

April 20, 2021

Gina McCarthy
National Climate Advisor to President Joe Biden
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

Congratulations on your appointment as national climate advisor to President Joe Biden. As former officeholders who remain deeply committed to advancing aggressive action on climate change, we write in support of the administration's dedication to building back better for a green future. In that spirit, we would like to offer some considerations on efforts to address the climate crisis.

As you know, powerful support for an ambitious climate agenda continues to gain ground across the heartland, with rural voters joining their coastal neighbors in demanding action. From devastating wildfires in California to the sweeping destruction of windstorms across Midwest farmland, no community has been spared from the urgent threat now facing American families.

At the same time, we must learn from mistakes of the past. Truly economy-wide change requires sustained political willpower, which will only come from a 50-state strategy that lifts working families – from coastal cities to farm country. Fortunately, every state in America is blessed with talented labor and diverse renewable resources capable of supporting a new generation of green jobs that can drive our economy into the 21st century.

The path to success has already been demonstrated in innumerable ways. Iowa is now the leader in wind energy, which provides 42 percent of its electricity – more than any other state. In California, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) unlocked the transportation potential of farm-based biofuels, which have delivered almost 80 percent of all carbon reductions under the state's climate agenda. Time and again, we have seen smart policy prove that climate action can be harnessed to rebuild neglected communities.

That is why, as you work to turn an ambitious agenda into concrete policies, we urge you to ensure that America's clean energy future offers a diversity of opportunities for America's blue-collar workers, farmers, and low-income households. The climate is changing fast, and we do not have the luxury of pursuing solutions that will fall victim to shifting political winds. Now is the time to act quickly to deliver for disadvantaged communities, who cannot afford to be left out of the clean energy revolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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