



## **2021 SEEC Jobs, Recovery & Infrastructure Legislative Priorities**

In this first session of the 117th Congress we have a historic opportunity before us, and we must be bold enough to seize it. Our coalition uniformly believes that we can and must create millions of good, family-sustaining jobs with an equitable recovery plan that simultaneously protects our communities from the ever-increasing threats of climate change while reducing pollution and injustice in historically burdened communities. Passing historic investments and standards today will create jobs in urban, suburban and rural communities across the country for electricians, engineers, pipefitters, plumbers, roofers, programmers, welders, and others. It will increase demand for American-made products, including building materials and auto-parts, and it will spur innovation and U.S. competitiveness for decades to come—all while building a more sustainable and secure future.

As we work on a just, climate-focused economic recovery, we outline the following priorities to take urgently needed action to create family-sustaining jobs, address the climate crisis and spur an equitable economic recovery. We have outlined our coalition’s shared priorities by committee jurisdiction, highlighting for each of our committee partners the critical policies we would like to work on with them in order to ensure their inclusion in any recovery package. However, because environmental and economic justice are so encompassing and critical, we have covered them in a cross-jurisdictional manner.

Critical to our goals will be passing meaningful standards, such as the clean electricity standard and others noted below, that will spur job creation and innovation while laying out a blueprint to decarbonize our economy. Equally critical will be making investments that meet the scale of the crisis. Bold investments will reap decades of dividends as we create good, union jobs; generate wealth for working families; and avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis. But an anemic effort will fall short of ensuring critical protections for communities now and in the future while also failing to generate the kind of lasting, robust, and equitable recovery we need. We must remind ourselves not only of the incredible opportunity before us to build back better if we are willing to face the climate crisis and address it, but also of what’s at stake if we don’t. More frequent and intense hurricanes, wildfires, floods, droughts and other climate-driven disasters are already harassing our communities—costing taxpayers billions and taking lives. As the planet warms, these and other threats will only increase in severity. At this moment we are making decisions *for* future generations. So many in coming generations will have little or no say in the

decisions we make around climate change today, but they will live with all the consequences. Inaction or inadequate action will mean our children and grandchildren trying to shoulder the cost of emergency after emergency in an unstable world. That cost is far too high; we cannot leave our children an uninhabitable world. Instead, we must build something better for them.

Building back better must also mean building back equitably and with less pollution. We know that low-wealth communities, communities of color, Indigenous communities and other frontline communities have been disproportionately exposed to our economy's pollution while they are simultaneously more exposed to the threads of climate change. It is passed time to correct this injustice. We echo the calls of environmental justice leaders in calling for robust funding for frontline communities and for changes in how we assess cumulative impacts. These and other policies listed below are critically important steps to addressing long-standing environmental injustices faced by low-wealth communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color. We must also commit, as the administration has, to delivering 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investments to disadvantaged communities.

Finally, we must ensure we are protecting working Americans and supporting the growth of good, family-sustaining jobs by enacting strong labor standards across all policies, ensuring we are supporting equitable access to these good jobs, and making robust investments in deindustrialized communities. It is vital that we weave environmental and economic justice into all our infrastructure and recovery policies. More details on what these investments and policies should look like can be found below.

### **Energy & Commerce:**

- *Energy efficiency and clean electricity standard (EECES) achieving 80% clean energy by 2030 & 100% by 2035:* One of the most significant things we could achieve this Congress is to pass an energy efficiency and clean electricity standard that sets us on a path to 80% clean energy by 2030 and 100% by 2035. Such a policy can create needed planning certainty for all in the electricity sector as well as good, family-sustaining jobs.
- *Transmission:* Include policies to support the responsible buildout of our transmission system, especially policies that support better interregional planning and via the creation of a transmission focused office within FERC to help coordinate stakeholders and provide assistance to state, local and tribal governments.
- *Clean energy accelerator:* We support the creation of a clean energy accelerator to spur deployment of clean energy technologies and financing for clean energy job growth. We also support reforms to the DOE loan program that would allow it to go further in advancing clean energy technology deployment, associated business development, and domestic, high-quality job

creation. Congress should focus at least 40% of an accelerator's investments and benefits on environmental justice communities, including low-income communities and communities of color, communities overburdened by pollution, tribal communities, and communities in transition.

