

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our millions of members we thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing climate change. We are writing to underscore the critical importance of addressing pollution from the nation's medium- and heavy-duty trucks as the April 22nd global leaders Earth Day Climate Summit approaches.

Addressing the extensive health and climate burden from diesel freight trucks and buses is crucial to saving lives, advancing environmental justice and achieving your commitment to climate action. Fortunately, the solutions are at hand. We urge your administration to adopt pollution standards, by Fall of 2022, that eliminate the smog-forming nitrogen oxides, deadly particles, and climate pollution from freight trucks and buses that are based upon and fully mobilize the availability of zero emitting solutions. We must address the disproportionate impact of these contaminants on the many communities and neighborhoods who have been afflicted by the heavy burden of pollution for far too long. To do this, our nation must accelerate the implementation of zero-emission freight trucks and buses, eliminating pollution from all new freight trucks and buses vehicles no later than 2040 and ensuring urban and community applications are zero emissions not later than 2035.

We ask you to make this life-saving action an administration priority. Across the United States, freight-related air pollution is concentrated in low-income communities and communities of color. Eliminating pollution from freight trucks in these communities is essential for repairing the historic injustice caused by the freight industry. Pollution-free logistics, public fleets, last-mile delivery, refuse trucks, local transit and school buses are all primed for deployment now.

Some states have committed to eliminating these harmful air pollutants and have adopted rigorous policies that provide a foundation for protective action. The Moving Forward Network – a national coalition of over 50 member organizations including community-based groups, national environmental organizations, and academic institutions, in over 20 major U.S. cities, representing over two million members, committed to resolving the public health harms created by our country's freight transportation system and achieving environmental justice and climate justice – testified before the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in July 2019 calling on Congress to “hold EPA accountable to meeting its mission and legal requirements under the Clean Air Act” and to ensure EPA adopts “regulations to reduce and eliminate emissions from the freight sector.” The Moving Forward Network urged EPA to “identify reducing freight-related air pollution as a top priority for the Agency.” We ask that you ensure environmental justice communities and leaders are thoroughly engaged – and heard – in shaping and designing our nation's pollution control priorities and policies.

We respectfully call on you to make zero-emission trucks and buses a priority. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely yours,

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

California Business Alliance for a Clean Economy

Center for Biological Diversity

Ceres

Defend Our Future

Ecology Center (Michigan)

Environmental Defense Fund

Green For All, a program of Dream Corps

GreenLatinos

Interfaith Power & Light

League of Conservation Voters

Moms Clean Air Force

Natural Resources Defense Council

Our Climate

Sierra Club

Southern Environmental Law Center

Union of Concerned Scientists

Cc:

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
White House National Climate Advisor

The Honorable Brian Deese
White House Director of the National Economic Council

The Honorable Ali Zaidi
White House Deputy National Climate Advisor

The Honorable Austin Brown
Senior Director for Transportation