

FY2021 Appropriations Committee

June 23, 2020

Thank you, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger, for providing members the opportunity to share our thoughts on the FY21 appropriations bill. I have come to urge funding to address the greatest existential threat to life on Earth- climate change. That includes investing in solutions we know that work and are ready to be deployed, as well as, robust funding for our nation's climate change research programs to pave the way for a clean energy future.

Climate change is a simple fact that should no longer be up for debate. From increasingly intense storms to sea-level rise, from extreme heat to prolonged droughts, the Earth's climate is making its displeasure known, and it comes at an ever-growing cost to us all. It's in your backyard and mine. And there is no debate among anyone qualified to debate the merits of the science.

The leading climate scientists from around the world have urged us to respond. In October 2018, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that it will take unparalleled action over the next decade to ensure that the global temperature to remain below 1.5 degrees Celsius of total warming above preindustrial levels^[1]. In November 2018, the Fourth National Climate Assessment concluded that our government "must act aggressively to adapt to current impacts and mitigate future catastrophes" and confirmed that "without significant global greenhouse gas mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is expected to cause substantial losses to infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century."^[2] These reports were conducted by climate experts from all

^[1] <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

^[2] <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

backgrounds, including federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as national laboratories, universities, and the private sector. The scientific consensus is clear: climate change is occurring, and greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver. ^[3]

Despite these recommendations, the Trump Administration has repetitively sought to severely cut or eliminate climate research programs. The President's FY 2021 budget request recommends across the board cuts to climate science. Concerningly, the Administration seeks to eliminate the Department of Energy's ARPA-E program, which creates the renewable energy technologies necessary to decarbonize our economy; cut the EPA's Air and Energy Research program by 65%; and cut the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research by 40%. Without strong funding for climate science programs such as these, we will not be equipped to address the greatest challenge facing our nation today.

- 1. We must invest in those climate solutions we already know work - energy efficiency & clean energy are easy solutions to an urgent crisis.** Across the world there are legions of nations with similar (if not better) qualities of life who use less than 50% of the energy the U.S. does per dollar of GDP. Why? Because they've recognized that policies that make us more efficient in our energy use, are investments that will yield positive returns. Building the energy infrastructure of tomorrow, incentives for low-carbon techs, and removing regulatory barriers to the deployment of low-carbon technologies – these are all potential solutions that reduce the carbon footprint while leveraging existing market forces to up our efficiency. To that end, we must invest in our clean energy economy by funding the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and

^[3] <http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/06282016.pdf>

Renewable Energy (EERE) at \$2.8 billion for its critical programs to secure America's energy future.

2. **We must invest in a massive research, design, demonstration, & deployment (RDD&D) effort for those areas of the economy where we do not have low-carbon alternatives.** The industrial sector includes the production of many essential goods such as steel, concrete, silica, and fertilizer for which we do not have low-carbon answers that can be easily deployed. We need more research there and need to prioritize investment in RDD&D. We must provide robust funding across the government including or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Transportation (DOT), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and the Department of Defense (DOD). Specifically, **\$582 Millions Advanced Research Projects, \$94 million in Energy Innovation hubs, and \$130 billion in Energy Frontier Research Centers.**

3. **We must re-establish America as a global leader on climate by funding important international programs to promote Pro-Climate Policies.** As a member lucky to attend the COP25 international summit in Madrid this past December, I can attest, U.S. leadership on climate is needed more than ever -- and has never been in shorter supply. That is why it is essential to protect and expand these core U.S. contributions and programming. Climate-related damage and disasters are growing in frequency and cost, putting the livelihoods of Americans of all walks of life at risk. We need investments to

protect our communities from these impacts. I strongly urge you to include these funding levels in your legislation:

- \$140 million for international Sustainable Landscapes programs;
- \$194 million for Renewable Energy programs;
- \$192 million for Adaptation programs;
- \$10 million for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- \$500 million for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

These programs have produced real measurable benefits, while also leveraging substantial sums in co-financing from other donors. Thanks to USAID adaptation programs, 5.3 million people globally gained access to cutting-edge satellite weather data, allowing them to save lives and better respond to extreme weather events. Sustainable Landscapes programs incentivize developing countries to curb deforestation while addressing rural poverty and improving the way lands are managed and harvested – leveraging U.S. funding dollars with up to 39 times more funding from other donors. Clean energy programs like the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative (ACEF) have mobilized more than \$30 for every \$1 spent by the program. Indeed, investment in developing country energy infrastructure is expected to exceed \$30 trillion over the next 25 years -- a small investment of U.S. funds can help shape that enormous market for decades to come. Finally, the GCF has attracted more than \$10 billion in co-financing for projects thus far and is doing groundbreaking work in tandem with the private sector to mobilize funding for both adaptation and mitigation projects.

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These programs represent a small fraction of our foreign aid budget but provide outsize benefits to the U.S. by maintaining our role as a global leader in smart, sustainable development.

I hope the Committee will consider some of the proposals I have mentioned here today. And I look forward to working with any of you in any way I can to combat this crisis. Chairman Lowey, thank you again for having me here today and thank you all for your leadership.