



The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment, I am writing to ask Members of Congress to pass a reconciliation bill that includes vigorous initiatives to address climate change. Recommendations regarding climate change, as well as other initiatives to advance a more just and sustainable economy, can be found in this [document](#).

US SIF is the leading voice advancing sustainable investing across all asset classes. Our mission is to rapidly shift investment practices toward sustainability, focusing on long-term investment and the generation of positive social and environmental impacts. Our members, representing \$5 trillion in assets under management or advisement, include investment management and advisory firms, asset owners, mutual fund companies, research and data firms, financial planners and advisors, community development financial institutions and non-profits.

The climate crisis is a defining issue of our time and requires coordinated action from the private sector and government. Addressing climate change—through shareowner engagement and portfolio construction—has been a priority of sustainable investors for decades. Climate change is the most important specific environment, social and governance (ESG) issue considered by money managers in asset-weighted terms according to the US Foundation's 2020 [Report on US Sustainable and Impact Investing Trends](#). Advancing initiatives to address the climate crisis in the reconciliation bill will help achieve a more just and sustainable economy.

As Congress negotiates budget legislation, we encourage policymakers to:

- **Establish a national clean energy standard.** A federal clean electricity standard (CES) will drive the adoption of low- and zero-emission technologies in the power generation sector. A technology neutral CES will allow for innovation and investment in the clean energy sector.
- **Invest in clean energy technology.** Incentivize the deployment of clean technology throughout the economy and establish a federal funding mechanism to finance emerging clean technologies that address the most challenging emission-reduction challenges.
- **Establish a tax on carbon emissions.** Implementing a carbon emissions tax is a market-based approach to reducing greenhouse gas pollution. A well-designed carbon tax should progressively increase over time with revenues from the tax reinvested in the economy as dividends to US citizens.
- **End fossil fuel subsidies.** Ending fossil fuel subsidies is a critical step toward reversing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Embed environmental justice into climate change solutions.** Low-income communities and Black, Indigenous and People of Color have often borne the brunt of negative environmental impacts. In addition, these communities have historically not been consulted by the federal government when it considers environmental policy.

Incorporating these issues into the budget reconciliation is vital to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to support a just and just and sustainable economy. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Bryan McGannon, US SIF's Director of Policy and Programs, at [bmcgannon@ussif.org](mailto:bmcgannon@ussif.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa N. Woll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Woll  
[lwoll@ussif.org](mailto:lwoll@ussif.org)