

## **Backgrounder -- Domestic Ask**

***We urge Congress to enact infrastructure and energy legislation that will promote climate, economic, gender and racial justice to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and commit to net-zero climate pollution in electricity by 2035 and economy-wide by 2050.***

We are in the midst of a global climate crisis compounded by the pandemic that threatens our way of life and our strength as a nation. As Christians, we are concerned for frontline communities experiencing sudden and slow onset climate events that disproportionately impact the livelihoods of women, children, the elderly, rural communities, differently-abled, and the economically marginalized. In particular many Black, Indigenous and People of Color experience the unique impact of climate and economic inequities because of structural racism.

Addressing the global climate crisis with a climate justice framework will ensure that our response addresses the unique challenges faced by these communities. Innovative opportunities, public policies, and partnerships that focus on equity for all and have an explicit emphasis on racial equity are imperative to achieving a vibrant future.

Congress must act with a sense of urgency to implement equitable and comprehensive legislation that promotes economic, racial and climate justice and places the U.S. by accelerating the transition to a clean energy economy and commit to net-zero climate pollution in electricity by 2035 and economy-wide by 2050.

As Christians concerned for creation, we ask Congress to:

### **Enact energy legislation that incorporates the following elements:**

- Equitably involves the leadership, experience, and expertise of frontline communities in all stages of the legislative process and implementation.
- Prioritizes racial equity, whereby Black, Indigenous and People of Color co-develop and lead the responses directly impacting their communities, and all solutions are fully sufficient to address the unique needs and historical injury that these communities have experienced and continue to face.
- Ensures a just transition for all impacted industries and communities, and does not increase economic inequities to historically marginalized and disproportionately impacted populations.
- Creates jobs/careers that provide livable wages, counteracts job segregation by race and gender and establishes training/skills development programs necessary for these new career paths.
- Provides financing for research and development for innovative technologies, with a high preference for research and development by and for communities directly impacted.

**Enact legislation that modernizes crumbling infrastructure and increases transportation efficiency and decarbonization, which includes the following elements:**

- Equitably involves the leadership, experience, and expertise of frontline communities in all stages of the legislative process and implementation.
- Prioritizes racial equity, whereby Black, Indigenous and other People of Color co-develop and lead the responses directly impacting their communities, and all solutions are fully sufficient to address the needs and historical injury that these communities have experienced and continue to face.
- Prioritizes and promotes gender equality and ensures the specific vulnerabilities, capacities, as well as the differential impacts of climate change on women, men, boys, girls and gender fluid communities is fully addressed
- Provides financial support to the infrastructure necessary to resource and accompany low-wealth and rural communities and in particular, safeguard Black, Indigenous and other People of Color from further harm and injury.
- Includes funding for research and development for innovative technologies to build/improve transportation efficiency, and the environment (such as the inclusion of EV charging stations in all geographical areas).
- Ensures a high preference for community-specific research and development by and for communities directly impacted.
- Offsets the disproportionate economic impact of climate change on directly impacted communities and builds together for future disasters.
- Upgrades electrical grids/ storage.
- Provides broadband accessibility to all especially rural areas.