

March 8, 2021

Dear Representative:

As organizations dedicated to a sustainable future, we believe that such a future must include fair treatment for the people and communities working to build a clean and thriving economy. For that reason, we support H.R. 842, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, and urge you to vote in favor of the bill when it comes before the House this week.

Since 1970, global carbon dioxide emissions have nearly doubled, spiking the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, increasing the risk of drought, and putting the future of our entire planet at risk. Over that same period, income and wealth inequality have exploded in the United States and elsewhere — incomes have risen by 229% in the U.S. for the top 1% of earners since 1979, while the bottom 90% of households have seen income growth of just 46%, or 1% on an annual basis.¹ These parallel trends reflect an economy built to serve the interests of a small group of the extremely wealthy and powerful, not people or the planet.

One key element of fixing our broken economic system is ensuring that working people have a voice in the economy and earn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Workers are often unable to have their voices heard or to earn fair pay, a function of weak labor laws that have made it virtually impossible for workers to organize and form unions in the face of unrelenting, aggressive corporate opposition.

The PRO Act would make common-sense changes to existing law to enable workers who want to organize and form unions to do so. It would penalize corporations that break the law, limit tactics used to intimidate workers, help workers who organize secure timely collective bargaining agreements, and institute a number of changes to better enable workers to act in solidarity with one another.

Remaking our economy and environment to address climate change and rising inequality will require substantial investment and transition, across many sectors. This is an opportunity to create millions of good jobs with family-sustaining wages and strong worker protections. We need strong, common-sense worker protections like those in the PRO Act to ensure that a sustainable economy reverses rather than reinforces rising inequity. There is no way to build a greener, more inclusive economy without strong, thriving labor unions.

¹ Elise Gould, Economic Policy Institute, "Decades of rising economic inequality in the U.S.: Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee," <https://www.epi.org/publication/decades-of-rising-economic-inequality-in-the-u-s-testimony-before-the-u-s-house-of-representatives-ways-and-means-committee/>, (27 March 2019).

Our planet and our communities are under enormous threat. We must act urgently to confront the dangers imposed by climate change, including by ensuring that working people are treated fairly and helping lead the transition to a fair, green economy. The PRO Act would help advance that goal and help us rebuild our economy to function for both people and the planet. Therefore, we urge you to vote in favor of the PRO Act.

Sincerely,

Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club
Alameda County Interfaith Climate Action Network
Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Athens County's Future Action Network (OH)

Broward for Progress
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork.US
Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Health
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
citizens awareness network
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Climate Hawks Vote

Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Durham DSA Democratic Socialists of America

Earth Action, Inc.
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Feminists in Action, Los Angeles
Food & Water Watch

FracTracker Alliance
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Earth US
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
GreenFaith

Greenpeace USA
Heart of America NW
Holman United Methodist Church
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

League of Conservation Voters
Loudoun Climate Project
Natural Resources Defense Council
North American Water Office
Nuclear Energy Information Service NEIS.org

Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Oil Change U.S.
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Plymouth Friends for Clean Water
Progressive Democrats of America

Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
RapidShift Network
Resource Renewal Institute
SEED Coalition

SoCal 350 Climate Action
The Climate Mobilization
Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
198 methods

350 Humboldt
350 New Orleans
350 NewHampshire
350 Seattle
350 Silicon Valley

350.org
350PDX