

March to End Fossil Fuels Open Letter From Scientists to President Biden

September 13, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President Biden,

On your first day in office, you issued an executive order pledging that it is “the policy of my administration to listen to the science” in tackling the climate crisis. We welcomed this message. And yet more than two years later, it’s clear that the crisis is spiraling out of control and the policies of your administration with regard to fossil fuels fail to align with what the science tells us must happen to avert calamity.

As scientists, we remind you that a broad scientific consensus exists. Namely, we need to leave the vast majority of fossil fuels in the ground and stop expanding drilling and fossil fuel infrastructure. And yet, rather than ratchet down fossil fuels, your administration has approved drilling permits at a rate faster than the Trump administration, opened up huge swaths of land and ocean to leasing, expanded exports, approved new pipelines, and embraced industry greenwashing ploys like carbon capture, which further entrenches our reliance on fossil fuels. Even as the U.S. is on track to set new summertime records for heat, the U.S. is also on track to set new records for oil production. This is a formula for disaster. These trends are deadly for the American people and harmful to global security.

We have written you longer letters in the past, but today our message is short and urgent. With the climate crisis raging all around us - in the form of fires, floods, hurricanes, drought, heat waves, crop failures, and more - we call on you directly, clearly, and unequivocally to stop enacting policies contrary to science and do what is needed to address the crisis. Embrace the demands of the March to End Fossil Fuels:

1. Stop federal approval for new fossil fuel projects and repeal permits for climate bombs like the Willow project and the Mountain Valley Pipeline.
2. Phase out fossil drilling on our public lands and waters
3. Declare a climate emergency to halt fossil fuel exports and investments abroad, and turbo charge the build-out of more just, resilient distributed energy (like rooftop and community solar)
4. Provide a just transition to a renewable energy future that generates millions of jobs while supporting workers’ and community rights, job security, and employment equity.

Sincerely,

Scientists joining this letter do so in their individual capacities and not on behalf of the institutions with which they are affiliated.

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