



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 20, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we write to address the need for an urgent stimulus to help protect the health and ensure the economic security of the American people in the face of the widening coronavirus pandemic. We support measures that prioritize needed assistance for people whose health and welfare are most at risk; strengthen the country's resilience by spurring direct investment and job creation; and sow the seeds for a sustained and durable recovery. We believe those objectives can be substantially advanced through a package that includes meaningful public incentives and investments that promote cleaner, smarter ways to power our future. In addition, those investments could create millions of jobs that will put Americans back to work while simultaneously building a clean energy economy that benefits everyone.

Our requests fall into four categories:

I. Congress should focus in the near-term on protecting people's health and economic security. That means:

- Offering direct and immediate cash assistance to families and individuals struggling to pay their bills or worried about losing their homes.
- Requiring utilities to put a moratorium on water and power shut-offs,

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ensuring rapid and safe reconnections and creating funds to relieve heavily-burdened families from high bills during this crisis.

- Funding childcare and eldercare for emergency, health and other public service workers.
- Helping small businesses stay in business, without having to take on additional debt.

II. Support the most heavily impacted communities - low income, marginalized and communities of color. That means:

- Investing in existing programs that improve housing resiliency, lower energy bills and increase energy efficiency; these include the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance and Weatherization Assistance Programs.
- Increasing federal investment to State Revolving Funds and dedicating this funding for grants to upgrade water treatment systems and replace lead service lines to address the compromised drinking water systems that make it difficult to maintain basic sanitation standards in many communities across the country.
- Shoring up public transit operating funds to avoid drastic drop-offs in service as communities get back to work.

III. Use broad economic stimulus investments to build a more equitable and sustainable future for America. That means:

- Providing incentives and investments in businesses and infrastructure that support clean energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, public health and science, parks and open space and the manufacture of equipment and materials that help to create a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous future for the country.

IV. Avoid bailouts that perpetuate business as usual when it harms the public. That means:

- Not writing a blank check to polluting industries that will harm the public and increase the impacts of climate change.
- Ensuring that aid to business is done with climate solutions in mind rather than perpetuating the status quo. For example, any bailouts for airlines should put them on a path to a cleaner future by reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and reducing their emissions.

Such a package, properly structured, can provide needed relief to low-income communities, people of color and others on the front lines of coronavirus hazard and harm. It can save and create, immediately, good-paying American jobs - for workers facing lay-offs and in need of urgent relief -- and strengthen

American competitiveness. The benefits of such a package would be quickly felt and broadly distributed.

At a time when a determined nation rallies around the call for a response to this pressing crisis, nothing is more important than to protect the health and economic security of every American, especially those who face the greatest risk. Thank you for your continued leadership on this urgent issue. Please let us know what more we might provide as you work to prepare a stimulus package as ambitious as this crisis demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gina" being more prominent than the last name "McCarthy".

Gina McCarthy
President, NRDC