



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

BlueGreen Alliance Priorities for COVID-19 Relief & Economic Recovery

Overarching Standards/Principles:

- Ensure all projects built with public resources are subject to Buy America standards that maximize the return to taxpayers and the American economy;
- Enforce Davis-Bacon provisions that ensure workers are paid prevailing wages;
- Utilize project labor agreements (PLA), community benefit agreements (CBA), local hire, and other provisions and practices;
- Drive forward-looking planning and investments that meet environmental standards and build resilient infrastructure systems and communities;
- Ensure we “Buy Clean” to prioritize use of the most efficient, resilient, and cleanest materials and products with the lowest carbon and toxicity footprints and “Buy Fair” to enhance labor standards, workers’ rights, career pathways, equity, and community benefits;
- Enhance and enforce hiring and procurement policies that benefit low-income communities, people of color, and women;
- Prioritize investments in those communities most in need;
- Workers and families must receive the majority of the benefits of any federal aid package and aid will be clawed back if workers don't benefit; and
- Ensure adequate enforcement, including an outside oversight board with the authority to periodically review recipient compliance and adequate funding for state and local enforcement to ensure construction projects truly meet PLAs, CBAs, and other workforce provision requirements.

Policy Priorities:

Pillar 1: Address Working People and Families’ Immediate Needs

Protect the most vulnerable; safeguard working peoples’ jobs, homes, and livelihoods; and shore up essential public services.

- **Protect the health and safety of healthcare, emergency, critical infrastructure, manufacturing, and all essential workers:**
 - Require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue, enforce, and train employers and workers in the provisions of an emergency

temporary standard to protect all frontline workers from COVID-19, including (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 120302)¹:

- Ensuring immediate company-specific OSHA consultations about the precautions companies should take as they reopen, ramp up, or change over production to make personal protective equipment (PPE), medical devices, and necessary supplies;
 - Requiring the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to issue, enforce, and train employers and workers in the provisions of an emergency standard to protect coal miners from COVID-19;
 - Allowing workers to self-quarantine if they are concerned about exposure to the virus, and protect them from termination if they are quarantined;
 - Ensuring workers who provide direct patient care, emergency services, or are otherwise in hazardous working environments are compensated with appropriate pay; and
 - Rejecting provisions to shield corporations from liability if their workers get sick on the job while offering no U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) protections to ensure worker safety.
- **Protect communities and workers' jobs, wages, and benefits:**
 - Extend unemployment insurance (UI) benefit eligibility for the duration of the COVID-19-caused economic downturn and expand UI work-sharing eligibility to avoid layoffs;
 - Ensure workers in all sectors—and at companies of all sizes—have access to paid sick leave for themselves and family members, closing the loophole from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to cover companies with less than 50 or more than 500 employees (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 120104);
 - Ensure a worker's leave for COVID-19 is separate from their existing leave, and that they are eligible at any time they are employed (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 120106);
 - Protect workers' healthcare and pension plans and coverage of missed contributions due to missed work or layoffs;
 - Guarantee retirement security through a federally-funded cash infusion to shore up multi-employer pension plans,;
 - Issue a moratorium on all evictions, foreclosures, and utility shut-offs;
 - Increase funding to the Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program (\$5 billion) (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 190703);
 - Provide direct additional, unrestricted, funding to state and local government facing severe budget shortfalls (\$1 trillion) (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Title III);
 - Ensure that any taxpayer is eligible to receive stimulus benefits (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 20102);

