

Clean Water Action • Earthjustice • Earthworks • Endangered Species Coalition • Environmental Defense Fund • Friends of the Earth U.S. • League of Conservation Voters • National Parks Conservation Association • Natural Resources Defense Council • Sierra Club

March 03, 2021

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we write to thank you for continuing to focus on getting aid to communities, workers, and states and localities as you address the pandemic and its devastating economic and health consequences.

We urge a YES vote on H.R. 1319, because we believe that this rescue package is a critical step forward in addressing the urgent needs of our nation by providing help to communities, frontline and healthcare workers, and families that have been devastated by COVID-19. Further, we urge that this legislation remains focused on these priorities, and not include policy riders aimed to undermine environmental, climate, public health, and conservation policies and safeguards - please oppose any such weakening amendments.

Environmental advocates strongly support a number of key provisions in the bill including:

- Direct payments to individuals and dependents.
- Support for state, tribal, and local governments.
- Additional funding for LIHEAP.
- Funding to assist low-income families afford their water and energy bills.
- Emergency rental assistance and housing provisions.
- Extension of unemployment insurance.
- Funding for vaccines, therapeutics and medical supplies.
- Emergency operations funding for transit, including critical funding to ensure our transit agencies can continue providing low-carbon, equitable transportation for essential workers.
- Extensions and additional funding for SNAP and WIC.
- Support for farmers of color and for small- and mid-sized food businesses, including critical funding for grants, loans, and technical assistance for the farmers, ranchers, and other food businesses who serve as the backbone of our food supply.
- Support for EPA environmental justice and clean air grants.
- Workplace safety prioritization, especially for meat processing and other high-risk food sector professions.

We urge a YES vote on H.R. 1319 because it is the rescue plan that we urgently need, but it is only the first step to start rebuilding our economy and public health infrastructure to be stronger, more equitable, and more sustainable.

As Congress and the Biden administration work to develop and pass the Build Back Better plan, it's clear we will need bold action that leverages a climate-safe and equitable approach to create new jobs and protect all communities in this country. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks on this profound opportunity to tackle the climate crisis, build more resilient communities, rebuild infrastructure, create jobs, support equity, and reduce pollution.

Sincerely,

Clean Water Action
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