

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Ranking Member Rogers:

As you work to assemble final State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2022, we hope you will consider full funding for a handful of important international energy, environment, and conservation accounts.

After decades of too little action, it is long past time we seriously commit to addressing the climate crisis that threatens our nation and the world. As in our country, those who have contributed least to the climate crisis bear the greatest burden of its impacts, and it is incumbent upon the United States to commit its fair share to international mitigation and adaptation activities – for our sake and for the sake of our allies and the global community. Under this new Administration, the U.S. has the opportunity to reestablish itself as a global leader on climate change and to spearhead new and greatly invigorated global commitment to addressing the crisis at hand. That is why it is essential to protect and expand these core U.S. contributions and programming.

The programs enable poor and developing countries to develop clean and renewable energy systems, build resilience to drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events, and steward tropical forests and other carbon-rich and biodiverse landscapes and seascapes. In doing so, they also strengthen American alliances, prevent food and water scarcities, help to avoid conflicts and forced migration, and bolster our own national security. In many cases, these programs have benefitted from years of bipartisan support under both Republican and Democratic administrations alike.

As such, we would strongly urge you to include these funding levels in your legislation:

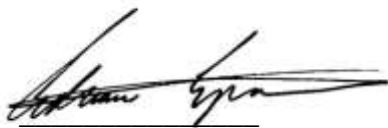
- \$4 billion for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). [Multilateral Assistance]
- \$268.5 million for Renewable Energy programs; [Bilateral Economic Assistance]
- \$265.5 million for Adaptation programs; [Bilateral Economic Assistance]
- \$202.5 million for international Sustainable Landscapes programs; [Bilateral Economic Assistance]
- \$100 million for the Adaptation Fund [Multilateral Assistance]
- \$50 million for the Least Developed Countries Fund [Multilateral Assistance]
- \$10 million for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); [International Organizations and Programs]

These programs have produced real measurable benefits, while also leveraging substantial sums in co-financing from other donors. Thanks to USAID adaptation programs, 5.3 million people globally gained access to cutting-edge satellite weather data, allowing them to save lives and better respond to extreme weather events. Sustainable Landscapes programs incentivize developing countries to curb deforestation while addressing rural poverty and improving the way lands are managed and harvested – leveraging U.S. funding dollars with up to 39 times more funding from other donors. Clean energy programs like the U.S.-Africa Clean Energy Finance Initiative (ACEFI) have mobilized more than \$30 for every \$1 spent by the program. Indeed, investment in developing country energy infrastructure is expected to exceed \$30 trillion over the next 25 years -- a small investment of U.S. funds can help shape that enormous market for decades to come.

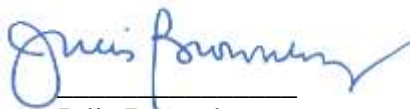
Finally, we want to highlight the important role of the Green Climate Fund, the world's largest dedicated fund helping developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change. The GCF has attracted more than \$17.8 billion in co-financing for projects thus far and is doing groundbreaking work to mobilize funding for both adaptation and mitigation projects. Our request of \$4 billion in Fiscal Year 2022 would both pay off the \$2 billion outstanding from the U.S. pledge to the GCF's Initial Resource Mobilization and constitute the first installment of a new pledge to the GCF – a pledge signaling U.S. seriousness and leadership in this arena. We recognize that to attain this funding level, 302(b) levels will need to be increased, and we are hopeful that there will be a commensurate raise in the International Affairs budget. As such, this request should in no way be taken to reappropriate funds from other vital programs, but is employed with the understanding that new funds ought to be made available to fully fund this account.

These programs represent a small fraction of our foreign aid budget, but provide outsize benefits to the U.S. by maintaining our role as a global leader in smart, sustainable development. We appreciate your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



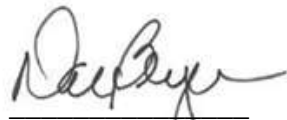
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Donald Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

Colin Z. Allred
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Earl Blumenauer
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Suzanne Bonamici
Brendan F. Boyle
Anthony G. Brown
Salud O. Carbajal
André Carson
Kathy Castor
Judy Chu
Yvette D. Clarke
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Steve Cohen
Gerald E. Connolly
Jim Costa
Danny K. Davis
Madeleine Dean
Diana DeGette
Mark DeSaulnier
Ted Deutch
Debbie Dingell
Lloyd Doggett
Veronica Escobar
Bill Foster
Ruben Gallego
John Garamendi
Jesús G. "Chuy" García

Jimmy Gomez
Raúl M. Grijalva
Jahana Hayes
Jim Himes
Steven Horsford
Chrissy Houlahan
Jared Huffman
Sheila Jackson Lee
Sara Jacobs
Pramila Jayapal
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Mondaire Jones
William R. Keating
Robin L. Kelly
Ro Khanna
Ron Kind
Rick Larsen
Teresa Leger Fernández
Andy Levin
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch
Tom Malinowski
Doris Matsui
A. Donald McEachin
James P. McGovern
Jerry McNerney
Gwen S. Moore
Jerrold Nadler
Grace F. Napolitano

Richard E. Neal
Ilhan Omar
Jimmy Panetta
Bill Pascrell Jr.
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Dean Phillips
Chellie Pingree
Katie Porter
Jamie Raskin
Bobby L. Rush
John P. Sarbanes
Jan Schakowsky
Bradley S. Schneider
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Mikie Sherrill
Adam Smith
Abigail D. Spanberger
Haley Stevens
Marilyn Strickland
Thomas R. Suozzi
Dina Titus
Paul D. Tonko
Juan Vargas
Nydia M. Velázquez
Peter Welch
Susan Wild
John Yarmuth