

December 21, 2020

Joseph Biden  
President-Elect

Kamala Harris  
Vice-President Elect

RE: Criteria for Leadership at EXIM, DFC, MCC, and USTDA

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris:

We congratulate you on your election as the 46th President and Vice President of the United States. We commend your commitment to provide international leadership on climate issues including integrating climate change into our foreign policy agenda and pursuing an end to fossil fuel subsidies globally. Such leadership is a prerequisite to rebuilding an economy at home and abroad that supports sustainable communities, climate resilience, and a just and equitable future.

To that end, it is of the utmost importance that you choose leaders at U.S. institutions that provide overseas export and development support that put mitigating climate change at the top of their agendas. We urge that you only select leaders for the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM), U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) who commit to:

- End overseas support for fossil fuels, following the lead of the United Kingdom;
- Support clean, sustainable renewables, especially mini- and off-grid renewables that are key to providing access to electricity in many parts of the world most in need.
- Contributes to COVID-19 economic recovery that protects the most vulnerable and supports a sustainable recovery;
- Pursue sustainable overseas development that supports, for example, healthy communities, climate resilient infrastructure, regenerative agriculture and food systems, and just and equitable economies;
- Promote the public interest, transparency, and accountability; and
- Engage with and seek the free, prior and informed consent of affected communities.

A candidate should be disqualified from leading or holding top positions at EXIM, DFC, MCC, or USTDA if the candidate has:

- Affiliations with corporations that promote interests at odds with environmentally and socially sustainable development, including the well-being of workers, consumers, people of color, the environment, small businesses, and communities as a whole;
- Prior record of support for U.S. Government financing for fossil fuels and/or disregard for harmful impacts of supported projects on affected communities;
- Policy positions at odds with the public good, such as support for government funding of fossil fuel projects;
- Ties to industry sectors that these agencies support, in particular Wall Street or the fossil fuel industry; and

- A strong likelihood that after a stint in government they will seek to work in an industry seeking government financing and, in so doing, favor support for harmful industries.

Your Presidency must set a new course in foreign policy, including one that creates environmentally and economically sustainable jobs at home and abroad, and protects the climate, local environments and communities globally. We appreciate you taking our suggestions into consideration when selecting leadership positions at EXIM, DFC, MCC, and USTDA.

Sincerely,

350 Triangle  
 Abibiman Foundation (Ghana)  
 AbibiNsroma Foundation (Ghana)  
 Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (Ghana)  
 Amazon Watch  
 American Horse Protection Society  
 Amigos de la Tierra (Spain)  
 Animal Wellness Action  
 Animal Wellness Foundation  
 Both ENDS (The Netherlands)  
 Center for a Humane Economy  
 Center for Biological Diversity  
 Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
 Centre for Transport and Energy (Czech Republic)  
 Clean Energy Action - Colorado  
 Earth Action, Inc  
 Earthworks  
 EcoEquity  
 Endangered Species Coalition  
 Food & Water Watch  
 Fossil Free South Africa  
 Friends of the Earth Australia  
 Friends of the Earth Canada  
 Friends of the Earth Japan  
 Friends of the Earth Malaysia

Gastivists Collective (Switzerland)  
 GegenStroemung – CounterCurrent (Germany)  
 Greenpeace USA  
 HumanNature  
 Inclusive Development International  
 International Accountability Project (IAP)  
 Jubilee Australia Research Centre  
 Korea Federation for Environmental Movement  
 Milieudedefensie (The Netherlands)  
 NC Climate Justice Collective  
 Nunataq Inc & Polar Bears International  
 Oil Change International  
 Organized Uplifting Resources and Strategies  
 Progressive Change Institute  
 Project Blueprint  
 Publish What You Pay-US  
 Rachel Carson Council  
 Rainforest Action Network  
 Recourse (The Netherlands)  
 RedTailed Hawk Collective  
 Revolving Door Project  
 Stand.earth  
 The Greens Movement of Georgia (Tbilisi)  
 Turtle Island Restoration Network  
 Upper Valley Affinity Group (Vermont)  
 Urgewald (Germany)  
 VedvarendeEnergi (Denmark)