- Zero emission vehicles (ZEV) & ZEV infrastructure: We need a drastic build out of zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure to make vehicle ownership even easier and to reduce range anxiety. We therefore urge you to dramatically increase funding for the deployment of zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure and to ensure that such infrastructure is equitably distributed, supports high labor and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) training standards, and promotes the domestic manufacture of charging equipment. We further urge you to consider programs to spur ZEV adoption, such as through cash vouchers for the trade-in of internal combustion engine vehicles for domestically produced ZEVs.
- Buy clean: Incorporate a Buy Clean proposal that leverages public procurement to support low-emissions industrial products. Many of those products, including cement and steel, are purchased in large quantities by the public sector. In the United States, nearly half of all cement and a fifth of steel is purchased with tax dollars. These products are critical to our goals of rebuilding America's infrastructure, and we have the opportunity to support building with cleaner, more innovative materials than ever before.
- Jump-start the circular economy: Invest in the infrastructure and programs needed to develop an economy that prioritizes reuse and does away with waste. In particular, help advance reuse and recycling of electronic waste and critical minerals needed to power the new clean energy economy. It is also important to spur a circular economy that addresses the plastic pollution crisis, which is having a devastating impact on our oceans and waters, disproportionately pollutes frontline communities, and is tied inextricably to the climate crisis. We can take steps toward this goal by requiring companies to take responsibility for their plastic pollution rather than leaving the problem entirely to local municipalities and taxpayers; creating a robust domestic marketplace for recyclable materials; and updating Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act regulations for plastic production facilities and waste facilities.
- Direct manufacturing incentives: Additionally, Congress should support an urgently needed suite of direct manufacturing incentives related to clean energy and climate technologies, to include loans and grants to expand domestic manufacturing, create family-sustaining jobs here at home, and fill key supply chain gaps in clean technology manufacturing. This includes expanding and updating the Advanced Technology Vehicles Loan Program (ATVM) to include medium- and heavy-duty clean vehicles and component manufacture, the manufacture of related electric charging/hydrogen fueling equipment, and other economically critical technologies. It also includes funding Section 132 domestic manufacturing conversion grants (for priority and at-risk plants).

- Buildings: We urge the development of national model building codes that aim for zero-emission buildings built with sustainable materials. We further encourage adoption of such codes for federal buildings and, in any forthcoming legislation, significant investments to modernize federal facilities with cutting-edge retrofits, energy efficiency upgrades and innovative green engineering designs. More broadly, we support the Biden Administration goal of building, preserving and retrofitting more than two million homes and commercial buildings, as well as a robust program to retrofit public facilities, including schools, hospitals, government buildings, libraries, and other public buildings. Importantly, however, we urge the committee to work with committees of jurisdiction to ensure that all building projects, both public and private, take a comprehensive approach to climate action, justice and sustainability by: building to the highest standards of energy efficiency; electrifying; building with sustainable, low-carbon materials; building with resilience and climate threats in mind; incorporating on-site renewable power where appropriate; and removing indoor air pollutants. Relatedly, and building on the great foundation set in the Energy Act of 2020, we encourage further investment in the Weatherization Assistance Program.

#### **Ways & Means:**

- 10-Year Extensions for Clean Energy Tax Credits: Extending clean energy tax credits for the next decade can send needed market signals and create necessary certainty in the business sector to make bold investments in clean energy technologies. We believe there is a new opportunity to grow many great provisions of the GREEN Act. We encourage the Committee to provide a full-value, 10-year platform with direct pay for the PTC and ITC, including offshore wind. These credits should also ensure support for high-quality union jobs via attached labor standards. Energy storage and transmission infrastructure should also be eligible for the ITC on a standalone basis. We also advocate for a 10-year extension for the electric vehicle tax credit with a cash rebate option for families that might not benefit from a tax credit reimbursement. We also urge 10-year extensions and modifications of energy efficiency tax credits and the alternative fuel refueling property tax credit. Finally, we must renew and enhance the Section 48C Advanced Energy Manufacturing tax credit, which will reequip, expand, or establish domestic clean energy, transportation, and grid technology manufacturing facilities. Additionally, such investments should support deindustrialized communities, such as coal and other energy-based communities that have experienced job loss, as well as other impacted communities.

- End tax breaks for fossil fuel companies: We encourage you to eliminate tax breaks for oil and gas companies within the U.S. tax code. Instead of providing the oil and gas sector with billions of dollars in tax deductions and other incentives, the tax code should help the U.S. reach our national goal of net-zero emissions by no later than 2050.

