

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Leahy, Vice Chair Shelby, Chair Coons, and Ranking Member Graham,

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of our development, faith-based, environment and conservation, health, science, foreign policy, and business organizations, as you work to finalize an FY23 appropriations package, we urge you to protect and support increased funding for U.S. foreign assistance overall and international climate finance within it.

Specifically, we call on you to retain the \$64.5 billion for U.S. foreign assistance programs in the House and Senate FY23 appropriations bills. Within that, we urge you to seek the highest possible amount for directly appropriated international climate finance to get as close to President Biden's \$11.4 billion commitment this year as possible, as many of our organizations advocated earlier this year¹. This includes delivering no less than the \$3.76 billion included in S. 4662, the Senate FY23 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations legislation.

In particular, we urge that you dedicate the following funding for each account and line item:

Bilateral Economic Assistance, environment programs: \$1.275 billion, as included in S. 4662. Of the funds appropriated for bilateral programs, the following amounts should be made available for the following activities:

- **Adaptation: \$550 million**
- **Renewable Energy: \$425 million**
- **Sustainable Landscapes: \$300 million**

Multilateral assistance: \$2.485 billion, as included in S. 4662. Of the funds appropriated for multilateral programs, the following amounts, as included in the House and Senate appropriations bills, should be made available for the following:

- **Green Climate Fund (GCF): \$1.6 billion**
- **Adaptation Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF): \$100 million**

¹ https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/fy23_intl_climate_finance_approps_letter_final_senate_05032022.pdf

- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): \$21 million**
- **Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (MLF): \$64 million**
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF): \$150.2 million**

As we have stated before, investments in international climate finance are key to U.S. credibility and influence on the global stage. Investing in climate change solutions internationally also benefits people in the U.S.

Many of our developing country allies and partners, particularly the most climate vulnerable, have made it clear that strengthening their ability to address the challenges of climate change is an overriding – even existential – national priority. Where the U.S. should be leading the effort to respond, our support has lagged significantly behind that of other developed countries. Our failure to lead and unwillingness to help other countries address their most pressing challenges have not gone unnoticed and compromise U.S. influence, leadership credibility, and its ability to secure reciprocal cooperation on our own national priorities.

Developing countries face disproportionate and destabilizing impacts from climate change and increasingly severe extreme weather events. Investing in the capacity and ability of developing communities to build their resilience and withstand the negative effects these changes are having on their food and water security, social stability, and human lives and livelihoods enhances U.S. national security. Specifically, these investments can address the causes of instability and fragility, including more severe and frequent weather hazards, decreased agricultural production and food security, and increased water scarcity. Such preventative measures also greatly mitigate later costs in U.S. humanitarian aid.

Financing for international climate programs serves vital U.S. interests by promoting global stability and security, creating economic opportunities for U.S. businesses and workers, alleviating global poverty and food insecurity, protecting investments in international development, complementing global health efforts, and ensuring significant cost savings by promoting resilience and disaster preparedness.

We stand ready to assist you in ensuring that these resources achieve their goals and to drive home the message that U.S. international investments are in support of U.S. interests.

Sincerely,
 ActionAid USA
 ADRA International
 Alliance of Baptists
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 American Friends Service Committee
 American Jewish World Service
 American Society of Adaptation Professionals
 Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
 Bank Information Center
 Bread for the World
 Brighter Green
 Bruce Wilson Contracting
 Catholic Climate Covenant

Center for American Progress
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Ceres
Christian Connections for International Health
Church Women United in New York State
Climate Advisers
Climate Generation
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Conservation International
Divest Oregon
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
E3G
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
EcoEquity
Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO)
Elders Climate Action
Environmental Defense Fund
Evergreen Action
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Faiths for Safe Water
Foreign Policy for America
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth United States
GASP
Global Citizen
Health Care Without Harm
Hindus for Human Rights
Hip Hop Caucus
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
InterAction
Interfaith Power & Light
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
International Sustainable Resilience Center, Inc.
Islamic Relief USA
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
Justice Is Global
League of Conservation Voters
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Methane Action
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Ocean Conservancy
Oil Change International
Our Climate
Oxfam America
Pacific Environment
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Passionist Solidarity Network
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Polar Bears International
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Refugees International
Save the Children
Sierra Club
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Soli Solutions, Inc.
St. Columban Mission for Justice, Peace and Ecology
Sunrise Movement
Tearfund USA
The Climate Reality Project
The Nature Conservancy
The People's Justice Council
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
U.S. Green Building Council
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
Utah Valley Earth Forum
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
Wall of Women
WaterAid
Wildlife Conservation Society
Win Without War
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
World Wildlife Fund

CC:

Secretary Antony Blinken, U.S. Department of State
Secretary Janet Yellen, U.S. Department of the Treasury
Shalanda Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Samantha Power, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development
Secretary John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
Jake Sullivan, National Security Adviser
Brian Deese, Director, National Economic Council

John Podesta, Senior Advisor, Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation

Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy

Majority Leader Charles Schumer

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell

Chair Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member Kay Granger

Chair Barbara Lee

Ranking Member Hal Rogers