¹ Note that all legislation referenced is from the 116th Congress

- Protect workers and their benefits in bankruptcy proceedings, including the Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2018 (S. 2518, 115th Congress).
- **Ensure critical services for community health and safety and support for education:**
 - Provide additional emergency relief grant funding for K-12 through the Save Education Jobs Act (H.R. 8691 (Hayes)) (\$261 billion);
 - Require response plans for students with special needs, those in special facilities, as well as those who do not speak English as their first language;
 - Provide \$2 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund administered through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) E-Rate program for schools and libraries to support distance and remote learning (H.R. 6563 (Meng));
 - Ensure protections are in place for custodial staff tasked with decontaminating facilities impacted by COVID-19;
 - Compensate educational professionals working additional hours to ensure children and parents are prepared and safe;
 - Provide funding for Community Health Centers to address the physical, environmental, and mental health impacts and disparities of this current crisis and to take a leadership role in preventing, adapting to, and recovering from future crises (H.R. 2 Sec. 34102);
 - Fund the “Ready Reserve Corps” to respond to public health emergencies and build community resilience (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 30614);
 - Increase funding for the public health workforce to enable workers to better address the COVID-19 crisis as well as long-neglected and urgent public crises such as climate change; and
 - Direct additional funding through Community Block Grants to prevent water shut-offs and establish mandatory safe water reconnections during crisis.
- **Ensure the manufacture and supply of critical equipment immediately and secure the U.S. supply chain, jobs, and workers to meet ongoing need:**
 - Ensure the federal government fully utilizes the Defense Production Act (DPA) to manufacture and distribute the equipment, supplies, and procedures necessary to protect the public and all essential workers (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Sec. 110101), including:
 - Passing the Medical Supply Chain Emergency Act (Schatz-Murphy) to ensure sufficient immediate supply, ensuring requisite funding for DPA;
 - Task Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Response Coordination Center to, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), immediately assess the need for equipment, supplies, and procedures; identify and distribute existing reserves; and work directly with manufacturers and suppliers to purchase and transparently, equitably, and effectively allocate and distribute these items; and

- Provide firm purchase and delivery guarantees and, where necessary, provide additional funding to manufacturers to purchase equipment, retool, or hire additional workers to manufacture PPE or critical medical devices or their components, or to ramp up sterilization facilities while remaining in full compliance with environmental protections and worker and community health and safety.
 - Require the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at HHS to do an annual assessment and to replenish masks, medicine, and medical equipment in the Strategic National Stockpile, in line with ongoing review of domestic supply chain and stockpile needs for critical goods (H.R. 6800 (HEROES) - Title V, Subtitle B).
- **Emergency relief for major corporations must be contingent on the following conditions:**
 - Providing mandatory paid sick leave and a \$15 minimum wage for all direct employees;
 - Ensuring no layoffs, no benefits cuts, and no dividend or stock buybacks;
 - Respect for collective bargaining agreements and workers' organizing rights such as neutrality, majority sign-up, and first contract arbitration and no hiring of anti-union consultants;
 - Installing workers on boards, providing equity ownership stakes, and other measures to ensure continued alignment with the public interest with regard to major rescue packages;
 - Protecting workers and their benefits in bankruptcy proceedings; and
 - Requiring companies to permanently comply with the requirements in the Workers' Right to Training Act (S. 2468 (Brown)) to ensure any investments in technology or automation—which may be accelerated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic—are predicated on worker consultation and training.

Pillar 2: Invest in Our Nation's Infrastructure

Provide a much-needed jolt to our economy while delivering good jobs and public health and climate benefits to communities. BGA's infrastructure policy platform can be found [here](#).

- **Establish a National Infrastructure Bank**, which would identify transportation, energy, water, and other infrastructure projects in need of funding and match private sector investments or money from local governments made by the bank;
- **Provide immediate cash infusions for critical water infrastructure programs:**
 - Increase funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and permanently extend Buy America provisions for Drinking Water SRF (H.R. 5193 (Bustos)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 22113, 33103, 33104);

- Increase funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program;
- Increase funding for the Army Corps of Engineers;
- Complete Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement in all homes and child care centers (H.R. 7918 (Smith/Cuellar)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 33105/H.Amdt. 829 to H.R. 2 (Tlaib)); and
- Invest in the cleanup of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) (H.R. 535 (Dingell)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 33101).
- **Invest in transportation:**
 - Increase funding and financing for the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and enhance block and competitive grant programs to spur integrated community infrastructure investment, deliver local environmental and economic development benefits, and expand clean and affordable options for transit between communities:
 - These programs include DOT's BUILD (formerly TIGER), Private Activity Bonds, the National Highway Freight Program, TIFIA, and RIFF, and Capital Investment Grants (CIG)—including New Starts, Small Starts, and Core Capacity.
 - Enhance funding for programs that enable the federal government, states, and localities to increasingly test, purchase, and deploy domestically manufactured electric municipal and school buses and other public and government fleets:
 - This includes programs such as DOT's Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement and Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (ERA), LoNo grant program, and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Vehicle Technologies Program;
 - Speed deployment of clean vehicles in federal fleets and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), building on the FLEET Act (H.R. 2337 (Huffman)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 50001-50003); and
 - Speed deployment of clean school buses and related grid and resilience technology, and strengthen domestic manufacturing, building on the Clean School Bus Act (S. 1750 (Harris)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 33311).
 - Increase funding for key programs targeted at spurring low-carbon freight deployment, including:
 - DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) program; and
 - DOT's Private Activity Bonds, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment program, National Highway Freight Program, and Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA).
 - Deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure:

