



NCEL

National Caucus of
Environmental Legislators

March 30, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

cc: Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative

Dear President Biden,

As state legislators, we urge you to ensure renewable energy jobs in our states are no longer threatened by outdated rules at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other trade and investment agreements. Our own state legislation, as well as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), are making great impacts in bringing clean energy jobs to our communities while addressing climate change. Recent threats against the IRA and ongoing litigation against states' climate policies are cause for great concern, and we ask you to respond by proposing and championing a moratorium on international dispute settlement trade challenges to climate policies, known as a climate peace clause.

For years, states have been modeling how to address climate change in a way that creates good, local, clean energy jobs. But such legislation from eight of our states was found to be in violation of WTO rules in 2019. It's critical that our states have the policy space needed to nurture and grow domestic industries - including renewable energy industries - in order to cultivate a manufacturing base.

Similarly, we are heartened to see that the IRA includes historic incentives to boost domestic renewable manufacturing jobs in many of our states. However, threats by the European Union and others to pursue litigation through the WTO and Free Trade Agreement rules are counterproductive and worrisome.

We ask your administration to align our trade policy and climate goals so that current and future efforts at the state or federal level are not vulnerable to attack through trade agreements. The urgency of the climate crisis demands that the U.S. propose and champion a climate peace clause, which would be a binding commitment among governments to refrain from using outdated trade rules to challenge other countries' climate policies. Commitment to a climate peace clause would help cement the U.S. as a global leader on climate and signal that trade rules should no longer be a barrier to a just, green transition.

Our communities need the investments in local clean energy jobs made possible by our state green energy policies and federal legislation like the IRA. Such laws must be implemented as intended, without delays or changes that erode promises to American workers.

Sincerely,

Montana Senator Andrea Olsen
(MT-50)

Alabama Representative John Rogers
(AL-52)

Alaska Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
(AK-G)

Arizona Representative Oscar De Los Santos (AZ-11)	Delaware Senator Stephanie Hansen (DE-10)
Arizona Representative Athena Salman (AZ-8)	Florida Representative Marie Woodson (FL-105)
Arizona Representative Judy Schwiebert (AZ-2)	Georgia Representative Karla Drenner (GA-85)
Arizona Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (AZ-21)	Georgia Representative Becky Evans (GA-89)
Arizona Senator Juan Mendez (AZ-8)	Georgia Representative Kim Schofield (GA-63)
Arkansas Representative David Whitaker (AR-22)	Georgia Senator Nan Orrock (GA-36)
California Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia (CA-36)	Hawaii Representative Jeanne Kapela (HI-5)
California Assembly Member Buffy Wicks (CA-14)	Hawaii Representative Amy Perruso (HI-46)
California Senator Nancy Skinner (CA-9)	Hawaii Senator Mike Gabbard (HI-21)
Colorado Representative Cathy Kipp (CO-52)	Idaho Representative Ilana Rubel (ID-18)
Colorado Representative Karen McCormick (CO-11)	Idaho Senator Melissa Wintrow (ID-19)
Colorado Representative Brianna Titone (CO-27)	Illinois Representative Kelly Cassidy (IL-14)
Colorado Senator Lisa Cutter (CO-20)	Illinois Representative Ann Williams (IL-11)
Colorado Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis (CO-17)	Illinois Senator Laura Fine (IL-9)
Connecticut Representative Lucy Dathan (CT-142)	Illinois Senator Rachel Ventura (IL-43)
Connecticut Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw (CT-17)	Indiana Representative Matt Pierce (IN-61)
Connecticut Senator Bob Duff (CT-25)	Iowa Representative Charles Isenhardt (IA-72)
Connecticut Senator Julie Kushner (CT-24)	Iowa Representative Monica Kurth (IA-98)
Delaware Representative Cyndie Romer (DE-25)	Iowa Representative Art Staed (IA-80)