- An equitable and just price on carbon: We would support incorporation of an equitable and just carbon price that keeps working families whole and sends a planning signal to businesses

and industries to decarbonize. Such a policy should be advanced with a suite of policies from Congress and the Administration to reduce pollution in disproportionately impacted communities, such as provisions to secure mandatory pollution reductions in environmental justice communities and policies to address cumulative impacts of pollution in these communities. This economy-wide tool, when developed justly and coupled with the other priorities discussed in this document, can help further our efforts to achieve our emissions goals. Importantly, this must be done while preserving all other tools, including Clean Air Act authorities, and it must be additive to regulatory actions to secure, strengthen and enforce our clean air and water rules more broadly. Finally, environmental justice communities must have a seat at the table during the development of any pricing policy.

- *Reinstate the Superfund tax:* In order to clean up toxic Superfund sites, we encourage the committee to restore payments from polluters into the Superfund Trust Fund so that polluting industries help fairly cover the cost of cleanups.

### **Transportation & Infrastructure:**

- *Incentivize Projects that Reduce Greenhouse Gas and Other Pollution:* We encourage the committee to advance its greenhouse gas pollution standard for transportation and implement a funding structure that provides progressively more funding for highway and transit projects based on how much they reduce greenhouse gas emissions, criteria pollution, and vehicle miles traveled. Our transportation infrastructure investments will spur robust job creation and economic opportunity, and if we invest in a just, climate-smart way, they can also set us on the needed path to decarbonization and pollution-free communities. Alternatively, a status quo approach to surface transportation will only further increase emissions and offset any good work we might be able to do in other areas. We must re-envision how we approach surface transportation policy.

- *Fix it First:* We encourage incorporation of fix it first requirements for spending across all highway investments. This would ensure that we take the necessary steps to fix our backlog of eroding bridges, pot-holed roads and infrastructure affected by corrosion.

- *Zero Emission Transportation & Goods Movement:* We must significantly increase investment for charging infrastructure along highways and for zero emission public transit fleets. In particular, we must make the big, upfront capital investments needed to allow localities to transition to zero-emission public transit infrastructure. This must include money to buy domestically manufactured zero-emission transit and school buses, install charging infrastructure, support appropriate workforce training, and provide federal technical assistance—especially in underserved, over-polluted communities. As part of this, we must make significant increases in the no or low emissions bus program, while converting the program to an explicitly

zero emission focus, and give the bus and bus facilities programs money exclusively for zero emission bus infrastructure and operations. Additionally, frontline and fenceline communities are unduly burdened by diesel particulates and emissions related to good movements such as heavy vehicles, rail, and maritime. We must make big investments in research, development and deployment of pollution-free technology and zero-emission charging infrastructure in our freight networks, including a broader decarbonization and electrification of our ports. We support enhanced funding to cut emissions from ports and medium- and heavy-duty trucks through diesel emission reduction grant programs, clean ports grant programs that incentivizes ports to create and implement climate action and pollution reduction plans, clean freight grant programs, and excise tax breaks or vouchers modeled on state programs for zero-emission trucks. Ensure these programs are deployed under conditions that uphold fair labor standards, ensure community engagement and community benefit, and discourage exploitative business models.

- Public Transit: We encourage a significant increase in funding for public transit and support efforts to address the solvency of the mass transit account to pave the way for sustainable, long-term investment in communities. We further support more resources to support operating expenses in an ongoing way. Additionally, recovery and infrastructure spending must also do away with the outdated 80/20 highway-transit split that leaves transit in both urban and rural areas underfunded and thus underserving communities it is meant to support. Transit funding should be placed on par with highways in a 50/50 split of federal investment. To be clear, this should not be about reducing money for highways—we have a backlog of roads and bridges that we need to fix—but it is about increasing investments in transit.

### **Science, Space & Technology:**

- Significantly increase authorization levels for critical clean energy innovation programs in the near term: The reauthorizations passed at the end of last year were a great first step, but we must do more. In line with the Biden-Harris campaign call to invest \$400 billion in clean energy and innovation over ten years, we urge you to set us on that path by aggressively increasing funding authorizations in the near term for critical clean energy programs, especially: ARPA-E, the Office of Electricity, the programs housed within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) office, and critical clean energy related research within the Office of Science. Bold investment in clean energy innovation will help provide needed stimulus and job creation while also helping ensure the advancement of technologies needed to address the climate crisis and be global leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Importantly, this funding can and must be used to advance research and technology development related to energy storage, grid modernization, buildings, manufacturing and hard-to-decarbonize sectors, as well as research into new materials that can substitute or reduce the need for mined materials that might be

supply-constrained. We must also focus on supporting equitable access to these technologies as they develop.