- Support wide scale deployment of highway and community EV charging infrastructure ensuring equitable deployment investment, high labor and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) training standards, and domestic manufacture of charging equipment, building on (H.R. 5770 (Levin)), and provisions in (H.R. 5545 (Rush)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 1211), (H.R. 5530 (Tonko)) (H.R. 5751 (Clarke))(H.R. 2 Sec. 33332-33333); and
 - Support the DOT VTO to provide competitive grants to states or utilities to ramp up financing for EV infrastructure.
- **Finance, plan for, and build high-voltage transmission lines**
 - Increase availability for federal loan guarantees and grants for high-voltage transmission lines:
 - Provide a federal investment of \$40 billion over 10 years in the form of loan guarantees and tax credits to leverage additional private sector investment in transmission projects; and
 - Increase funding for DOE to provide technical assistance to state and regional entities to identify, site, and ultimately approve transmission projects that are in the public interest.
 - Direct DOE to develop a national transmission plan and use its authority under the Energy Policy Act to designate National Interest Transmission Corridors.
 - Empower the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to engage in enhanced transmission planning between regions.
 - Direct FERC to develop and implement interregional planning requirements subject to baseline standards established by Congress (S. 3109 (Heinrich)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 33113, 33116).
 - Strengthen and clarify federal authority:
 - Strengthen Section 216 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) to clarify DOE and FERC authority to approve interstate transmission lines to relieve congestion identified through DOE's triannual transmission congestion study and subsequent identification of National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors. This will enable approval of transmission projects that are in the public interest of maintaining a reliable and resilient national electric supply; and
 - Strengthen Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act to increase DOE authority over permitting and siting and to expedite the process of DOE permitting approval.
- **Increase funding for energy storage and grid resiliency research, development, and deployment**
 - Revitalize the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program, increase funding for the Energy Storage program and Smart Grid Research and Development program in the DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery, building on the track record of

partnering with the private sector and increasing emphasis on collaboration with utilities;

- Pursue more energy storage and smart grid demonstration projects in the field, utilizing states and communities as laboratories of innovation;
- Build on the success of the Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership by providing funding of \$50 million annually over 10 years for competitive grants to communities for the installation of energy storage technologies—prioritizing disadvantaged or underserved communities and at critical facilities—such as hospital and fire stations;
- Establish a competitive grant program to provide grants to states, units of local government, and Indian tribe economic development entities to enhance energy security through measures for electric delivery infrastructure hardening and enhanced resilience and reliability (LIFT Sec. 31101);
- Establish a program to provide financial assistance to eligible partnerships to carry out projects related to modernization of the electric grid, including projects for the application of technologies to improve monitoring of, advanced controls for, and prediction of performance of, the distribution system and projects related to transmission system interconnections (LIFT Sec. 31202);
- Create a distributed energy loan program at DOE to provide funding to states, state energy offices, tribal organizations, higher education, and utilities to improve security and resiliency of energy supply, increase use of renewable energy resources and waste thermal sources, enhance feasibility of micro grids, demand response, or islanding, enhance management of peak loads, and reliability in rural areas (LIFT Sec. 33303);
- Establish a technical assistance and grant program for nonprofit and for profit entities to disseminate information, technical assistance, and award grants to identify, evaluate, plan and design distributed energy systems (LIFT Sec. 33304); and
- Provide financial and technical support to state and local regulators, planning agencies, and administrators that engage in transmission project planning, siting, approval and permitting.

- **Reduce methane leaks**

- Accelerate repair and replacement of distribution pipelines by creating a state revolving loan fund for natural gas distribution pipeline repair and replacement to provide additional tools to states and utilities to address old, leaking distribution pipelines; and
- Provide \$250 million to establish a program that provides financial assistance to states to incentivize reducing emissions in the gas distribution system. This can be achieved through targeted funding to offset costs to low-income households and funding for enhanced directed inspection and maintenance programs (H.R. 5542 (Sherrill)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 33121).

