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Written Testimony:

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the committee,

Thank you for providing this time for public input on Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) supports robust federal funding for programs that further American leadership and ensure real progress on addressing critical international environmental challenges. Congressional appropriators have a bipartisan record of supporting vital international environmental and clean energy programs, so we urge you to continue this tradition, and step up the level of commitment to these investments in Fiscal Year 2021.

We ask that Congress provide renewed funding to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which is a smart investment that creates new opportunities for American companies and workers to tap into the \$60 trillion global clean energy market and create good-paying American jobs. Many American companies export their technologies and innovations around the world, including to projects that are enabled by the GCF. Other major economies like Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom have each contributed more than the U.S. to the GCF despite the U.S. pledging a greater amount. The U.S. has only contributed one-third of its GCF commitment (\$1 billion of a \$3 billion pledge) which has undermined our credibility and leadership on the world's stage and allowed our partners and competitors to sprint ahead in the global clean energy race. Ensuring America honors its commitment to the GCF is critical to holding other major emitters, such as China and India, accountable for doing their part to tackle climate change and transition to clean energy. The GCF has had diverse support from faith-based organizations, American companies, development organizations, environmental non-profits, and other varied stakeholders.

Bilateral programs like sustainable landscapes, renewable energy, adaptation, and biodiversity programs are all smart investments to strengthen U.S. alliances and prevent instability overseas by helping developing countries become more resilient. 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 for up to 39 times more funding from other donors. Renewable energy programs support cleaner air and increase energy access and security in developing countries, fulfilling Congress' vision of helping lift people out of poverty through access to reliable electricity by leveraging private sector and non-governmental investment. Adaptation programs reduce the impact of severe weather and natural disasters on critical infrastructure, agricultural productivity, and public health, and is vastly cheaper than responding to disasters once they have occurred. And finally, biodiversity programs support the functioning of healthy ecosystems on which human

livelihoods, security, and health depend, for example by bolstering food security in order to minimize conflict and provide opportunities for economic growth.

We were pleased to see these programs receive strong FY20 funding. For the first time ever, the renewable energy and adaptation accounts were included in the base bill. The NRDC asks Congress to build on that progress in FY21 by maintaining robust funding for these accounts, as well as providing additional funding where possible, including:

- Fully funding the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to continue our nation's support for protecting forests and endangered species around the world, protecting people from chemicals and waste, and promoting healthy international waters;
- Providing additional funding for maintaining the United States' financial commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to advance American interests in international climate change forums; and
- Providing additional funding for the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund that helps developing countries meet their commitments to phase out ozone-destroying and other chemicals, while helping develop markets for American companies to export these technologies.

To unlock the full market potential for American clean technology innovation, appropriators should also remove the rider barring funding for U.S. international development institutions to finance clean energy projects abroad and oppose any limitations that get in the way of driving climate solutions. At the same time, appropriators should ensure that all U.S. investments are helping to combat climate, biodiversity loss, and other environmental challenges. Scarce U.S. investments should avoid digging us deeper into a hole on these challenges.

We look forward to working with you to help ensure that the FY21 appropriation provides expanded financing to help address critical international environmental challenges.