- *Spur domestic clean manufacturing and job growth:* Support the translation of new climate-related discoveries into workable techniques and deployable, domestically manufactured technology through increased support for climate-focused manufacturing within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST has a critically important role to play in developing the new procedures and technologies manufacturers will need to employ in order to meet domestic and global greenhouse gas reduction standards. Supporting such work now will give U.S. manufactures an edge in developing the climate-friendly products the world will demand. We further support directing the work of Manufacturing USA and NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership towards climate solutions. The American Jobs Plan calls for significant funding increases for these programs--it's vitally important to our planet that these increases be committed to job-creating domestic manufacturing that will also advance solutions to the climate crisis. We urge the Science Committee to commit to industrial transformation and domestic manufacturing of clean technologies as a top priority. We need to invest in retooling and transforming energy intensive industries to reduce the growing emissions from this sector and ensure the global competitiveness of our manufacturing base.

- *Climate Research:* Harness the research capabilities and expertise of the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy National Labs in addressing climate change by significantly increasing funding for and focus on climate related research within these institutions. We further encourage increased focus on needed ocean research and innovation through creation of an Advanced Research Project Agency - Ocean (APRA-O).

### **Natural Resources:**

- *30 x 30 to spur job creation and climate resilience:* Part of building back better has to involve knowing where to build and where to preserve—and it has to finally acknowledge all the jobs created in preservation. For starters, it's estimated that the outdoor recreation economy generates nearly \$800 billion in consumer spending each year and supports more than five million jobs. Additionally, policies to restore and preserve ecosystems create ecosystem restoration jobs and help us stem the costs of the climate crisis, since these natural resources serve as carbon sinks while also providing ecosystem services that can mitigate the impacts of our changing climate on communities. Investing in our lands, forests, wetlands, watersheds, and coastal and ocean resources helps protect communities from extreme wildfires, drought, sea-level rise, and storm surges, among other threats. President Biden's American Jobs Plan appropriately calls for the protection and restoration of nature-based infrastructure. For these reasons, we urge the incorporation of 30 by 30 preservation goals (to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030) in build back better plans by:

Expanding protections for critically important ecosystems and wild places, from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the Great Lakes, down to the Everglades. We further support investments directed at creating a National Wildlife Corridor System.

Supporting increased funding for programs that employ workers in ecological restoration work to protect and restore natural systems such as EPA's National Estuary Programs; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Resiliency and Habitat Grant Programs; Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Investing in the creation and maintenance of parks and green spaces in underserved areas, especially through the Urban & Community Forestry Program and the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program.

Developing a civilian climate corps to spur job opportunities stewarding our public lands and critical ecosystems. Such a corps should prioritize training for people living in low-income and communities of color, Tribal communities, and environmental justice communities. It should also supplement - not supplant - existing jobs and ensure partnerships with unions and pre-apprenticeship pathways into registered apprenticeship programs and other training programs.

- *Renewables on public lands and waters:* We urge incorporation of policies that incentivize development of wind, solar and geothermal on public lands and offshore wind along our coasts in low-conflict priority areas, while ensuring impacts to wildlife and habitat are avoided and minimized. We further urge increased funding for the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and other federal agencies to help make smart, efficient permitting possible. Additionally, we should put revenue already collected from renewable energy to work supporting local communities and local conservation. All of this can support job growth and community enrichment for Americans across the country.

- *Economic revitalization & the path forward for sustainable extraction:* We must create jobs and invest in energy-based communities that have experienced job loss by investing in abandoned mine lands cleanup; orphaned oil and gas well cleanup, and programs like the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Assistance to Coal Communities program, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration, the National Dislocated Worker Grants, and others. We must take a holistic approach and provide wrap-around support services for communities in need. We also support efforts to reduce state reliance on fossil fuel extraction revenue. Building back better also has to envision a sustainable plan for new mining, especially as we work to secure supply chains for the resources needed to power our clean energy economy. In keeping with our 30x30 and wilderness