- **Invest in natural infrastructure**, including improving climate resilience through natural defenses:
 - Establish a National Climate Adaptation program that provides grants, finance capacity, and skilled technical assistance to state and local governments;
 - Create a guaranteed source of funding for projects that expand outdoor recreation opportunities, and connect veterans with employment opportunities in public lands maintenance;
 - Reestablish federal flood protection standards that apply to all federal infrastructure spending;
 - Increase funding for FEMA’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program; and
 - Establish a new revolving loan fund and grant program for climate resilient infrastructure across the country with an emphasis on natural solutions such as restoring wetlands, dunes, and native forests.
 - Reinvigorate the Civilian Conservation Corps:
 - Re-establish a Civilian Conservation Corps, building on the model of the original Civilian Conservation Corps. This program should fund work on climate resilience and natural infrastructure, among other projects, and ensure partnerships with unions and with pre-apprenticeship pathways into registered apprenticeship programs and other training programs as well as community colleges and non-profit organizations. It should also include strong protections against private and public sector job displacement. This new program should center equity at its core and ensure greater opportunity and career pathways for women and people of color.
- **Deliver broadband to rural communities and fill urban gaps:**
 - Increase funding to deploy secure and resilient broadband; and
 - Restore the ability of local governments to regulate deployment of small cells in order to meet the needs of their communities.
- **Invest in the energy efficiency of MUSH (Municipal, University, School, and Hospital) Buildings**
 - Reauthorize the Hill-Burton Act to provide \$4 billion over 10 years for hospital infrastructure, including targeted assistance to speed recovery from extreme weather events, install energy efficiency retrofits, energy storage, and implement micro grid systems to improve resilience (H.R. 2 Sec. 34101).
 - Provide \$2 billion over 10 years for healthcare infrastructure projects through the Indian Health Service (IHS);
 - Create a pilot program and provide \$100 million to support laboratory infrastructure, including state laboratories involved in combating the COVID 19 virus; and

- Create a pilot program and provide \$100 million to fund infrastructure development for community-based care, including teaching health centers and mental health centers.
 - Establish an ambitious building retrofit and emissions reduction program for public, private, residential, commercial, and industrial buildings with strong labor standards, domestic content requirements, organizing neutrality, provisions ensuring clean and healthy building materials, and prioritization for low-income households, building off the Open Back Better Act (H.R. 7303/S. 4060 (Blunt Rochester/Smith)).
 - Create a DOE grant program within the DOE's Building Technologies Office to award states with matching funds to institute a comprehensive program dedicated to meeting at least a 20 percent reduction in energy usage in their MUSH sector.
- **Improve the energy efficiency of schools and health and safety for teachers and students**
 - Direct funds to address critical school infrastructure and reduce lead in schools, especially those with child care operations, such as through the EPA's Lead Testing School and Child Care Drinking Water Grant Program;
 - Direct funds to address critical school infrastructure by passing the Rebuild America's Schools Act (H.R. 865 (Scott)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 70000) (\$100 billion);
 - Reduce air pollution in schools, especially those with child care operations by passing the Clean Air, Sharp Minds Act (S. 3364 (Booker));
 - Boost the Health High-Performance Schools grant program by adding additional funding and allowing for direct action (remediation, testing, monitoring, and inspections) for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (\$50 million).
- **Increase funding for critical building energy efficiency programs**
 - Increase funding for existing federal programs:
 - \$3 billion for the State Energy Program;
 - \$3.2 billion/year over ten years for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant program;
 - \$17 billion/year over ten years for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
 - \$2 billion/year over ten years for the Weatherization Assistance Program; and
 - State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program.
 - Fund public facilities retrofits through existing authorities (Sec. 125 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005).
- **Spur offshore wind deployment:**
 - Provide \$50 million over ten years to DOE/DOI for training for jobs in the offshore wind industry (H.R. 3068: Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act (Keating))(H.R. 2 Sec. 84501).

- Provide \$265 million over ten years for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Office of Renewable Energy to assist in offshore wind lease sales, environmental review, and stakeholder engagement.

Pillar 3: Clean Energy, Clean Technology Manufacturing, and Industrial Transformation

Grow clean energy and domestic manufacturing, while reinvesting and retooling industry to build more of the products, materials, and technologies of the future here—all while providing more pathways into good family-supporting jobs and ensuring strong, secure clean technology supply chains. BGA's manufacturing policy platform can be found [here](#).

