



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

June 17, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority 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 and its partners urge you to support ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which would lead to significant benefits for our climate, workers, and the economy.

The Kigali Amendment phases down production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)—powerful climate pollutants—building on 30 years of successful international cooperation under the Montreal Protocol. The amendment is expected to avoid up to 0.5°C of warming by 2100.¹ As noted by the World Meteorological Organization, this magnitude of temperature increase is substantial in the context of the Paris Climate Agreement, which aims to keep the rise in global temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.²

In addition to these climate benefits, the Kigali Amendment would bolster American jobs and expand markets for domestically manufactured products. Fluorocarbon-based manufacturing industries in the United States—which include heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration—expect that ratification of the Kigali Amendment will help add 33,000 direct manufacturing jobs in the next five years. That is on top of the 589,000 workers already employed in these industries.³ In addition, Kigali ratification is expected to add another 4,000 jobs in the growing industry of reclaimed refrigerants.⁴ Manufacturing investments also have a multiplier effect that drives broader job growth: each full-time job in manufacturing creates 3.4 equivalent jobs in nonmanufacturing industries.⁵

¹ World Meteorological Organization (WMO), *Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018*. January 2019. Available online:

<https://csl.noaa.gov/assessments/ozone/2018/downloads/2018OzoneAssessment.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ Inforum & JMS Consulting, *Economic Impacts of U.S. Ratification of the Kigali Amendment*, April 2018. Available online: https://www.alliancepolicy.org/site/usermedia/application/6/Kigali_Economic_Report.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Third Way, *Industry Matters: Smarter Energy Use is Key for US Competitiveness, Jobs, and Climate Efforts*, October 10, 2018. Available online: <https://www.thirdway.org/report/industry-matters-smarter-energy-use-is-key-for-us-competitiveness-jobs-and-climate-effort>

Manufacturing is also a key source of good union jobs.⁶ Research by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) has found that the average wage in manufacturing is 10% more than comparable jobs in other sectors and the higher share of manufacturing workers who receive benefits raises that premium to 13%.⁷

The U.S. Congress has already adopted legislation to carry out the HFC phasedown. The bipartisan American Innovation and Manufacturing Act (AIM Act), signed into law in 2020, would meet the United States' obligations under the Kigali Amendment.

With domestic compliance already underway, ratification of the Kigali Amendment will enable American companies to access rapidly growing cooling markets that will bolster jobs in the United States while decreasing climate emissions. More than 120 countries are already party to the Kigali Amendment—it is time for the United States to join the global community in its joint effort to phase down HFCs.

We urge your support for rapid Senate action to approve ratification of this critical measure.

Sincerely,



Jason Walsh
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance

⁶ BLS, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey. Available online: <https://www.bls.gov/cps/tables.htm#union>

⁷ Economic Policy Institute (EPI), "Yes, manufacturing still provides a pay advantage, but staffing firm outsourcing is eroding it," March 12, 2018. Available online: <https://www.epi.org/publication/manufacturing-still-provides-a-pay-advantage-but-outsourcing-is-eroding-it>