

March 3, 2021

**Re: eliminate the filibuster to protect frontline communities and the climate**

Dear Leader Schumer,

The horrors of the last four years have exacerbated the toxic legacy of decades of environmental racism. The waning days of the Trump administration revealed how fragile our democracy truly is and the need for immediate action on the interlinked crises that threaten our communities, the nation and the entire world.

On behalf of the climate justice movement, communities on the frontlines of climate change, and our allied partners, we look to you to lead the rehabilitation of our institutions. That work must begin with abolishing the filibuster. Action on the climate crisis in a way that centers environmental justice should not be obstructed by a minority of Senators representing a minority of the country. Neither should progress be blocked by an even smaller minority of fossil fuel executives who have profited off of selecting as, and rendering disadvantaged communities into, sacrifice zones.

The climate crisis is already a daily reality for millions who reside in the United States – one that disproportionately impacts environmental justice communities, who are subjected to heatwaves, wildfires, rising seas, and increased threats to public health. They cannot afford to wait on a supermajority in the Senate. The bold climate agenda we need is incompatible with a regular order that subjects it to interdiction by an obstructive Senate minority.

Although we are optimistic about opportunities to pass some limited climate legislation using budget reconciliation, the needs of this crisis go beyond the narrow scope of tax and spending. The deeper reforms needed to phase-out fossil fuel production and protect the most vulnerable communities from pollution and extraction all require systemic changes that reconciliation cannot deliver.

The Senate must be reformed first if meaningful climate justice is to follow. We are counting on you to lead this effort.

Sincerely,

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light  
Alliance for Affordable Energy  
Berks Gas Truth  
Beyond Extreme Energy  
Businesses for a Livable Climate

Call to Action Colorado  
CatholicNetwork.US  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for International Environmental Law  
Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment

Center for Sustainable Economy  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Clean Energy Action Colorado  
Climate Crisis Policy  
Climate Hawks Vote

Climate Justice Alliance  
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline (NJ)  
Concerned Ohio River Residents  
Concerned Residents of Oxford  
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition

Earth Action  
Empower Our Future Colorado  
Environmental Justice Taskforce, Western New York Peace Center  
Food & Water Watch  
Friends of the Earth

Gas Free Seneca  
Green Delaware  
Green Party of Nassau County  
Greenpeace  
GreenFaith

Indigenous Environmental Network  
Indivisible  
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action  
Morningside Gardens Green Committee for Environmental Sustainability  
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance

NC APPPL - Alliance To Protect Our People And The Places We Live  
NC Climate Justice Collective  
New Party Coalition  
New York City Friends of Clearwater  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

North American Climate, Conservation & Environment  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light  
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
Oil Change U.S.

Preserve Giles County  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Project CoffeeHouse  
Public Citizen  
Rachel Carson Council

RapidShift.Network  
Responsible Drilling Alliance

Seneca Lake Guardian  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
Southern Christian Coalition

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion  
Sunrise Movement  
The Climate Mobilization  
Volusia Climate Action  
Waterspirit

Women's Earth & Climate Action Network  
Zero Hour  
350.org  
350 Bay Area Action  
350 Columbia

350 Humboldt  
350 Kishwaukee  
350 New Orleans  
350 PDX  
350 Seattle

350 Silicon Valley  
350 Triangle  
350 West Sound Climate Action  
198 methods