- **Capitalize an industrial bank or revolving loan fund** to provide loans and grants to manufacturers to expand domestic production of clean energy, transportation, and infrastructure technology and energy efficient products and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing facilities;
 - Ensure criteria for domestic, high-quality job creation, as well as targeted investment in impacted communities.
- **Fund urgent manufacturing conversion and retooling:**
 - Fund Section 132 Manufacturing Conversion/Industrial Retooling Grants to shift or retool facilities to produce clean vehicles or components and update to include key EV propulsion technologies. Facilitate reinvestment in deindustrialized communities and at-risk plants (H.R. 2 Sec. 33341):
 - Prioritize conversion of existing plants to produce critical components and clean technologies;
 - Emphasize priority investments in plants recently closed or at risk of closure, or in deindustrialized or under-invested communities; and
 - Retain and enhance mechanisms encouraging collaboration with local and state investments, workforce development measures, and related economic development tools.
 - Expand and update the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program to, at a minimum, cover medium- and heavy-duty clean vehicles and component manufacture, the manufacture of related electric charging/hydrogen fueling equipment, and prioritize economically critical technologies. It should also prioritize the manufacture of strategic components, target investment in deindustrialized communities, and ensure the creation of and access to good-paying jobs (H.R. 2 Sec. 33342); and
 - Fund Section 1603 grants in lieu of tax credits for clean technology deployment, manufacturing and/or industrial retooling or conversion.
- **Greatly increase U.S. funding for RD&D and industrial transformation:**
 - Launch a National Institute of Manufacturing to coordinate manufacturing initiatives across the federal government;

- Establish a new DOE Office of Industrial Transformation, and execute a program of technology development, demonstration, and deployment in energy-intensive industry commensurate with achieving net zero emissions by 2050;
 - Establish a permanent jobs, labor, and energy workforce program in the Office of the Secretary of Energy;
 - Direct investments to spur innovation and industrial transformation, which should build on the Clean Industrial Technologies Act (H.R. 3978/S. 2300 (Casten/Whitehouse)). This should include funding a new program within the Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office to award competitive grants to eligible entities for first of kind commercialization projects—including demonstration and pilots—of technologies that increase energy savings and lower greenhouse gas emissions of U.S. energy intensive manufacturers;
 - Increase funding across DOE programs, including EERE, the Office of Science, and ARPA-E, building on H.R. 7827 (Cartwright));
 - Increase funding for DOE's Title XVII Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee and Tribal Loan Guarantee programs to support low and no carbon electricity production as well as first in class and subsequent deployment of innovative industrial technologies, including industrial carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), that modernize energy-intensive manufacturing and reduce industrial emissions (H.R. 2 Sec. 33181);
 - Ramp up technical assistance and funding at DOE to greatly enhance deployment of combined heat and power (CHP), waste heat to power (WHP), smart manufacturing, and other existing and near-term energy and materials efficiency technologies and processes in industrial facilities; and
 - Enhance grant programs for small- and medium-sized manufacturers to deploy industrial efficiency, repowering, and emissions reduction technology and processes (H.R. 7446 (Cartwright)).
- **Renew and expand clean energy and clean energy manufacturing tax credits:**
 - Renew and enhance funding for the Section 48C Manufacturing Tax Credit program, which provides an investment tax credit to reequip, expand, or establish domestic clean energy, transportation, and grid technology manufacturing facilities. The scope should be expanded to capture the manufacture of key energy and carbon reducing technologies, such as battery cells (H.R. 2 Sec. 90441) and include targeted investments in coal, deindustrialized, and impacted communities;
 - Increase the Section 48 investment tax credit for CHP and clarify waste heat to power is also eligible for this credit (S. 2283 (Carper));
 - Adapt the Section 45M technology production tax credit to fund domestic production (or manufacturer purchase) of strategic clean energy/vehicle component technologies, including batteries, solar cells, and wind components; and

