December 21, 2020

Joseph Biden
President-Elect

Kamala Harris
Vice-President Elect

RE: Criteria for Leadership at EXIM, DFC, MCC, and USTDA

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris:

We congratulate you on your election as the 46th President and Vice President of the United States. We commend your commitment to provide international leadership on climate issues including integrating climate change into our foreign policy agenda and pursuing an end to fossil fuel subsidies globally. Such leadership is a prerequisite to rebuilding an economy at home and abroad that supports sustainable communities, climate resilience, and a just and equitable future.

To that end, it is of the utmost importance that you choose leaders at U.S. institutions that provide overseas export and development support that put mitigating climate change at the top of their agendas. We urge that you only select leaders for the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM), U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) who commit to:

- End overseas support for fossil fuels, following the lead of the United Kingdom;
- Support clean, sustainable renewables, especially mini- and off-grid renewables that are key to providing access to electricity in many parts of the world most in need;
- Contributes to COVID-19 economic recovery that protects the most vulnerable and supports a sustainable recovery;
- Pursue sustainable overseas development that supports, for example, healthy communities, climate resilient infrastructure, regenerative agriculture and food systems, and just and equitable economies;
- Promote the public interest, transparency, and accountability; and
- Engage with and seek the free, prior and informed consent of affected communities.

A candidate should be disqualified from leading or holding top positions at EXIM, DFC, MCC, or USTDA if the candidate has:

- Affiliations with corporations that promote interests at odds with environmentally and socially sustainable development, including the well-being of workers, consumers, people of color, the environment, small businesses, and communities as a whole;
- Prior record of support for U.S. Government financing for fossil fuels and/or disregard for harmful impacts of supported projects on affected communities;
- Policy positions at odds with the public good, such as support for government funding of fossil fuel projects;
- Ties to industry sectors that these agencies support, in particular Wall Street or the fossil fuel industry; and
• A strong likelihood that after a stint in government they will seek to work in an industry seeking government financing and, in so doing, favor support for harmful industries.

Your Presidency must set a new course in foreign policy, including one that creates environmentally and economically sustainable jobs at home and abroad, and protects the climate, local environments and communities globally. We appreciate you taking our suggestions into consideration when selecting leadership positions at EXIM, DFC, MCC, and USTDA.

Sincerely,

350 Triangle
Abibiman Foundation (Ghana)
AbibiNsroma Foundation (Ghana)
Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (Ghana)
Amazon Watch
American Horse Protection Society
Amigos de la Tierra (Spain)
Animal Wellness Action
Animal Wellness Foundation
Both ENDS (The Netherlands)
Center for a Humane Economy
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Centre for Transport and Energy (Czech Republic)
Clean Energy Action - Colorado
Earth Action, Inc
Earthworks
EcoEquity
Endangered Species Coalition
Food & Water Watch
Fossil Free South Africa
Friends of the Earth Australia
Friends of the Earth Canada
Friends of the Earth Japan
Friends of the Earth Malaysia

Gastivists Collective (Switzerland)
GegenStroemung – CounterCurrent (Germany)
Greenpeace USA
HumanNature
Inclusive Development International
International Accountability Project (IAP)
Jubilee Australia Research Centre
Korea Federation for Environmental Movement
Milieudefensie (The Netherlands)
NC Climate Justice Collective
Nunataq Inc & Polar Bears International
Oil Change International
Organized Uplifting Resources and Strategies
Progressive Change Institute
Project Blueprint
Publish What You Pay-US
Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
Recourse (The Netherlands)
RedTailed Hawk Collective
Revolving Door Project
Stand.earth
The Greens Movement of Georgia (Tbilisi)
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Upper Valley Affinity Group (Vermont)
Urgewald (Germany)
VedvarendeEnergi (Denmark)