



Good for the Economy.
Good for the Environment.

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

COVID-19 is an extraordinarily complex and fast-moving crisis. The constant stream of breaking news makes clear that the public health of the country is at stake and critical interventions are needed to limit the harm to life that this virus causes.

This pandemic has also spawned a multi-faceted economic catastrophe that is wreaking havoc across our communities as workers and customers are forced to take drastic distancing steps. In the clean energy sector we are fielding heart breaking calls from workers and company leaders who are facing furloughs and layoffs without quick and dramatic relief from the federal government.

After direct consultations with those on the ground, please find specific recommendations for stimulus investments that will provide immediate relief to the millions of workers in the hard hit clean energy sector that will help secure these important jobs that bring so much to their workers, communities and the nation. Further, with Secretary Mnuchin predicting a Covid-19 driven unemployment rate of 20% or more, this sector has shown that it can be an engine for good, well paid, important, community-based jobs now and in the months and years to follow.

E2 is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors and others who support policy that is good for our economy and good for our environment. E2 members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital.

Before the COVID 19 [crisis, 3.4 million Americans worked in renewables, energy efficiency, clean vehicles and other industries](#). Clean energy workers outnumbered the entire fossil fuel industry by a ratio of t-1. Not only is clean energy now a huge part of our economy, it is also literally the most promising sector for job seekers: [According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the fastest-growing jobs in America](#) are solar installer and wind turbine technician.

Environmental Entrepreneurs • www.e2.org • facebook.com/e2.org • [@e2org](https://twitter.com/e2org)

Mid-Atlantic • Midwest • New England • New York • Northern California • Pacific Northwest • Rocky Mountains • San Diego • Los Angeles

Just as the clean energy industry was reaching new milestones, companies are now being forced to lay off workers, cancel projects and scale back dramatically for reasons that are just as unique and widespread as those impacting airlines, restaurants or other industries. Solar companies are unable to proceed with installation due to lack of home and building access, energy efficiency audits and orders are vanishing, supply chains are collapsing. The result is that the millions of workers in the clean energy field are in dire need of assistance.

The power of stimulus specifically in the clean energy sector cannot be overstated.

In addition to stabilizing a vital sector of the economy and protecting the current sizeable work force, investments in clean energy and cleaner vehicles will promote broader economic recovery. Clean energy stimulus dollars will spur long term job creation, leverage private investment and continue to save Americans money with every energy efficiency project, every rooftop solar installation and every fill-up at the pump in an electric, hybrid or more efficient car.

We already know the tremendous and instantaneous economic impact Congress can make by focusing stimulus investment on clean energy. During the 2008 financial crisis, Congress made the single-biggest investment in clean energy in our history. That investment led to a huge ramp-up in domestic manufacturing for everything from wind turbine parts to energy-efficient building supplies and lighting. It allowed companies to bring new technologies to market, creating new jobs and driving innovation and private sector investment. The growth of the battery, storage and grid modernization industries, which now employ nearly 150,000 people, and the clean vehicles industry, which employs 266,000 Americans, serve as examples. Those stimulus investments also provided billions in energy cost savings for homeowners and businesses across the country.

As Congress considers economic stimulus programs that can get America working again quickly, we beseech you to include the following policy recommendations, all of which have already been proven to create jobs and drive economic growth:

- **Reinstate the [Section 1603](#) program that will deliver payments directly** to clean energy developers and suppliers addition to of investment tax credits. This will result in an immediate and badly needed cash infusion for clean energy companies and get them back to work in the near term. This program should also be expanded to battery storage and energy efficiency projects by expanding the definition of “specified energy property” to include them.
- **Extend, Expand and Reform clean energy incentives that help deploy solar, wind, energy storage, offshore wind, energy efficiency and electric vehicles by enacting the following bills:**
 - H.R. 2096/S. 1142, “The Energy Storage Tax Incentive and Deployment Act of 2019”
 - H.R. 3961 and S. 2289, “The Renewable Energy Extension Act”
 - H.R. 4887/S. 1988, “The Offshore Wind Power Act”, and S. 1957/H.R. 3473, “The Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power Act”

- H.R. 2256/S. 1094, “The Driving America Forward Act”
- Extend the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind as included in the House Ways and Means Committee’s GREEN Act proposal
- **Resurrect the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program](#)** for states that can be used to immediately launch job-intensive renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs for K-12 schools and municipal buildings. Previous clean energy related block grant programs created about 63,000 jobs and saved electricity users \$5.2 billion.
- **Expand the [Small Business Administration loan program](#)** to include specific opportunities for clean energy companies get access to funds for short-term payroll needs and to cover costs for materials investments for renewable and energy efficiency projects.
- **Create a national program to help utilities upgrade and modernize our nation’s aging electric grid**, which will both create new jobs and improve the resilience of our nation’s energy system.
- **Increase funding for clean energy job training** by funding community colleges and other educational institutions specifically to create training programs for displaced workers looking for new careers in clean energy.
- **Invest in clean cars and electric vehicle infrastructure** by building on legislation such as the [Clean Corridors Act of 2019](#) to immediately create jobs expanding the nation’s electric vehicle charging network, and consider a nationwide vehicle trade-in program to get cleaner, more efficient cars in production and to consumers.
- **Increase funding for programs such as the Department of Energy’s Loan Guarantee Program and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)**, to immediately spur innovation and new opportunities as the economy recovers. Under ARPA-E, the federal government helped [jump-start 475 transformative clean-energy technologies that led to \\$1.25 billion in private-sector follow-on funding](#) and created tens of thousands of jobs.
- **Increase funding to at least \$1 billion for DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program**, which provides funding for cost-saving energy efficiency upgrades for low-income households. The program has supported more than 8,000 jobs and provides weatherization services to 35,000 homes every year.
- **Increase funding for DOE’s clean energy demonstration programs**, including for large-scale energy storage, advanced renewable energy technologies, clean transportation solutions, clean industrial projects, and clean hydrogen and other zero-carbon fuels. DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which houses most of the agency’s existing programs for these technologies, has been shown to provide \$33 of public benefit for every taxpayer dollar invested.
- **Expand funding for advanced construction of net-zero-carbon building retrofits for low-income homes.** DOE’s building technologies

program has developed technology solutions to quickly retrofit existing buildings using pre-fabricated materials to reduce energy use and save people money. Large increases in investment in these programs, with direct subsidies to accelerate retrofits for low-income households, will expand on the millions of energy efficiency jobs, while reducing emissions and lowering costs.

In addition to creating jobs and driving economic growth immediately, policies such as these will help our transition to a cleaner economy that will make our nation more resilient and more competitive. They will also combat the other crisis at our doorstep: Climate change.

On behalf of E2's more than 8,000 members and supporters who work and do business in virtually every state, we implore you to ensure that any economic stimulus package protect and grow the clean energy economy. Our national economy - and our environment – is depending on you to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Keefe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Keefe
Executive Director
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)