- Extend major clean energy, clean vehicles, energy storage, industrial efficiency and other tax credits to spur demand; and improve key tax credits to enhance their domestic economic and equity impacts (S. 2185 (Merkley), (H.R. 2 Sec. 90441).
- **Use public investment and incentives to boost a strong, clean, and fair manufacturing economy in America**
 - Pass Buy Clean legislation to ensure that materials used for public projects, like infrastructure improvements, are the cleanest and most sustainable available. Buy Clean can ensure that taxpayer dollars support products manufactured in a clean, efficient, environmentally-friendly manner—reducing pollution while supporting good jobs across the nation;
 - Buy America/n: Direct agencies to extend, clarify and enforce Buy America/n. Extend and ensure its effective application to manufactured goods, clean technologies, and materials, and to all forms of public spending. Ensure all major public spending on clean technology deployment—such as tax incentives, loans, grants, and bonds—also support high labor standards and domestic manufacturing throughout the supply chain:
 - Extend Buy America/n applicability—including melted and poured provisions—to more infrastructure sectors and materials;
 - Tighten and clarify rules on manufactured goods and subcomponents—especially for emerging clean technologies and materials—to support development of critical components in the United States;
 - Improve transparency and waiver rules; and where waivers are approved, improve mechanisms to regularly review, and to require and phase in domestic supply over time;
 - Supplement Buy America/n requirements with procurement requirements that require or incentivize high labor standards, union neutrality, career pathways, equity, and community benefits agreements for public procurement of major manufactured materials and equipment;
 - Utilize domestic ‘qualified’ or ‘preferred’ domestic entity certification or similar to raise labor standards for General Services Administration (GSA) procurement;
 - Incentivize and/or require significant domestic content and high labor standards in clean technology products and projects receiving tax, grant, or loan funds, and for private activity bonds; and
 - Update trade rules on procurement to support domestic manufacturing as discussed further below.
 - Boost direct federal—and state and municipal—procurement to spur demand for clean, fair, safe, and domestically manufactured clean technology, such as enhanced government purchases of clean government fleets and net-zero government buildings, innovative community resilience, and disaster response technology; and

- Fund accelerated deployment of advanced vehicles through programs like Clean Cars for America that spur vehicle turnover and the purchase of highly efficient and electric cars, trucks, buses and school buses; ensure these programs incentivize domestically manufactured vehicles and technology and provide options for all income levels.

Pillar 4: Rebuild the Public Sector and Services and Invest in Social Infrastructure and the Care Economy

Rebuild the capacity of the public sector, the health care system, education, and community-based resources to prepare for and respond to crises. BGA's social infrastructure policy platform can be found [here](#).

- **Ensure adequate funding and staffing:**
 - At all levels of government, the public sector must be made whole from losses suffered during the pandemic. There must be full investment in the public sector and public services to ensure we have the resources and capacity we need to respond and recover;
- **Provide resources for planning and support to ensure the public sector and those providing public services can properly respond to pandemics and other crises:**
 - Ensure public and private entities have adequately prepared and tested preparedness plans. Workers must play an active role in the development of these plans;
 - School systems must proactively develop plans describing the potential impact of a crisis (e.g., a pandemic or climate-related disaster) on worker health and student learning, (e.g., student and staff absences, school closings, and extracurricular activities) and develop alternative procedures to ensure continuity of instruction and continuity-of-operations plan for essential central office functions, including payroll and ongoing communications with students and parents:
 - Communication plans must take into account language, culture, and reading-level appropriateness and must be routinely tested on any communication platform used in the plan (e.g., hotlines, telephone trees, dedicated websites, and local radio or TV stations).
 - Healthcare systems must also proactively develop plans describing impacts on healthcare workers during a pandemic:
 - All workers (doctors, nurses, caregivers, custodial staff, etc.) should be supplied with all necessary and recommended equipment and working conditions so they are ready to keep themselves, their patients, and their families healthy;

- Develop a communications plan to ensure healthcare workers have clear guidance on protocols for protection and prevention of exposure to the virus; and
- Ensure essential healthcare employees have childcare in the event that schools and daycares are closed.
- Provide adequate training and support to home and community-based care workers to provide caregivers with the resources to better protect the most vulnerable in our society from crises; and
- Municipal, healthcare, and school systems, and other public services must work to address provisions for mental health support services for staff, students, and families during and after a pandemic and climate-related disasters.

Pillar 5: Provide Critical Long-Term Support and Protections for Workers

Rebuild and expand the social safety net, including pensions, healthcare, and retirement security, and ensure/enforce worker and community health and safety

