

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Committee on Appropriations
Energy and Water Development, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rose DeLauro
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Oppose DOE Subsidies for Fossil Fuels, Plastics and Petrochemicals

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Chairwoman Kaptur:

We are writing to urge you to restrict funding for fossil fuels, plastics, and petrochemical infrastructure in the fiscal year 2022 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies bill. Specifically, we are echoing requests made by Members of Congress, asking that you reduce the appropriation for the Department of Fossil Energy Research and Development by 50% through targeting the reductions we outline below. We support abolishing the office and ending public subsidies for this infrastructure, as we should not be funding any of this infrastructure, but we also support this funding reduction request as an important first step.

Congress should also ensure the DOE Title XVII Loan Program does not fund fossil fuels, petrochemical and plastic by identifying the \$8.5 billion for Advanced Fossil Energy Projects under Title XVII as a fossil fuel subsidy and reprogram the funds to one of the other loan categories that do not fund these areas. The Manager's Report should also make it clear that the DOE Title XVII Loan Program should not fund fossil fuels, carbon capture utilization and storage or plastics and petrochemical infrastructure such as natural gas liquid storage, CO₂-to-plastics, pyrolysis, chemical recycling, advanced recycling, and gasification projects.

Funding fossil fuels, plastics, and petrochemicals is not only a waste of taxpayer dollars, but will only serve to worsen the climate crisis and continue a harmful legacy of pollution in environmental justice, indigenous, and frontline communities. Rather than continuing to prop up this dirty and dangerous industry with public dollars, we should be funding programs that will support a transition to clean renewable energy, while lifting up communities who bear a disproportionate impact from fossil fuels and the petrochemical industry.

These programs lay the groundwork for future fossil fuel development, something we cannot continue to do if we value a livable planet and healthy communities. Fossil fuels are the root cause of the climate crisis, as well as contributing to over 10 million deaths annually due to fine particulate matter emitted from the burning of fossil fuels. Investing in these programs is literally killing us as we rapidly approach the climatological point of no return. Infrastructure funded by these programs does not just impact the surrounding communities, but an entire

supply chain starting at fracking wells and ending with pollution in our air and water, as well as with plastics in our oceans and even the air we breathe.

Understanding their part in creating the crisis, the fossil fuel industry is pushing various policies like carbon capture utilization and storage, CO2-to-plastics, pyrolysis, chemical recycling, advanced recycling, pyrolysis, gasification, incineration and other practices that will allow them to expand their infrastructure and increase profits, while foisting the cost and impacts onto the public. What is worse, the industry pushes these infrastructure projects as solutions to the climate crisis, running expensive public relations and lobbying campaigns to mislead lawmakers and the public.

Help protect our communities from these dangerous, polluting industries by restricting funding for fossil fuels, plastics and petrochemicals in FY22 Department of Energy Budget:

- Reduce Advanced Energy Systems (AES) budget to \$160,950,000
- Reduce Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage budget to \$61,500,000
- Reduce National Energy Technology Laboratory (CCS and Coal Research & Development) budget to \$76,225,000
- Reduce Natural Gas Technologies budget to \$7,500,000
- Reduce Unconventional Fossil Energy Technologies from Petroleum – Oil Technologies budget to \$8,500,000
- Identifying the \$8.5 billion for Advanced Fossil Energy Projects under Title XVII as a fossil fuel subsidy and reprogram the funds to one of the other loan categories that do not fund these areas.
- Restricting funding in the Manager's report for fossil fuels, carbon capture utilization and storage or plastics and petrochemical infrastructure such as natural gas liquid storage, CO2-to-plastics, pyrolysis, chemical recycling, advanced recycling, and gasification projects under the Energy Policy Act of 2005's Title XVII loan program.

We believe that these cuts should be the first of many to end the harmful legacy of fossil fuel, plastics, and petrochemical development so we can begin to heal our communities and build a sustainable future we all need and deserve. Such funding can be better allocated to funding research and development of truly next-generation clean and renewable energy technologies needed for a just and equitable transition off fossil fuels and to overcome the environmental and climatological crises of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

350 Seattle
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Athens County's Future Action Network,
ACFAN.org
Ban SUP

Breathe Project
Businesses for a Livable Climate
CA Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US

Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coalfield Justice
Center for International Environmental Law
(CIEL)
Clean Energy Action

Climate Reality Project
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
Coalition Against the Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Coalition to Protect New York
COARE

Colorado Small Business Coalition
CWA Local 1081
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Fenceline Watch
Florida PIRG Students

Food & Water Watch
FrackBusters
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of the Earth

Gas Free Seneca
Green Party of Nassau County
GreenLatinos
Long Island Progressive Coalition
MoveOn.org Hoboken

Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
North American Climate, Conservation and
Environment (NACCE)
North Range Concerned Citizens
Oil Change International

Peak Plastic Foundation
Physicians for Social Responsibility AZ
Plastic Free Delaware
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Princeton Student Climate Initiative

Progressive Democrats of America
Rachel Carson Council
RapidShift Network
River Guardian Foundation
River Valley Organizing

Save Our Illinois Land
Seneca Lake Guardian, a Waterkeeper
Alliance Affiliate
South Shore Audubon Society
Spirit of the Sun

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
The Green House Connection Center
The Last Plastic Straw
The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
The Wei LLC

Thrive_At_Life: Working Solutions
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unite North Metro Denver
Verdedenver

Wall of Women
Waterkeeper Alliance
Zero Hour