

August 25, 2021

Dear Colleague:

First, I want to thank you and your staff for your hard work passing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Budget Resolution in one very long night earlier this month. This historic effort came on the heels of the release of a very dire report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the state of our planet's climate. The bottom line is this: we have very little time to prevent the most horrendous outcomes for our children and grandchildren. But if we act now and act boldly, we can mitigate the worst effects of climate change and own the 21st century clean energy economy.

As you have heard me say many times, the Build Back Better budget will represent the most significant investment in tackling the climate crisis in U.S. history and – in conjunction with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – would put our country on the path to meet President Biden's climate change goals of 80 percent clean electricity and 50 percent economy-wide carbon emission reduction by 2030, all while delivering 40 percent of the benefits from these climate investments to disadvantages communities.

This package will invest in American industries, infrastructure, and agriculture to create millions of jobs with good wages while restoring American manufacturing competitiveness. These investments will make clean energy, clean transportation, and energy efficient homes more affordable for all Americans and will prioritize underserved and disadvantaged communities. These are policies that were included in the budget resolution and the relevant committees on both sides of the Capitol are working to craft in the reconciliation process.

In our analysis of the combined impact of both the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Budget Resolution's instructions, we are on track to reduce U.S. emissions to approximately 45 percent beneath 2005 levels by 2030. When you add Administrative actions being planned by the Biden Administration and many states - like New York, California, and Hawaii - we will hit our 50 percent target by 2030. My team aggregated the best available data from a wide range of organizations that specialize in policy analysis for each emissions reducing policy in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and each proposed policy for the budget resolution.

There are many important policies in the budget that will help us achieve our goals, but there are two in particular that will work together to get us there: the Clean Electricity Payment Program in combination with the Senate Finance Committee's clean energy and vehicle tax package. Our analysis shows these two items alone represent almost two thirds of the total emissions reductions delivered by the reconciliation bill and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act combined. After that, critical policies like a methane polluter fee, agriculture conservation, and clean energy technology financing, among others, get us the rest of the way.

I have included a chart with this letter that graphs the policies envisioned in the Budget Resolution and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that our analysis has been able to quantify. This is an ongoing effort and we continuously update these figures as we get refined data, so please expect these numbers to change and new policies to be quantified on a regular basis. I also know many of you are developing additional ideas to reduce carbon emissions and I look forward to reviewing them.

In closing, I want to reiterate how critical this moment is for our country and our world. At the same moment that historic drought and wildfire threaten the West and powerful floods and hurricanes impact large swaths of our country, we are on the precipice of the most significant climate action in our country's history. I do not believe we have the luxury of failure if we are to provide a good future for ourselves and our children.

Sincerely,

Charles Schumer

Charles E. Schumer United States Senator