- **Guarantee retirement security through a federally-funded cash infusion to shore up multi-employer pension plans;**
- **Ensure workers' rights and representation:**
 - Remove policy barriers to organizing by passing the following legislation:
 - H.R. 2474/S. 1306, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act;
 - H.R. 3463, the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act;
 - H.R. 1154, the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act;
 - Ensure access to unions for EPA staff and other federal employees; and
 - Discourage misclassification and misuse of temporary labor.
- **Improve existing social safety net programs:**
 - Permanently modify laws to allow immediate access to unemployment insurance, increase benefit size, expand work-sharing eligibility, allow for extensions, and expand coverage to self-employed and gig workers;
 - Ensure mandatory paid two weeks sick leave and family leave;
 - Provide mental health support for workers providing critical public services; and
 - Provide adequate supplies and safe workplaces to:
 - Ensure OSHA has enough budget to hold employers accountable for workplace health and safety, focusing on staffing for timely and effective enforcement; and
 - Require the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate OSHA's current use of maximum penalties where warranted.
- **Ensure worker health and safety.** For decades, OSHA and MSHA, the federal agencies charged with keeping American workplaces safe have not had the regulatory or the financial resources to fulfill their missions. The Trump administration has further

weakened these agencies by refusing to issue new rules or enforce existing standards to protect the lives and health of American workers. We urge swift action on the following:

- OSHA and MSHA should promulgate permanent safety and health standards for infectious disease for all workers;
 - OSHA should double the number of inspectors and immediately fill vacancies among inspectors, senior executive service (SES) and other career staff;
 - OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) should establish a formal collaboration with EPA on the implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA);
 - MSHA should promulgate a silica standard;
 - Workplace reports on occupational injury and illness and agency enforcement activities should be made publicly available; and
 - New standards that address heat stress and the other safety and health hazards of climate change should be promulgated.
- **Modernize our federal health and safety laws and ensure adequate policy enforcement:**
 - Require OSHA to expedite its review and update of the existing emergency response and preparedness standards, including an assessment of the durability of the revised standards under future conditions; and
 - Amend Section 3 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) to extend federal protections to public sector workers in all federal OSHA states and territories.
 - **Improve training, retraining and career pathways:**
 - Increase funding for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Education and Training Program and DOL Susan Harwood Training Grants program;
 - Incentivize community workforce agreements, targeted hire requirements, and similar measures focused on increasing employment of disadvantaged and underrepresented workers and communities in manufacturing and infrastructure projects;
 - Boost investment in registered apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship-integrated programs with community-based “wrap around” services to maximize retention of disadvantaged and underrepresented workers;
 - Require the DOL to work with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of Personnel Management to develop a coordinated and publicly accessible national surveillance system for occupational health and safety that includes education for all workers on their right to refuse dangerous work; and
 - Establish a climate resilience workforce training program targeted at training workers on climate impacts, disaster response, and resilience. This should build

on existing programs such as the Department of Labor's Susan Harwood Training Program, NIEHS's Environmental Worker Training Program, and FEMA's Community Emergency Response Training Program.

Pillar 6: Prioritize investment in those communities most in need

Prioritize those hit first and worst by the crisis as well as low-income communities, communities of color, and deindustrialized communities.

- **Make targeted and equitable reinvestment in impacted communities a priority for any grant and loan programs established;**
- **Reclaim abandoned mines and wells and spur economic development opportunities in hard hit communities in need of an economic boost:**
 - Expedite the use of existing funds in the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund to reclaim abandoned mines and stimulate economic development on reclaimed land (RECLAIM Act - H.R. 2156) and reauthorize the AML fee (H.R. 4248 (Cartwright)) (H.R. 2 Sec. 84301-84305)); and
 - Provide funding to reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells.
- **Protect disabled coal miners with black lung who are disproportionately vulnerable, including:**
 - Extending the excise tax on coal companies for 10 years (H.R. 3876 /S. 3172 (Scott/Machin)) and improving the functioning of the program (S. 2205 (Casey)); and
 - Providing extra funding for federally-supported black lung clinics to ensure they are well-staffed, can acquire extra space in order to ensure social distancing, and have adequate cleaning supplies.
- **Increase funding for key agencies and programs that focus on investing in hard-hit communities, redeveloping industrial sites, spurring economic development, and remediating environmental degradation, including:**
 - Increase federal funding for the Economic Development Administration;
 - Increase funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission;
 - Increase federal funding for waste cleanup programs such as EPA's superfund and Brownfield programs; and
 - Increase funding to additional critical EPA programs, including EPA's
 - Small and Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant Program;
 - State and Tribal Assistance Grants;
 - Environmental Justice Program; and
 - Lead Risk Reduction Program.

Conclusion:

Investment in a forward-looking recovery is critical to assure American families, workers, businesses—and the markets—that we will rebuild a fair and resilient economy. The ancillary benefits of those investments will pay dividends for decades.

We call upon Congress to enact these recommendations.