Stop Funding Fossil Fuel Greenwashing

Feb 9, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairpersons Leahy and DeLauro:

Impacts on Indigenous and frontline communities and the urgency of the climate crisis demands a rapid reorientation of our society away from fossil fuels. Public investments will have a tremendous impact on our ability to make this transition. However, prior to 2021, the fossil fuel industry was scheduled to collect $120 billion in fossil fuel subsidies over the next decade. This massive fossil fuel giveaway is compounded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which provides at least $27 billion in funding that is either directly for fossil fuel projects or that runs the risk of being co-opted by the industry. We urge you to take an important step away from this harmful status quo by restricting federal funding of the fossil fuel industry and by preventing ‘clean’ programs from being co-opted by polluters.

We understand negotiations for the FY 2022 process are already well underway but given the huge appropriations for fossil fuel interests in IIJA and ongoing action at the Department of Energy and Department of Transportation to begin spending those allocations, we call on you to protect frontline communities and our climate by blocking new appropriations for fossil fuel projects and adding tough new conditions for existing programs.

Fossil fuel industry efforts to use carbon capture, blue hydrogen, and various new “advanced” energy fuels to greenwash activities will support a new era of fossil fuel and petrochemical development. Rather than propping up these industries through fossil-based technologies, Congress has an opportunity in the FY 2022 Appropriation to: 1) restrict the ability of the fossil fuel industry to co-opt existing spending; 2) stop appropriating additional spending that results in increased fossil fuel infrastructure; 3) provide instructions to the administration to ensure any grants, loans or other financial support from the Department of Energy or the Department of Transportation will comprehensively evaluate greenhouse gas emissions and harms to BIPOC, frontline and disadvantaged communities. These agencies must use their evaluations to restrict funding to any programs that harm these communities or increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Fossil fuel interests are already rushing to take advantage of these new public handouts – rolling out efforts to build thousands of miles of new pipelines and other dirty infrastructure. These infrastructure projects raise significant public health and climate concerns. Rather than addressing the climate crisis, they will instead result in continuing harm to communities on the front lines of the extraction, transportation, refining and combustion of fossil fuels. Without rapid Congressional action to address these massive polluter handouts, we will see more harm to our communities, a worsening climate crisis, and a more obstacles to eliminate existing harms.

Sincerely,

Original Signatories

Center for International Environmental Law
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth

Indigenous Environmental Network
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Oil Change International
Additional Signatories

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
198 methods
350 Bay Area Action
350 Bucks County
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Mass
350 New Orleans
350 Silicon Valley
350 Triangle
350.org
350Hawaii
350Kishwaukee
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
Action Together New Jersey
ActionAid USA
Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Amazon Watch
Athens County’s Future Action Network, acfan.org
Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Berks Gas Truth
beyondplastics.org
Bike Hudson County
Biofuelwatch
Bold Alliance
Breathe Project
Broome Tioga Green Party
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
Capitol Heights Presbyterian
CASE
CASE Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable
Englewood
Catholic Network US
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Center for International Environmental Law
Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment
&Management (CECIC)
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Brazoria
County
Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls
Clean Energy Action
Climate Justice Alliance
Climate Reality Project: Susquehanna Valley
PA chapter
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Colorado State University
Coming Clean
Common Ground Rising
Community Action Works Campaigns
Community for Sustainable Energy
Compressor Free Franklin
CWA Local 1081
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Democratic Socialists of America
Des Moines County Farmers and Neighbors
for Optimal Health
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics
Earth Action
Eco-Justice Collaborative
Ecoaction Committee of the Green Party of
the U.S.
Ecology Center
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Empower Our Future Colorado
End Climate Silence
Endangered Habitats League
Extinction Rebellion Boston
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Family Farm Defenders
Farmworker Association of Florida
Fieldstones
Food & Water Watch
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Fridays for Future U.S.
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Earth Spain
GAIA
Gas Free Seneca
Global Center for Climate Justice
Global Justice Ecology Project
Global Witness
Grassroots Environmental Education
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Newton Inc
Green State Solutions
GreenFaith
Greenpeace USA
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
Healthy Gulf