

March 9, 2020

To Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of our organizations and their millions of members and supporters, we are writing to express our alarm at climate legislation recently released by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. When you resumed the Speakership, you promised ambitious leadership on climate. The CLEAN Future Act puts that promise in jeopardy.

Despite the pleas of grassroots organizations across the United States, despite the dire warnings of the world's climate scientists, and despite the unraveling of the planet's life support systems happening in real time, Chairman Pallone's CLEAN Future Act represents a staggering failure of ambition and leadership. Fracked gas is not clean energy, despite the absurd definition in his bill, and market mechanisms like carbon credits will concentrate pollution in our most vulnerable communities.

In 2019, the world's climate scientists urgently warned that global emissions must be cut by at least 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 if our planet has any real and meaningful chance to stay within 1.5°C of global warming.ⁱ The CLEAN Future Act completely ignores that warning, and instead pretends that an amorphously defined "net zero" goal of 2050 is adequate. It is not.

There is no time left for half-measures. The leadership of your committee chairs is ultimately a reflection on your leadership as Speaker. For the sake of the American people, the planet and future generations, we call upon you to set a much higher standard now.

CC: Chairwoman Cathy Castor, Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr.

Sincerely,

Beyond Extreme Energy

Central Jersey Climate Coalition

Center for Biological Diversity

Climate Hawks Vote

Democratic Socialists of America - Central NJ

Friends of the Earth

Food and Water Action

NJ Industrial Union Council

Oil Change U.S.

Our Revolution Monmouth County

Progressive Democrats of America

Progressive Democrats of America - NJ

RU Progressive

Sunrise Movement Rutgers

Sunrise Movement Jersey Shore

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¹ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Global Warming of 1.5°C, An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C Above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty (2018), available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>.