



September 6, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate and House Majority and Minority Leadership, as well as Senate and House Chairs and Ranking Members of the Appropriations Committees,

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to continue negotiations on the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) appropriations legislative packages. We recognize the limited time Congress has to negotiate the end of year spending packages and we urge Congressional leaders to avoid a government shutdown, which would cause uncertainty that weakens our communities and our economy.

Additionally, as members of Climate Mayors, a bipartisan network of over 350 mayors committed to climate action; the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), a coalition of local government sustainability practitioners representing more than 280 communities; C40 cities, a network of mayors of nearly 100 world-leading cities, including 14 cities in the United States; the U.S. Conference of Mayors, representing over 1,400 cities with populations of 30,000 or more; and the National League of Cities, representing 19,000 cities, towns and villages nationwide, **we urge Congressional leaders to move forward with final passage of a clean FY24 spending bill with zero cuts to the investments from the Inflation**

**Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)** that are already working to support local economies and creating good jobs.

For decades, local leaders have had a front row seat to what the changing climate means for families, for the economy, and for our nation's future. That's why local leaders are focused on deploying people-first solutions and delivering results for the long-term. Today, that means dissolving political barriers to ensure cities and residents can benefit from all the climate and clean energy provisions in the IRA and the infrastructure investments already being deployed from the BIL.

As you know, through the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Congress and the White House agreed on top-line funding levels for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. We appreciate both Chambers working to come to this agreement and urge you to make good-faith efforts to deliver on that promise.

The BIL and IRA unlock the opportunity for historic achievements for climate action and, as organizations that represent local governments, we can say that the benefits to residents, and your constituents, will be transformative. We are already seeing the programs working in communities – from cleaner electric and zero emission vehicles on roads to more cost-efficient solar panels on rooftops, changes that mean cleaner air and lower energy bills for residents.

Local governments are already meeting this moment and building an economy that is inclusive, robust, and sustainable. With that, in any final FY24 Appropriations package we urge Congressional Leadership and Appropriations Chairs and Ranking Members to avoid:

1. **Undermining historic climate legislation by including any measures that rescind or cap the IRA.** This includes any measures that weaken or undermine the climate wins gained through the IRA, redefine the IRA's pro-climate congressional intent, and/or inhibit the Administration's ability to abide by the IRA's pro-climate congressional intent.

The House proposed bills claw back billions in investments for rural electric cooperatives, the Home Rebate Program, Assistance for the Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the Title 17 Innovative Technology Guarantee program, and more. The IRA provides historic climate funding that will boost local economies and has already created over 142,000 new clean energy jobs since the law's enactment<sup>1</sup>. Cutting back any aspect of this law will massively undermine the potential to build a just and clean economy.

2. **Any measures that undermine or rescind vital infrastructure programs or weaken federal rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** The House proposed bill eliminates additional annual appropriations for the U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant and prohibits the implementation of the proposed Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rule. The proposed elimination of valuable infrastructure programs and agency rules will inhibit infrastructure investments that are already creating safer, sustainable, and more equitable communities while also lowering emissions.
3. **Any measures that weaken programs aimed at alleviating pollution in overburdened communities, addressing environmental injustice, or meeting the Administration's Justice40 goals.** The House proposed bill prohibits funding for environmental justice activities and inhibits agencies' ability to advance racial equity and support for underserved communities. The Justice40 initiative and environmental equity will benefit all Americans – any measures to prohibit these policies will further exacerbate environmental and economic injustice in overburdened communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Climate Power. 3 May 2023. [New Report from Climate Power Illustrates the Clean Energy Jobs Boom in the States.](#)

4. **Any measures that cut the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) core capacity to protect public health and the environment**, including staffing, and restricting their ability to efficiently and effectively distribute funds and execute environmental, public health, and other climate-related programs and regulations. This includes any efforts to limit or block agencies’ ability to implement or enforce bedrock environmental laws or regulations. The current proposed funding in the House slashes EPA’s core agency functions – further hindering implementation of IRA and BIL funding.

Leaders from both parties should take climate action as seriously as the moment demands. The federal government plays a crucial role in supporting local governments in their place-based actions to address climate change and protect communities.

Cities across America have long demonstrated that economic growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand – and now, our federal government can show the world that investments in a just and clean energy economy are investments in the future of our workforce, the well-being of generations, and the resilience of our infrastructure and public spaces. This moment demands that we accelerate our efforts to drive ambitious, systemic change.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations for the FY24 Appropriations bills. We look forward to working with you to ensure continued government operation and funding and build an economy that works for everyone and a future in which people and the planet can thrive.

Sincerely,



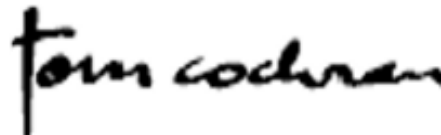
Kate Wright  
Executive Director  
Climate Mayors



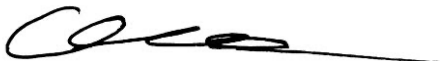
Laura Jay  
Regional Director, North America  
C40 Cities



Cynthia McCoy  
Director, Federal Engagement  
Urban Sustainability Directors Network



Tom Cochran  
CEO & Executive Director  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO & Executive Director  
National League of Cities