Iowa Senator Eric Giddens (IA-38)	Maryland Senator Joanne Benson (MD-24)
Iowa Senator Pam Jochum (IA-36)	Maryland Senator Brian Feldman (MD-15)
Kansas Representative Dan Osman (KS-48)	Maryland Senator Shelly Hettleman (MD-11)
Kentucky Representative Nima Kulkarni (KY-40)	Massachusetts Representative James Arena-DeRosa (MA-8th Middlesex)
Louisiana Representative Mandie Landry (LA-91)	Massachusetts Representative Brian Ashe (MA-2nd Hampden)
Maine Representative Poppy Arford (ME-101)	Massachusetts Representative Carmine Gentile (MA-13th Middlesex)
Maine Representative Lynn Copeland (ME-130)	Massachusetts Representative David LeBoeuf (MA-17th Worcester)
Maine Representative Janice Dodge (ME-39)	Massachusetts Representative Jack Lewis (MA-7th Middlesex)
Maine Representative Margaret O'Neil (ME-129)	Massachusetts Representative Joan Meschino (MA-3rd Plymouth)
Maine Representative Laurie Osher (ME-25)	Massachusetts Representative Steven Owens (MA-29th Middlesex)
Maine Representative Sophia Warren (ME-124)	Massachusetts Representative Angelo Puppolo (MA-12th Hampden)
Maine Senator Joe Baldacci (ME-9)	Massachusetts Representative Lindsay Sabadosa (MA-1st Hampshire)
Maine Senator Stacy Brenner (ME-30)	Massachusetts Representative Aaron Saunders (MA-7th Hampden)
Maine Senator Eloise Vitelli (ME-24)	Massachusetts Senator Cynthia Creem (MA-Norfolk and Middlesex)
Maryland Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (MD-20)	Massachusetts Senator Paul Mark (MA-Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire)
Maryland Delegate Bonnie Cullison (MD-19)	Michigan Representative Noah Arbit (MI-20)
Maryland Delegate Linda Foley (MD-15)	Michigan Representative Brenda Carter (MI-53)
Maryland Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr (MD-17)	Michigan Representative Betsy Coffia (MI-103)
Maryland Delegate Karen Simpson (MD-3)	Michigan Representative Kara Hope (MI-74)

Michigan Representative Jason Morgan (MI-23)	New Hampshire Representative David Preece (NH-17)
Michigan Representative Amos O'Neal (MI-94)	New Hampshire Representative Ellen Read (NH-10)
Michigan Representative Laurie Pohutsky (MI-17)	New Hampshire Representative Brian Sullivan (NH-1)
Michigan Representative Lori Stone (MI-13)	New Hampshire Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka (NH-21)
Minnesota Representative Rick Hansen (MN-53B)	New Hampshire Senator David Watters (NH-4)
Minnesota Representative Jerry Newton (MN- 35B)	New Jersey Senator Bob Smith (NJ-17)
Minnesota Senator Ann Rest (MN-43)	New Jersey Senator Andrew Zwicker (NJ-16)
Mississippi Senator Hillman Frazier (MS-27)	New Mexico Representative Angelica Rubio (NM-35)
Missouri Representative LaDonna Appelbaum (MO-71)	New Mexico Senator Bill Tallman (NM-18)
Montana Senator Willis Curdy (MT-49)	New York Assembly Member MaryJane Shimsky (NY-92)
Montana Senator Mary Ann Dunwell (MT-42)	New York Assembly Member Tony Simone (NY-75)
Nebraska Senator Megan Hunt (NE-8)	New York Senator Liz Krueger (NY-28)
Nevada Assembly Member Howard Watts (NV-15)	North Carolina Representative Eric Ager (NC-114)
New Hampshire Representative Donald Bouchard (NH-24)	North Carolina Representative John Autry (NC-100)
New Hampshire Representative Fred Davis (NH-3)	North Carolina Representative Mary Belk (NC-88)
New Hampshire Representative Sherry Dutzy (NH-6)	North Carolina Representative Kanika Brown (NC-71)
New Hampshire Representative Philip Jones (NH-3)	North Carolina Representative Pricey Harrison (NC-61)
New Hampshire Representative Jessica LaMontagne (NH-17)	North Carolina Representative Frances Jackson (NC-45)
New Hampshire Representative Maria Perez (NH-43)	North Carolina Representative Marcia Morey (NC-30)

