claims they do. According to research from the Stockholm Environment Institute, “over 96% of the value of the subsidies in the tax code goes directly to profits over and above the minimum investment hurdle rates that would be required to actually make those new investments happen.”

By acting now, Congress will help us protect our climate and promote a more equitable, clean energy economy for America.

We urge you now to take advantage of this unique moment for legislative action and ensure that Congress includes the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies in the Build Back Better Act.

Sincerely,

350.org

350Brooklyn

350NYC

Center for Biological Diversity

Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action

Food & Water Watch

For the Many

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace USA

Indivisible Nation BK

Long Island Progressive Coalition

Mothers Out Front Long Island

New York Communities for Change

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Progressive Action Network

New York State Nurses Association

New York Youth Climate Leaders

NYC DSA Ecosocialist Working Group

NYPIRG

Our Revolution

Oxfam America

Peoples Climate Movement - NY

Progressive Democrats of America

Sane Energy Project

Show Up LI

Sunrise NYC

U.S. PIRG and Environment America

VOCAL-NY