

July 12th, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator

The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. Representative, 1st District

The Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. Representative, 2nd District

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, U.S. Representative, 3rd District

The Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Representative, 4th District

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Representative, 5th District

The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Representative, 6th District

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, U.S. Representative, 7th District

The Honorable Dr. Kim Schrier, U.S. Representative, 8th District

The Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. Representative, 9th District

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland, U.S. Representative, 10th District

Dear Members of Washington's federal delegation:

As local elected officials, we take the climate crisis very seriously as we recognize the impacts it is already having on our communities. We have passed local ordinances and resolutions in support of clean electricity, clean fuels, and clean buildings. We have also used our voices to support progress at the state level on behalf of our communities. Our state government has responded by passing new laws and committing billions in new investments to transition away from fossil fuels. These infrastructure investments—in mass transit, vehicle and ferry electrification, clean buildings, and more—are not only needed to reduce pollution, but they also will create good, green jobs in our communities. Policies passed in Washington State and supported by local jurisdictions, such as the Clean Energy Transformation Act (100% clean electricity standard), serve as a model for federal action.

However, Washington cities, counties, and our state government cannot combat the climate crisis alone and so we are reaching out to you, our congressional delegation. Federal action on climate commensurate with our Paris Climate Accord obligations is critical. For us, the climate crisis is not a distant threat; it is already harming our communities. We are already suffering from climate impacts: extreme and historic heat waves, drought, and deadly wildfires. We need strong federal partnership and action to prevent an acceleration of these harms and protect our communities on behalf of those who elected and placed their trust in us.

We're tracking the progress of the federal infrastructure package closely and with increasing alarm as it appears that climate-related investments may not be a part of a final agreement. In our view, such a decision is unacceptable. Not including significant climate investments in the federal infrastructure passage will not only gravely hinder our ability to meet our Paris Climate Accord obligations, but it means our communities will see fewer green job opportunities and will further bear the brunt of pollution.

A failure to address climate change in this federal infrastructure investment bill would be an environmental, economic, and public health disaster with real ramifications for our communities. We ask you to clearly express the urgency of climate investments—**no climate, no deal**.

Our community members know that robust climate policy, including climate-focused infrastructure investments, strengthens our local economies, creates good jobs, protects our health, and moves us toward environmental justice. Voters placed their trust in us – and in you – to work for a transition to a clean energy economy. When Washingtonians asked their local and state elected officials to rise to the occasion and enact model climate policy, we did. We ask that Congress now join us and do the same because our climate and the health and prosperity of our communities is on the line.

Sincerely,

County Executive Dow Constantine
King County

Council Chair Claudia Balducci
King County

Council Vice Chair Joe McDermott
King County

Councilmember Rod Dembowski
King County

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles
King County

Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
King County

Councilmember Girmay Zahilay
King County

Council President Lorena Gonzalez
City of Seattle

Councilmember Lisa Herbold
City of Seattle

Councilmember Tammy Morales
City of Seattle

Councilmember Kshama Sawant
City of Seattle

Commissioner Ryan Calkins
Port of Seattle

Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck
Port of Seattle

Council Chair Derek Young
Pierce County

County Executive Pro Tem Marty Campbell
Pierce County

Councilmember Jani Hitchen
Pierce County

Councilmember Ryan Mello
Pierce County

Council President Breean Beggs
City of Spokane

Councilmember Kate Burke
City of Spokane

Councilmember Chris Beale
City of Tacoma

Councilmember John Stokes
City of Bellevue

Mayor Seth Fleetwood
City of Bellingham

Council President Hannah Stone
City of Bellingham

Councilor Lisa Anderson
City of Bellingham

Councilmember Daniel Hammill
City of Bellingham

Councilmember Michael Lilliquist
City of Bellingham

Commission President Michael Shepard
Port of Bellingham

Commission Chair Tye Menser
Thurston County

Commissioner Janet St. Clair
Island County

Commissioner Kate Dean
Jefferson County

Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour
Jefferson County

Councilmember Cindy Wolf
San Juan County

Councilmember Jan Schuette
City of Arlington

Councilmember Chris Stearns
City of Auburn

Mayor Rasham Nassar
City of Bainbridge Island

Councilmember Joe Deets
City of Bainbridge Island

Councilmember Kristiana de Leon
City of Black Diamond

Councilmember Mason Thompson
City of Bothell

Deputy Mayor Krystal Marx
City of Burien

Councilmember Kevin Schilling
City of Burien

Councilmember Nancy Tosta
City of Burien

Mayor Mike Nelson
City of Edmonds

Councilmember Luke Distelhorst
City of Edmonds

Council Member Paul Roberts
City of Everett

Council Member Jeni Woock
City of Gig Harbor

Council President Victoria Hunt
City of Issaquah

Councilmember Barbara de Michele
City of Issaquah

Councilmember Zach Hall
City of Issaquah

Deputy Mayor Nigel Herbig
City of Kenmore

Councilmember Corina Pfeil
City of Kenmore

Councilmember Brenda Fincher
City of Kent

Councilmember Zandria Michaud
City of Kent

Mayor Penny Sweet
City of Kirkland

Mayor Andy Ryder
City of Lacey

Council Member Mary Dickinson
City of Lake Stevens

Mayor Benson Wong
City of Mercer Island

Deputy Mayor Wendy Weiker
City of Mercer Island

Councilmember Salim Nice
City of Mercer Island

Councilmember Dave Rosenbaum
City of Mercer Island

Councilmember Richard Brocksmith
City of Mount Vernon

Mayor Jennifer Gregerson
City of Mukilteo

Councilmember Richard Emery
City of Mukilteo

Mayor Crystal Dinger
City of Ocean Shores

Mayor Cheryl Selby
City of Olympia

Mayor Pro Tem Clark Gilman
City of Olympia

Councilmember Dani Madrone
City of Olympia

Commissioner E.J. Zita
Port of Olympia

Council Vice President Jeralee Anderson
City of Redmond

Councilmember Jessica Forsythe
City of Redmond

Councilmember Valerie O'Halloran
City of Renton

Councilmember Pam Stuart
City of Sammamish

Councilmember Doris McConnell
City of Shoreline

Councilmember Chris Roberts
City of Shoreline

Councilmember Annie McHale
City of Stevenson

Mayor Pro Tem Joan Cathey
City of Tumwater

Councilmember Leatta Dahlhoff
City of Tumwater