



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 20, 2019

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, we write to urge you to swiftly bring up several key items for floor consideration. There is opportunity to make real progress in key areas around climate change and job creation. We urge you to take advantage of the closing weeks of this session to advance these key priorities, priorities that we know you share with us.

Specifically, before 2019 comes to a close, we urge Congress to:

1. **Fulfill our nation's responsibility to coal miners and coal communities** by passing bills targeted at reinvestment in these communities and protection of coal miners' health and wellbeing. Such legislation includes H.R. 2156, the RECLAIM Act; H.R.4248, the Abandoned Mine Land Reauthorization Act; and H.R. 3876, the Black Lung Benefits Disability Trust Fund Solvency Act. Congress must also pass legislation that secures miners' pensions as well as healthcare for former and current miners, H.R. 935, the Miners Pension Protection Act of 2019, and H.R. 934, the Health Benefits for Miners Act of 2019. For over a century, coal communities have been instrumental in powering our economy. These bills would give back to these communities and workers as they justly deserve.
2. **Invest in clean energy.** We also urge Congress to include critical clean energy tax credits in any end-of-year spending package. Extending tax credits that help spur and sustain American leadership in clean and efficient energy, create good jobs, and protect our workers is a critical step to achieve the goal of addressing our urgent climate and environmental challenges in ways that are centered on uplifting American workers and communities. Specifically, in any tax-related package, we encourage Congress to prioritize tax extenders for clean transportation, grid modernization, clean energy, energy efficiency, advanced energy manufacturing, and black lung. Additionally, we ask that Congress consider requiring strong procurement policies throughout the supply chain for all purchases made with public funds provided by tax incentives, as well as requiring mandatory labor standards for employers accepting clean energy tax incentives.

3. **Pass bills to invest in infrastructure, advance innovation, and protect workers.**

While there is much legislative work to be done, including passing a comprehensive infrastructure package, the BlueGreen Alliance urges Congress to move forward discrete bills that will help our communities today, create good jobs, and reduce emissions. These include:

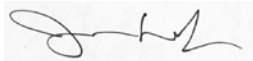
- **H.R. 865, Rebuild America’s Schools Act.** The state of American schools is dire and we’ll need a robust set of solutions to repair our educational infrastructure; help fortify our communities; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; improve the health and safety of our students; and create family-sustaining jobs. The Rebuild America’s Schools act is a critical step in moving these priorities forward by providing a \$100 billion investment to address critical infrastructure needs in schools.
- **H.R. 2474, Protecting the Right to Organize Act.** This legislation would take tangible steps to stem the tide of continued violations of the rights of working people to organize, and would provide real consequences for those who violate the rights of workers. This bill ends prohibitions on collective and class-action litigation; prohibits employers from permanently replacing striking employees; strengthens remedies and enforcement for employees exercising their rights; creates a mediation and arbitration process for new unions; amends how employees are defined so that no one is misclassified as an independent contractor; protects against coercive captive audience meetings; and strengthens the National Labor Relations Board’s procedures.
- **H.R. 3978, Clean Industrial Technology Act.** This bipartisan bill would work to coordinate and advance federal efforts to reduce emissions from the industrial sector. Reducing industrial emissions will grow American competitiveness in the global economy and secure and create a new generation of good, middle-class jobs across America—all while tackling the climate crisis.
- **H.R. 3068, the Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act.** This bill would create a job training grant program aimed at providing individuals with the skills needed in the offshore wind industry. America’s offshore wind industry is growing, creating quality, family-sustaining jobs and helping to drive the nation’s clean energy future. By supporting a wide variety of workforce development strategies targeted at this growing sector—including union training and apprenticeship programs—this bill will ensure that workers have access to the skills training they need to take advantage of this emerging industry.
- **H.R. 1497, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019.** This bill will help address our failing water infrastructure—and ensure quality jobs are created—by infusing over \$16 billion in direct investments to address our wastewater infrastructure and water quality needs. This includes more than doubling funding levels for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, which has a proven track record of successfully providing funding to states and communities for wastewater infrastructure construction.

Finally, as you continue to negotiate on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), we also urge you to ensure that any revised deal only come to a vote if it levels the

playing field and makes deep reforms to strengthen workers' rights and climate and environmental standards, with independent and binding enforcement. Anything short of that is a failed trade agreement. The North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) replacement must support good union jobs, livable wages, healthy communities, clean air and water, and a more stable climate.

We urge leadership to consider the priorities laid out above to advancing solutions that are good for workers and the environment. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Walsh", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Jason Walsh  
Executive Director  
BlueGreen Alliance