conservation goals, we must make clear that some places are too valuable to mine. We must further commit ourselves to recycling these critical materials to avoid dangerous waste in our economies and our environment. That said, in places where it is appropriate and where there is a need to proceed with responsible mining to secure critical minerals, we must start with a modernization of federal mining law that ensures communities and ecosystems are protected while also ensuring that taxpayers are being appropriately compensated for this use of public land. We must further reform the oil and gas leasing program to ensure a fair return for taxpayers, incorporate community input, and protect our natural resources. Finally, as we build back better, we must prioritize efforts to sustainably retrofit, rehabilitate, and remove dams to improve the health of our nation's rivers and increase clean energy production. This will restore ecosystems to their original state, create good-paying clean energy jobs, improve the safety of our nation's 90,000 dams, and provide reliable storage for variable energy resources. We urge the committee to work with other committees of jurisdiction to develop legislation that includes increased funding for dam safety upgrades and removal, investments in the federal hydropower fleet to ensure they remain a reliable source of low carbon energy, and the development of incentives to support the rehabilitation of existing powered dams and the installation of power generation at non-power dams.

- Oceans: Scientists have determined that the ocean is a critical component of our climate solutions: it is estimated that twenty-one percent of the global greenhouse gas equation can be solved with ocean-based solutions. Furthermore, 40% of the U.S. population lives in coastal counties, and importantly, investments in our ocean and coastal communities can be a serious job-creator. We therefore urge any recovery plan to include investments in coastal and wetland restoration and resilience projects that will enhance blue carbon sequestration, provide habitat for fisheries, improve biodiversity, protect shorelines from storms and sea level rise, and improve water quality. We further support inclusion of policies that preserve or increase protections for critical ocean ecosystems. These policies will create jobs, boost coastal economies, offer resilience to climate change, and reduce carbon pollution.

### **Agriculture:**

- Create a carbon bank to pay farmers for their work sequestering carbon: Such a program would provide needed economic support for rural communities and reimburse farmers for the critical work they can do to protect the security of our food supply in the face of a changing, unstable climate through regenerative, climate-smart farming and ranching.

- Farmland conservation, risk adaptation & climate change mitigation: Increase funding for the USDA's Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Refocus these programs on climate stewardship and

regenerative agricultural practices that help rebuild soil organic matter and restore degraded soil biodiversity, resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle. Relatedly, as many parts of the country struggle with increasingly extreme drought, we must increase support and resources focused on agricultural water conservation projects, such as through the adoption of new irrigation technologies and other practices. We must also provide significant additional funding for conservation technical assistance. We should increase funding for USDA's Climate Hubs, which link USDA research and program agencies with farmer, educational, and technical entities. Congress should also provide new, dedicated funding to Cooperative Extension to help identify and increase adoption of regionally appropriate climate smart strategies for farmers. Finally, we can invest in training on climate-smart agriculture practices by increasing funding for the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) Program and including training on climate-smart agriculture in the 2501 Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program. Across all these efforts, we must ensure that small and medium-sized farmers have a voice in climate solutions.

- Support local and regional food infrastructure: Additional funding for both USDA's Local Agriculture Market Program and funding for small-scale meat and poultry processors will support producers of all sizes through additional opportunities to process, aggregate, and distribute local products; develop marketing channels such as farmers' markets; and strengthen regional food systems. This allows for more money to make its way directly to farms, and thereby into the local economies where its impact is multiplied.
- Invest in on-farm energy initiatives: In order to help producers and rural small businesses save money and utilize renewable energy, Congress should increase funding for the Rural Energy for America Program and prioritize funding for projects that would result in the largest net decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reforestation and Tree Planting: Support ecologically appropriate reforestation and increased forest stocking, as well as agroforestry and silvopasture establishment on private agricultural lands. Congress should also increase funding for the U.S. Forest Service's State Forest Action Plans to stimulate job creation, improve forest resilience, and increase carbon sequestration.

### **Cross-jurisdictional—Environmental & Economic Justice:**

- Creating family-sustaining jobs & just workforce development: Across all these job-creating policies and investments, we must include prevailing wage, Buy American, neutrality, project labor and community benefit agreements, local hire, and other important labor standards to ensure we are creating high-quality, family-sustaining job opportunities for communities everywhere. All major public spending on and financing of clean technology deployment—

including tax incentives, loans, grants, and bonds—should support high labor standards and domestic manufacturing throughout the supply chain, and include Davis-Bacon requirements, project labor agreements (PLAs), and community benefit agreements (CBAs). We also support providing training opportunities through Registered Apprenticeships and other high-quality training programs. We further support efforts to foster partnerships composed of local businesses and industry organizations, workforce boards, labor, education institutions and training providers, and community-based organizations to support workforce training programs in targeted infrastructure industries. We must further include provisions to support local and equitable hiring practices, and to ensure equal access to the jobs we'll be creating. We also call for increased support for the EPA's Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI), the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) program, the Susan Harwood Training Program, the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS) Environmental Career Worker Training; USDA's Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant; and USDA's Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (The 2501 Program). Finally, Congress should direct agencies to extend, clarify and enforce Buy America standards—extending and ensuring effective application to manufactured goods, clean technologies, and materials, and to all forms of public spending.

