April 19, 2021

Dear President Biden:

As you know, the climate crisis is impacting communities at home and abroad and requires bold, immediate action. With the largest economy in the world and the greatest historical emissions of greenhouse gases, the U.S. must commit to doing its “fair share” of the global effort to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This effort must be carried out in a manner that prioritizes the dignity, well-being, and safety of frontline communities and the most vulnerable in both the U.S. and around the world.

As you prepare to unveil a revised U.S. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) ahead of the April 22-23 Leaders’ Summit on Climate, we call on you to announce a “fair share” approach committing the United States to:

- The equivalent of 195% emissions reductions from 2005 levels by 2030 (i.e., 14 gigatonnes of GHG emissions annually by 2030). This can be achieved by cutting domestic emissions 70% (5 gigatonnes) and providing international finance and other forms of support to enable the equivalent of an additional 125% reductions in developing countries (9 gigatonnes).

- Providing an immediate down payment on the U.S. fair share of international climate finance. This finance fair share includes funding to pay for the equivalent of 125% GHG reductions (mitigation), plus an equal amount for both adaptation and addressing loss and damage caused by irreversible climate change.

This is the yardstick by which we will measure the U.S. NDC, gauging its ability to move us toward a healthy and just future where global temperature rise is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The U.S. NDC must be grounded in the need to address systemic inequalities and promote environmental justice, human rights, and gender equality at home and abroad. To do so, it must include measures to swiftly end the fossil fuel era and equitably achieve deep emissions reductions; justly transition the U.S. to be powered by 100% renewable and clean energy; ensure the resilience of impacted communities; and act cooperatively and multilaterally to properly support developing countries.

A U.S. NDC on this scale would signal that the United States is finally taking climate change seriously, recognizing our unique responsibility to lead on climate action, and demonstrating our willingness to work in solidarity with the global community to solve this crisis together.

Thank you for your consideration,
ActionAid USA
Care About Climate
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Corporate Accountability
EcoEquity
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
Oil Change International
Sunrise Movement
SustainUS
Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)
350.org

Action Corps
Action Corps NYC
Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action CO
Captain Planet Foundation
CatholicNetwork.US
Clean Energy Action
Clean Energy Action - Colorado
Climate Hawks Vote
Courage California
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Earth Action, Inc.
Earth Ministry
Elders Climate Action
Emmanuel UCC, York
Empower our Future
Endangered Species Coalition
Family Farm Defenders
First Congregational Church
First Congregational Church of Grand Marias
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
GASP
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
GreenLatinos
Gulf Coast Creation Care
Hamilton Park United Church of Christ
Henrietta United Church of Christ
Hometown Action
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan Peace & Justice Collaborative
MADRE
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mothers & Others For Clean Air
Mt. Rise Church
NC Council of Churches
NC Interfaith Power & Light
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
North Range Concerned Citizens
NTS Group
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies (O.U.R.S.)
Our Kid's Climate
People's Justice Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
PSR Pennsylvania
Publish What You Pay--United States
Rachel Carson Council
RapidShift Network
Revolving Door Project
Save RGV (Rio Grande Valley)
Sisters of Charity Federation
Southeast Faith Leaders Network
Tampa Bay Sierra Club
The Climate Center
The Climate Mobilization
The Parents' Climate Community
The People's Justice Council
Tikkun's Network of Spiritual Progressives
Together Colorado Climate Justice
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Union for Reform Judaism
Unite North Metro Denver
United Methodist Women
US Climate Action Network (USCAN)
US High Speed Rail Association
Wall of Women
Washington Interfaith Power & Light
Wind & Solar Denver
Wisdom's Table at St. Peter's UCC
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
Zero Hour
350 Butte County
350 Hawaii
350 Kishwaukee
350 Silicon Valley
350 Triangle