



A Call to Action for West Virginia

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
 United States Senator
 306 Hart Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin,

The undersigned West Virginia organizations are writing to you to urge you to take action to address the climate crisis. The recently released UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, is a clarion call for immediate and transformational change transitioning quickly away from burning fossil fuels and the adoption of clean energy sources. The IPCC report was recently summarized:

“Unchecked greenhouse gas emissions will raise sea levels several feet, swallowing small island nations and overwhelming even the world’s wealthiest coastal regions. Drought, heat, hunger and disaster may force millions of people from their homes. Coral reefs could vanish, along with a growing number of animal species. Disease-carrying insects would proliferate. Deaths — from malnutrition, extreme heat, pollution — will surge.” (Washington Post 2/28/22)

Despite these dire projections there is time, albeit limited and decreasing amounts of time, to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. But **it is imperative that the United States provides world leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions** just as the U. S. has provided world leadership in protecting Ukraine.

While some of the undersigned organizations have policy differences with you, we all appreciate your considerable talents in bringing together people with diverse opinions to find common ground. The Manchin/Toomey Amendment, the Energy Act of 2020, and the reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands program are just three recent examples.

We are urging you to use these talents to **forge climate legislation that will achieve a 50 percent reduction in U. S. greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.** Passing the climate provisions in the Build Back Better legislation as adopted by the House of Representatives would provide \$555 billion for transitioning the United States economy to clean energy. According to Princeton University, **this investment in the U. S. economy would come close to achieving the 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 as well as reducing premature deaths annually by 7,000 and reducing American household energy expenditures by \$300 a year by 2030.**

Additionally, adopting this legislation will provide President Biden the moral authority to move China and other countries to adopt substantive measures in order to keep global warming below an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius, avoiding the worst impacts of climate change.

We look forward to working with you and supporting your leadership in taking action on one of the most important issues of our time.

Sincerely,

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| Perry Bryant <i>West Virginia Climate Alliance</i> | Beth Little <i>Eight Rivers Council</i> | Carey Jo Grace <i>West Virginia New Jobs Coalition</i> |
| Reverend Jeff Allen <i>West Virginia Council of Churches</i> | Russell Chisholm <i>Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR) Coalition</i> | Kevin Campbell <i>Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance</i> |
| Holly Bradley <i>Chesapeake Climate Action Network</i> | Kathy Ferguson <i>Our Future West Virginia</i> | Amaya Jernigan and Hunter Moore <i>WVU Student Government Association President and Vice President</i> |
| Jean Ambrose <i>Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action</i> | Morgan Smith <i>BLOOM</i> | Larry Thomas <i>West Virginia Highlands Conservancy</i> |
| Gary Zuckett <i>West Virginia Citizen Action Group</i> | Matthew Hulet <i>Gritstone Climbing + Fitness</i> | Daniel Cain <i>Dough Re Mi</i> |
| Tim Cronin <i>WVU Law Center for Energy & Sustainable Development</i> | Emily Benigni <i>Montessori Early Learning Center</i> | Howdy Henritz <i>Indian Creek Watershed Association</i> |
| Angie Rosser <i>West Virginia Rivers Coalition</i> | Chelsea Barnes <i>Appalachian Voices</i> | Kristin Alexander <i>Potomac Valley Audubon Society</i> |
| Felipe Benitez <i>Corazon Latino</i> | Emily & Betsy Sokolosky <i>Base Camp Printing</i> | Jacob Hannah <i>Coalfield Development</i> |
| Sally Roberts <i>Rise Up WV</i> | Leah Stankus Photography | Douglas John Imbrogno <i>WestVirginiaVille.com</i> |
| Julie Archer & Effie Kallas <i>League of Women Voters of West Virginia</i> | Hannah Snyder Media | JoNell Strough <i>Mon Valley Greenspace Coalition</i> |
| James Kotcon <i>WV Chapter of Sierra Club</i> | Julie Morici <i>Shine On Studio</i> | Duane G. Nichols <i>Mon Valley Clean Air Coalition</i> |
| Easton Perry <i>WE LEAD Animal Welfare & Sustainability Team, WV Wesleyan College</i> | Nellie Rose Textiles | Patch Adams, MD <i>Gesundheit Institute</i> |
| Jonathan Martin <i>Trailhead Coffee Shop</i> | David Lillard <i>Elks Run Watershed Group</i> | Adam Craten <i>On The Levels Farmstead</i> |
| John Bright <i>The Purple Fiddle</i> | Pam Nixon <i>WV NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee</i> | Hannah Clipp <i>Mountaineer Audubon</i> |
| John J. Walkup, III <i>Greenbrier River Watershed Association</i> | Rev. Robin Blakeman <i>WV Interfaith Power & Light</i> | Wood Bouldin <i>Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group</i> |
| Linda Frame <i>West Virginia Environmental Council</i> | Kathleen “Kat” Stoll <i>West Virginians for Affordable Health Care</i> | Cheyenne Carter <i>Climate & Renewables Social Media Consultant</i> |
| Allen Johnson <i>Christians For The Mountains</i> | Kate Lehman <i>Warm Springs Watershed Association</i> | Crystal Good <i>Founder/Publisher, Black By God THE WEST VIRGINIAN</i> |



For More information :
WVClimateAlliance.org