- *40 percent of investments benefiting underserved communities*: Ensure that 40% of our investments in the clean energy recovery benefit environmental justice (EJ) communities.
- *Water*: Maintain the national moratorium on water shutoffs while significantly increasing funding for 1) the Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program; 2) the Small & Disadvantaged Communities program 3) the Alaska Native Villages and Rural Communities Water Grant program; 4) the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program, and 5) the Drinking Water and the Clean Water State Revolving Funds, with at least 20 percent directed to disadvantaged communities in the form of additional grants and at least 20 percent set aside for green infrastructure projects. We further call for immediate funding for potable water distribution, filter installation and sanitation systems for homes without access to basic water necessities; funding to establish Community Water and Energy Resource Centers (CWERCs) to help resolve ratepayer, infrastructure, and environmental issues for communities struggling for clean water access; and crucially important, bold investments to replace all lead water lines in our drinking water infrastructure.
- *Energy*: We encourage further funding increases in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program—all of which will help reduce energy costs for families and create jobs. We further support greater flexibility in program administration to encourage permanent energy use reductions through building retrofits and solarization. We also support the deployment of Department of Energy grants to build pollution-free energy micro grids and other

projects that improve the reliability and resilience of energy infrastructure, especially in low-income and communities of color, as well as Tribal and environmental justice communities. We must also do more to bring clean energy directly to underserved communities through distributed renewable energy generation.

- *Healthy, pollution free communities:* We need to provide robust funding increases across a number of programs to help ensure that we are fostering safe, healthy and pollution free communities as we recover. For starters, we urge significant funding increases for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emissions Vehicle Program and the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act to reduce transportation pollution, which disproportionately impacts communities of color. We also urge further investments in the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) Program and robust funding for additional grants that can serve environmental justice communities, including EPA's Multipurpose Grants to States and Tribes, Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program, the creation of a new EPA Climate Justice Grants Program, and the State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA) program. We also support increased funding for EPA's Office of Community Revitalization (OCR), Superfund Site Cleanup, Brownfields Redevelopment, and Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grants, as well as increased funding for EPA to enforce environmental regulations, expand air quality monitoring to protect fence-line communities, and establish programs to protect environmental justice communities from COVID19 hazardous and medical waste.

- *Safe Housing and Sustainable Community Development:* We can and must work to stem pollution exposure in housing, provide access to safe and affordable housing in sustainable communities, and respond to the climate crisis at the same time. We support an increase in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to support development of safe, affordable, energy efficient and climate-smart housing and sustainable, healthy communities. Much more can be done to harness community investment in just climate solutions through CDBG, including developing model climate and sustainability projects for communities to consider and ensuring that agency technical assistance has deep climate planning expertise. We also support fully funding the Public Housing Capital Fund and the President's commitment to retrofit and build new public housing. Further, we must ensure that all construction related to public housing stock and HUD-assisted housing takes a comprehensive approach to climate action, justice and sustainability by: building to the highest standards of energy efficiency and ensuring that this is a lasting policy by developing more permanent standards and incentives for all new and existing housing structures; electrifying all HUD and HUD-assisted housing; building with sustainable, low-carbon materials; building with resilience and climate threats in mind; incorporating on-site renewable power where appropriate; and removing indoor air pollutants. We can further support sustainable development in underserved communities by increasing funding for Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to support energy efficiency, clean energy and other job-creating investments in these communities; revitalizing

and funding the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program to assess toxic pollution exposure risks and develop innovative solutions for removing the threat; and increasing funding for both the Building Resilient Infrastructure and the Communities and Flood Hazard Mitigation programs.

- Cumulative impacts: As we build back more justly, we must address the cumulative impacts of multi-source pollution that has disproportionately burdened communities of color. We support an innovative and comprehensive approach to addressing cumulative impacts and reducing the health, environmental and economic disparities created by systemic racism.