

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

**Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change
Hearing on
“Back in Action: Restoring Federal Climate Leadership”
February 9, 2021**

Ms. Christy Goldfuss, Senior Vice President of Energy and Environment Policy, Center for American Progress

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

1. Improved energy storage technologies would expand the range of low-carbon pathways available to fight climate change—especially those relying on variable renewable energy resources, like wind and solar power. However, the most comprehensive estimate of federal R&D spending on energy storage comes from a 2015 OMB interagency “crosscut”: [\\$300 million](#).

In your view, is this a sufficient level of federal investment for energy storage technologies? Please explain.

RESPONSE:

Major investments in energy storage technology are central to proliferating clean energy and improving the resilience of the United States’ transmission grid. Events like what took place in Texas this February are evidence of the fragility of our current energy system. With the increasing urgency of the climate crisis, Congress must invest in energy storage technologies at a level far more aggressive than what OMB last estimated in 2015. Specifically, Congress should address the deployment of energy storage through multiple policy approaches: tax incentives to accelerate wide-spread energy storage adoption, funding for demonstration projects to advance newer energy storage technologies, and targeted grants to deploy utility-scale energy storage projects that replace dirty fossil fuel peaking power plants and bring economic benefits to communities with closing fossil fuel infrastructure.

2. Can you give us a sense of how many and what types of jobs might be created if we commit to a clean energy economy and make major federal investments to support this transition?

RESPONSE:

In the wake of COVID-19, Congress must not and need not choose between job creation and a just and resilient clean energy future. A March economic [analysis](#) from the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) found that an economic renewal plan in line with the levels of investment laid out by the [THRIVE Agenda](#) would provide 15.5 million good, family-sustaining jobs for the next 10 years. The plan includes economy-wide public investments totaling \$954 billion per year, or \$4.77 trillion for the first five years - less than the amount that the U.S. government [committed](#) in coronavirus spending in March and April of 2020.

Broken out by sector, investing \$2.4 trillion over 10 years in renewable energy would create 2.8 million jobs in the United States for a decade. Investing \$1.2 trillion over 10 years in the energy efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and industries would create 1.3 million jobs for a decade. 5.2 million jobs would be created to help upgrade our failing transportation, energy, water, and natural infrastructure. 3.9 million jobs would be created to restore our lands and expand regenerative agriculture, and another 1.6 million jobs would be created in the manufacturing sector. In addition to employing millions of Americans, these jobs would drive considerable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, remediate longstanding pollution in environmental justice communities, and increase the climate resilience of the United States and its economy.

The quality of these jobs created through major federal investments is just as important as the quantity. By attaching strong labor, equity, and environmental standards to major federal clean energy investments, Congress would ensure that American workers have access to high-paying, domestic jobs with lasting economic security. Clean energy jobs receiving government support should pay family-supporting wages and benefits, including prevailing wages; respect workers' right to join a union; and prohibit discrimination and expand access through paid training and apprenticeship opportunities.

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA)

1. A year ago, the Energy and Commerce Committee released a draft of the CLEAN Future Act to get the United States to a 100 percent clean energy economy by 2050. Are there any specific improvements or changes you would like to see to the CLEAN Future Act that our committee's members can consider as we work to pass clean energy and climate legislation this year?

RESPONSE:

The CLEAN Future Act of 2021 helps lead the way to an ambitious clean energy transition, with significant investments in economic recovery and commitments to bold new sector-specific standards for decarbonization. The reintroduced version of the CLEAN Future Act is particularly commendable for its long-term and interim emissions reduction targets across

sectors, notably by setting an overarching goal of net-zero emissions economywide by 2050 with a bold interim target of 50 percent reduction by 2030. Furthermore, the inclusion of a strong clean electricity standard (CES) with an interim target of producing 80 percent of the nation's electricity from clean and renewable sources by 2030 addresses the need for a comprehensive policy approach and ambitious goal-setting to decarbonize the power sector. This interim target recognizes the urgency of the clean energy transition and, when paired with long-term clean energy investments, puts the United States on a clear path to achieving President Joe Biden's goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2035.

The bill also takes important steps in electrifying transportation in the United States. By investing in vehicle and port electrification and reestablishing greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the federal fleet, the bill sends an important market signal about the need to decarbonize every part of the economy, including the automotive and shipping industries.

Furthermore, the bill acknowledges that the economic and racial justice crises are deeply intertwined with the climate crisis by restricting air pollution permits for major emission sources in communities already overburdened by pollution and requiring that 40 percent of the funds made available under the bill benefit environmental justice communities. For example, investments directed to programs such as the Brownfields Program, a new Climate Justice Program, and a new Environmental Justice Community Technical Assistance Grant Program will address longstanding legacies of pollution that disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. Other provisions in the bill will support the clean energy workforce, including through the creation of an energy workforce training grant program and a requirement for projects funded by the bill to pay local prevailing wages and use domestically produced goods.

In line with the policy objectives set out in the CLEAN Future Act, Congress must now deliver on long-term, economy-wide investments that, paired with sector-specific standards, will support the transition of the United States to a 100 percent clean energy future by 2050. These clean energy investments will create high-quality, good-paying jobs and reduce toxic pollution in affected communities, all while meeting the scope of the climate crisis already upon us.