

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Coronavirus aid package and the fossil fuel industry

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer, Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

On behalf of our millions of members and activists nationwide, we write to you with deep concerns about the proposed stimulus package. According to the Trump administration, support for the oil and gas industry could become part of the federal response to the coronavirus.

Whether in the form of low-interest loans, purchases into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, royalty relief, or new tax subsidies, any additional giveaways to polluters should be stripped from the stimulus package. The current cost of federal polluter subsidies is some \$15 billion per year. For the sake of our climate and our communities, it is irresponsible to add to this considerable bill.

An economic transition driven by the market alone is invariably cruelest to workers. While we support a just transition for the entire fossil fuel sector, we strongly oppose government intervention to protect the extractive status quo. The coronavirus must not become a pretext for a fracking bailout. Now is the time for the federal government to be providing universal sick leave, unemployment benefits, increased access to food, and free virus testing for all.

This time of climate crisis and economic peril calls for a forward-thinking approach that serves the people, not another bailout to prop up the dirty energy industry. Any federal response must prioritize urgent public health needs, first and foremost. Economic aid should be provided directly to individuals and vulnerable communities, not massive corporations already receiving billions of our tax dollars.

Sincerely,

1. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
2. Asian Pacific Environmental Network
3. Assateague Coastal Trust/Assateague COASTKEEPER
4. Avodah
5. Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community
6. Bold Alliance

7. Breathe Project
8. CA Urban Streams Alliance – The Stream Team
9. California Young Democrats Environmental Caucus
10. Center for Biological Diversity
11. Center for International Environmental Law
12. Center for Sustainable Economy
13. Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
14. Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
15. Citizens to Protect the Ambridge Reservoir
16. Clean Water Action
17. Climate Hawks Vote
18. Climate Justice Alliance
19. Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
20. Conservation Law Foundation
21. CYD Enviro Caucus
22. Endangered Species Coalition
23. Earth Forum of Howard County, Maryland
24. EarthRights International
25. Earthworks
26. Elders Climate Action
27. Environment America
28. Faithful America
29. Fire Drill Fridays
30. Food & Water Action
31. Friends of the Earth
32. Global Witness
33. Green Belt Movement International - NA
34. GreenLatinos
35. Greenpeace USA
36. Hip Hop Caucus
37. Howard County Climate Action, MD
38. Indigenous Environmental Network
39. Institute for Policy Studies, Climate Policy Program
40. John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
41. Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
42. Maryland Legislative Coalition
43. Mighty Earth
44. New York Communities for Change
45. NextGen America
46. Oceana
47. Oil Change U.S.
48. Oxfam America
49. Partnership for Policy Integrity
50. PennEnvironment
51. Physicians for Social Responsibility
52. Physicians for Social Responsibility Philadelphia

53. Progressive Democrats of America
54. Protect PT
55. Public Citizen
56. Publish What You Pay US
57. Rainforest Action Network
58. Resource Renewal Institute
59. Revitalization Strategies
60. Sierra Club
61. Sunrise Crefeld
62. Sunrise Hub DC
63. Sunrise Hunterdon County
64. Sunrise Jenkintown
65. Sunrise Movement
66. Sunrise Movement Bowling Green Kentucky
67. Sunrise Movement Los Angeles
68. Sunrise Movement Philadelphia
69. Sunrise Phx Hub
70. Sunrise Sequoyah
71. Sunrise St. Louis
72. Sunrise Williamsburg
73. Sustainable Energy & Economy Network
74. SustainUS
75. The Climate Reality Project
76. The Leap
77. The Wilderness Society
78. Transition US
79. Waterkeeper Alliance
80. WISE
81. WKU Young Democratic Socialists of America
82. Young Democrats of America Environmental Caucus
83. 198 Methods
84. 350.org
85. 350 Seattle