North Carolina Representative Renee Price (NC-50)	Pennsylvania Representative Chris Pielli (PA-156)
North Carolina Representative Caleb Rudow (NC-116)	Pennsylvania Representative Christina Sappey (PA-158)
North Carolina Senator Julie Mayfield (NC-49)	Pennsylvania Representative Ben Waxman (PA-182)
North Carolina Senator Mujtaba Mohammed (NC-38)	Pennsylvania Senator Amanda Cappelletti (PA-17)
North Carolina Senator Natalie Murdock (NC-20)	Puerto Rico Senator William Villafane Ramos (PR-At-Large)
North Dakota Senator Tim Mathern (ND-11)	Rhode Island Representative Edith Ajello (RI-1)
Ohio Representative Daniel Troy (OH-23)	Rhode Island Representative Jose Batista (RI-12)
Oklahoma Representative Arturo Alonso Sandoval (OK-89)	Rhode Island Representative David Bennett (RI-20)
Oregon Representative Annessa Hartman (OR-40)	Rhode Island Representative Lauren Carson (RI-75)
Oregon Representative Zach Hudson (OR-49)	Rhode Island Representative Terri Cortvriend (RI-72)
Oregon Representative Khanh Pham (OR-46)	Rhode Island Representative Susan Donovan (RI-69)
Oregon Senator Michael Dembrow (OR-23)	Rhode Island Representative Arthur Handy (RI-18)
Oregon Senator Lew Frederick (OR-22)	Rhode Island Representative Joseph McNamara (RI-19)
Oregon Senator Jeff Golden (OR-3)	Rhode Island Representative Tina Spears (RI-36)
Pennsylvania Representative Tim Briggs (PA-149)	Rhode Island Representative Teresa Tanzi (RI-34)
Pennsylvania Representative Kyle Donahue (PA-113)	Rhode Island Senator Samuel Bell (RI-5)
Pennsylvania Representative Tarik Khan (PA-194)	Rhode Island Senator Alana DiMario (RI-36)
Pennsylvania Representative Jennifer O'Mara (PA-165)	Rhode Island Senator Victoria Gu (RI-38)
Pennsylvania Representative Danielle Otten (PA-155)	Rhode Island Senator Meghan Kallman (RI-15)

Rhode Island Senator Pamela Lauria (RI-32)	Vermont Senator Virginia Lyons (VT-15)
Rhode Island Senator Mark McKenney (RI-30)	Virgin Islands Senator Diane Capehart (VI-St. Croix)
Rhode Island Senator Ana Quezada (RI-2)	Virginia Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (VA-45)
South Carolina Representative Annie McDaniel (SC-41)	Virginia Delegate Elizabeth Guzman (VA-31)
South Dakota Representative Kameron Nelson (SD-10)	Virginia Delegate Kaye Kory (VA-38)
Tennessee Representative Vincent Dixie (TN-54)	Virginia Delegate Sam Rasoul (VA-11)
Texas Representative John Bryant (TX-114)	Virginia Senator Ghazala Hashmi (VA-10)
Texas Representative Lulu Flores (TX-51)	Washington Representative Beth Doglio (WA-22)
Texas Representative Vikki Goodwin (TX-47)	Washington Representative Jake Fey (WA-27)
Utah Representative Joel Briscoe (UT-24)	Washington Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (WA-34)
Utah Senator Nate Blouin (UT-13)	Washington Senator Jamie Pedersen (WA-43)
Vermont Representative Mollie Burke (VT-97)	Washington Senator Christine Rolfes (WA-23)
Vermont Representative Sara Coffey (VT-90)	Washington Senator Derek Stanford (WA-1)
Vermont Representative Edye Graning (VT-20)	Washington Senator Yasmin Trudeau (WA-27)
Vermont Representative Carol Ode (VT-35)	West Virginia Delegate Evan Hansen (WV-79)
Vermont Representative Avram Patt (VT-58)	West Virginia Delegate Kayla Young (WV-56)
Vermont Representative Monique Priestley (VT-60)	Wisconsin Representative Alex Joers (WI-79)
Vermont Representative Barbara Rachelson (VT-31)	Wisconsin Representative Melissa Ratcliff (WI-46)
Vermont Representative Larry Satcowitz (VT-63)	Wisconsin Representative Lisa Subeck (WI-78)

Wisconsin Senator Melissa Agard
(WI-16)

Wisconsin Senator Chris Larson
(WI-7)

Wyoming Representative Kenneth Chestek
(WY-13)