

May 3, 2022

The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Chris Coons
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of our development, faith-based, environment, health, foreign policy, and business organizations, we urge you to provide substantially increased funding in FY23 for foreign assistance, including investments to address the causes and consequences of climate change. **We strongly urge you to support a Fiscal Year 2023 302(b) allocation for the subcommittee of at least \$72.9 billion to advance critical development goals and dedicate at least \$6.744 billion of that account for direct climate change programs.**

An increased allocation for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs is critical to support programs for addressing climate change, conflict prevention, democracy and human rights, development, education, gender equality, global health, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, global conservation, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). At a time of multiple global crises in health, security, and climate, as well as mounting food insecurity and ongoing humanitarian challenges, it is vital that these priorities are not pitted against one another, that we do not address one at the expense of another.

In its FY23 budget request, the Administration articulated the high priority of tackling the climate crisis, in line with President Biden's pledge to deliver \$11.4B in international climate finance by FY24. Following the lackluster FY22 appropriations outcome for international climate finance, Congress must provide these critical funds in FY23. Robust international climate funding of this magnitude represents less than one-tenth of a percent (0.1%) of the federal budget, but scaling-up this funding will provide critical climate protections for Americans, support the world's most vulnerable, and speed-up global emissions reductions.

Strategic investments to help developing countries speed-up the transition towards zero-carbon economies and to protect tropical and intact forests, and other critical carbon-rich ecosystems is essential to delivering the global emissions cuts we need this decade. At the same time, the poorest and most vulnerable in the world – who have contributed the least to the climate crisis – are already facing devastating impacts from climate change. These individuals and communities need scaled-up support to build resilience to increasingly damaging climate impacts.

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

Bilateral Economic Assistance, environment programs of at least: \$2.3 billion

Of the funds appropriated for bilateral programs, at least the following amounts should be made available for the following activities:

- **Adaptation: \$1.1 billion** – supports vulnerable communities to build resilience in the face of escalating climate impacts, including severe storms, wildfires, drought, decreased agricultural productivity, and increased water scarcity;
- **Renewable Energy: \$702 million** – targets sustainable zero carbon technologies and strategies; and
- **Sustainable Landscapes: \$451 million** – supports efforts to halt deforestation and forest degradation, promote sustainable and responsible land management and forestry practices, and prevent illegal logging.

Multilateral assistance of at least: \$4.444 billion

- **Green Climate Fund (GCF): at least \$3.4 billion** – to fulfill the outstanding U.S. commitment (2014) and to signal continued U.S. support for the GCF;
- **Adaptation Fund: \$100 million** – to continue this critical investment to provide \$400 million over four years to this fund dedicated to adaptation support in the most vulnerable countries;
- **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF): at least \$50 million** – with dedicated funding to support the poorest countries in the world;
- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): \$30 million** – to support the UN’s climate diplomacy and science bodies;
- **Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund (MLF): at least \$64 million** – to support spurring implementation of the Kigali Amendment to phase-down super pollutant greenhouse gas emissions; and
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF): at least \$250 million** – to support developing countries to fulfill obligations under various environmental treaties, with investments in global conservation of forests and other carbon-rich ecosystems, resilience and adaptation, and clean energy, and as the first installment towards the U.S. pledge to the GEF over the next four years, as part of its 8th replenishment cycle.

We emphasize the need for a balanced allocation of resources between adaptation and mitigation. The funding level requested for bilateral adaptation assistance reflects the need to significantly increase funding for adaptation to achieve this balance. We further and strongly encourage that this funding include a higher level of grants than loans, particularly for adaptation. Vulnerable developing countries are the least responsible for climate change and should not be forced to

incur additional debt to prepare for escalating impacts. We also urge that funding for international climate change not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance, which works together to serve the common goal of building a safer and more prosperous world.

It is also important to detail what scarce resources won't be dedicated to. Towards that end, we urge Congress to restrict international subsidies for fossil fuel finance and to strike the following language:

Sec. 7056 of the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021" states no EX-IM funding should be provided: "(4) for the enforcement of any rule, regulation, policy, or guidelines implemented pursuant to the Supplemental Guidelines for High Carbon Intensity Projects approved by the Export-Import Bank of the United States on December 12, 2013, when enforcement of such rule, regulation, policy, or guidelines would prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting, any coal-fired or other power-generation project the purpose of which is to: (A) provide affordable electricity in International Development Association (IDA)-eligible countries and IDA blend countries; and (B) increase exports of goods and services from the United States or prevent the loss of jobs from the United States."

Investing in climate change solutions internationally benefits the American people. Strengthening countries' capacities to protect tropical and intact forests will directly help the U.S. by substantially lowering global warming pollution while also preventing illegal timber trade and helping to stop the spillover of new zoonotic diseases to humans that can cause pandemics. Accelerating deployment of U.S. clean energy technologies, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, will help achieve a low carbon pathway to global economic development and increase American jobs and exports in this sector. Investing in appropriate capacity and expertise in communities in developing countries to counter the negative impacts of climate change that they disproportionately face can enhance 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.

These investments are also key to America's overall credibility and influence on the global stage. 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 America 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 America's influence, leadership credibility, and its ability to secure reciprocal cooperation on our own national priorities.

While making up for years of climate denial, amidst a history of insufficient action, and a FY22 appropriation that failed to signal U.S. leadership, the United States must deliver its fair share to address climate change, including by providing increased assistance to the least developed and most vulnerable countries in their own efforts to address climate change and its impacts.

We stand ready to assist you in ensuring that these resources achieve the goals outlined above and to drive home the message that U.S. international investments are in support of America's own interests.

Sincerely,

350.org
ActionAid USA
American Friends Service Committee
American Society of Adaptation Professionals
Anthropocene Alliance
Bank Information Center
Brighter Green
C2ES
Care About Climate
Center for American Progress
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Ceres
Church World Service
Climate Advisers
Climate Group
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Conservation International
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
E3G
Earth Action, Inc.
EqoEquity
Environmental Defense Fund
Evergreen Action
Faithful America
Faiths for Safe Water
Foreign Policy for America
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Earth US
GASP
Global Citizen
Health Care Without Harm
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Interfaith Power & Light
International Council on Environmental Economics and Development
Islamic Relief USA
Justice Is Global
League of Conservation Voters
MADRE

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern US Region
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
MN Assisi Heights Spirituality Center
Montebello Neighborhood Improvement Association
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light
Newark Water Coalition
Nuclear Information and Resource Center (“for a nuclear-free, carbon-free world”)
Oil Change International
Pacific Environment
Partnership for Policy Integrity
People’s Justice Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rachel Carson Council
Rochester, Minnesota Franciscan Sisters and Cojourners
Sierra Club
Tearfund USA
The Climate Reality Project
The Nature Conservancy
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
Wall of Women
Wildlife Conservation Society
Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
World Wildlife Fund