

May 17, 2023

Dear American Clean Power,

We are writing this letter to call on American Clean Power to oppose any energy legislation or permitting reforms that weaken environmental laws and reduce our ability to protect our communities from dangerous fossil fuel projects.

Black, Indigenous, communities of the global majority and communities living in poverty know firsthand the costs of our ongoing dependence on fossil fuels. We have long been the sacrifice zones for fossil fuel projects. We live downwind from the smokestacks of coal fired power plants and along the fence lines of oil refineries. We've seen our mountains blown to pieces for coal and our water poisoned by petrochemicals. We've rushed our children to the emergency room after an asthma attack and nursed them through the headaches and nausea that comes from living next to drilling sites.

We also live on the frontlines of the ever-worsening climate crisis. While global warming may have felt like a distant threat for some, for us it has long been a clear and present danger. Whether we live atop the melting permafrost of the Arctic or along the crumbling shoreline of the Gulf, we know the fierce urgency of reducing our dependence on the fossil fuels that are destroying our climate.

We also know the many benefits of clean energy, having advocated for renewables and other climate solutions long before it was fashionable or there were billions to be made. We've campaigned for 100% clean energy and pushed for strong climate action plans. We've built public support for renewables and organized our neighbors to support solar and wind. When a city is deciding where to purchase its power or a county is considering the permits for a new project, we're the ones that show up at the public meetings to advocate on your industry's behalf.

Which is why we are now urging you not to advocate against ours. The so-called "permitting reforms" currently being debated in Washington include direct assaults on our nation's bedrock environmental laws and the few processes that allow our communities to have a voice in projects that directly impact our health and environment. Gutting the National Environmental Protection Act and other protections not only puts our air, water and climate at risk, but also the health and safety of our families.

Clean energy companies and trade associations have already lent their support to the idea of permitting reform, giving cover to politicians in the pocket of the fossil fuel industry to push forward proposals that toss a few crumbs to renewables while stuffing the faces of Big Oil, Coal and Gas. Are the marginal gains you'll see from this assault on environmental laws worth the price of throwing frontline communities under the bus? Is reducing your paperwork worth losing the public's support?

Instead of striking a Devil's Bargain with the fossil fuel industry, we urge you to join with our groups and other climate leaders to support legislation like the Environmental Justice for All Act and plans that could speed up the construction of transmission lines and clean energy projects without harming our

communities and the environment. Public participation and environmental protection shouldn't be seen as a hindrance to the buildout of clean energy, but as necessary steps to building the public and political support needed to go both fast and far.

We are your natural allies: the groups and communities who have suffered most under the fossil fuel economy and therefore have some of the most to gain from a just and equitable transition to the clean energy economy you're looking to build. Let's work together for a sustainable future that benefits us all, rather than a privileged few. Our lives, and your success, depend on it.

Sincerely,

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

198 Methods

350 Bay Area Action

350 Central Mass

350 Colorado

350 NYC

7 Directions of Service

Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action

Action for the Climate Emergency

AFGE Local 704

ARTivism Virginia

Bold Alliance

Businesses for a Livable Climate

Call to Action Colorado

Capitol Heights Presbyterian

CatholicNetwork US

Climate Hawks Vote

Climate Reality Project

CO Businesses for a Livable Climate

colorbrightongreen

Community for Sustainable Energy

Democracy Works

Denver DSA

Don't Waste Arizona

Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

FCCPR Climate Crisis Task Force

Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance

Greater Park Hill Community

Greening Greenfield

Greenpeace USA

Honor the Earth

I-70 Citizens Advisory Group  
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition  
Indivisible Ambassadors  
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute  
Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light  
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and Environment  
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, & the Environment  
Littleton Business Alliance  
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board  
Menlo Spark  
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries  
Micah Six Eight Mission  
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Mothers Out Front Colorado  
New Mexico Climate Justice  
Oil and Gas Action Network  
Oil Change International  
Our Revolution Hawaii  
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light  
Port Arthur Community Action Network (PACAN)  
Property Rights and Pipeline Center  
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights  
RapidShift Network  
Revolving Door Project  
Rise Up West Virginia  
Save EPA  
Sisters of St.Dominic of Blauvelt, NY  
Small Business Alliance  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
Solarize Albany  
Southwest Organization for Sustainability  
Stand.earth  
Sunnyside United Neighbors, inc (SUNI)  
The Green House Connection Center  
Toxic Free NC  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Unite North Metro Denver  
Unite North Metro Denver  
Vibrant Littleton  
Waterspirit  
Western Environmental Law Center  
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate

Womxn from the Mountain  
Working for Racial Equity