



National Wildlife Federation

National Advocacy Center

1200 G Street NW, Suite 900 • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-797-6800

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
United States Senate
S-221 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leadership,

In light of the economic downturn resulting from COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact on the clean energy sector, immediate action is needed to provide relief to clean energy businesses and stop the continued job losses. The National Wildlife Federation and the undersigned affiliated organizations urge you to include targeted relief to the solar, on- and offshore wind, energy efficiency, electric vehicle, and battery and storage industries at the earliest opportunity.

Prior to the pandemic, clean energy was one of the U.S. economy's fastest-growing sectors, employing more than 3 million people by the end of 2019. Unfortunately, the sector has suffered a disproportionate share of job losses since the pandemic: Clean energy industries lost 620,000 jobs across the entire nation in March, April and May. These industries, mostly made up of small businesses, need immediate help to protect jobs and worker livelihoods, rather than waiting for later stimulus spending to try to bring jobs back.

Current federal support for these industries has come through the tax code, in the form of tax credits. However, with tax liability evaporating, companies that could have claimed credits will not be able to. Existing and expired tax breaks must be converted to direct cash grants for at

least the current year, and credits should be extended beyond this year. Additionally, flexibility must be guaranteed for project start and completion dates, so that the current slowdown will not force projects to lose eligibility.

The House just took a tremendous step forward by renewing and extending these tax credits as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. The Senate should follow suit. However, extending future credits, alone, is not enough to sustain businesses and workers who need help now. Additional action must be taken by both chambers and signed into law.

With six million members and supporters and a federation of 52 independent state and territorial affiliate organizations from across the country, we represent hunters, anglers, farmers, forest managers, conservationists and other outdoor enthusiasts who believe our nation's wildlife, fish, healthy waters, clean air, and public lands are a birthright of all Americans. Climate change poses a significant threat to this birthright; climate-fueled disasters are harming local communities and threatening the ecosystems humans and wildlife depend on. Clean energy investments are crucial to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to help reduce the pollution impact on frontline communities – which has led to higher mortality rates during the pandemic.

Maintaining clean energy jobs now in all 50 states, territories, and Tribal Nations is critical to sustain climate progress, and to help get the U.S. economy back on track. Please make them a priority as you pass additional legislation aiding a disrupted and grieving nation.

Sincerely,

National Wildlife Federation
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Connecticut Forest and Park Association
Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Conservation Northwest, WA
Environment Council of Rhode Island
Environmental Advocates of New York
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Kansas Wildlife Federation
Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Mississippi Wildlife Federation
Montana Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Council of Maine
North Carolina Wildlife Federation

PennFuture
Planning and Conservation League, CA
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Virginia Conservation Network

CC: The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Kevin Brady