March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority
Leader Schumer,

As a coalition of some of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental organizations,
collectively representing millions of members and supporters, the BlueGreen Alliance thanks
you for advancing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to provide critical relief during
this crisis.

This is a necessary initial step, but by this summer millions of Americans will likely be out of
work. When working people lose out on even a day's wages, they have to make hard decisions
about what to pay for and what to put off. We urge you to develop and pass an economic
stimulus package focused on working people and the public good. A stimulus package must
safeguard working peoples' jobs, homes, and livelihoods. And it must also include investments
that will provide for a sustained economic recovery and deliver a cleaner, more resilient
economy.

Some companies and industries will need support in the short and medium-term, and we believe
this must come with conditions to avoid permanent layoffs, secure jobs, provide safe and fair
working conditions, and deliver climate and environmental benefits. Simply handing over

billions of dollars without standards would be unwise and would virtually ensure workers do not see the direct benefit of their hard-earned tax dollars. Working people must see the benefits of any package.

Congress must act now on a robust economic stimulus and recovery package that:

- **Addresses working people and families' immediate needs.** Congress must act strongly to protect the most vulnerable, safeguard working peoples' jobs, homes, and livelihoods and shore up essential public services. Immediate action must be taken to ensure that frontline workers' health and safety is protected. Congress must also ensure that essential sectors of the economy are able to continue functioning amidst this state of emergency. These actions are needed now to protect workers, families and communities from acute harm and to help stave off an even graver economic crisis.

- **Rebuilds the public sector and services**. The crisis we are facing has put a spotlight on the critical importance of investing in the workers on the front lines of fighting this virus and keeping our communities functioning, such as first responders, teachers, nurses, and childcare workers. We need to rebuild the capacity of the public sector, the health care system, education, and community-based resources to prepare for and respond to disasters like COVID-19 today and to keep our communities safe and stable for the future.

- **Invests in our infrastructure,** including by modernizing our schools, hospitals, and transit systems, delivering broadband to rural communities, modernizing our grid and upgrading water systems. These investments can provide a much-needed jolt to our economy while delivering good jobs and public health and climate benefits to communities.

- **Supports and retools America's manufacturing sector**, with a major reinvestment in fortifying and transforming heavy industry and retooling to build more of the products, materials, technologies of the future here—all while providing more pathways into good family-supporting jobs. We cannot cede American manufacturing jobs to our global competitors because we failed to be forward-thinking about boosting the sector for the short and long term.

- **Provides critical long term support and protections for workers.** Workers and communities cannot deal with crises alone - whether they are disastrous hurricanes or fires or global pandemics. We must rebuild and expand the social safety net, including pensions, healthcare, and retirement security, and ensuring and enforcing worker and community health and safety. This should include shoring up multiemployer pension and annuity plans that millions of Americans rely on for their retirement benefits. These policies will help ensure that working families are better equipped to handle the next financial, health, or other crisis we face.

- **Prioritizes equitable rebuilding and investments in those communities most in need**, including those hit first and worst by the crisis as well as low-income communities, communities of color, deindustrialized communities, and disabled coal miners with black lung. The response to this crisis should deliver a healthier and more equitable future.

Making investments now in a forward-looking sustainable recovery is critical to ensuring that we will rebuild a fair and resilient economy. The immediate relief passed this week will help some Americans dealing with the economic harm caused by the Coronavirus. The long-term relief and investment in America's basic infrastructure and social systems must build a stronger, cleaner, and more inclusive economy for every American. The ancillary benefits of those investments will pay dividends for decades. Repairing our broken infrastructure systems will also reduce pollution and the emissions driving climate change and improve public health for generations to come.

We urge you to pass an economic stimulus package that shows up in the pockets of those who need it. And one that sets up the foundation for American prosperity for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BlueGreen Alliance

United Steelworkers

Sierra Club

Natural Resources Defense Council

Service Employees International Union

National Wildlife Federation

Utility Workers Union of America

Union of Concerned Scientists

American Federation of Teachers

United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters

Environmental Defense Fund

International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

League of Conservation Voters