

March 8, 2021

Dear Representative:

As organizations dedicated to a sustainable future, we believe that such a future must include fair treatment for the people and communities working to build a clean and thriving economy. For that reason, we support H.R. 842, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, and urge you to vote in favor of the bill when it comes before the House this week.

Since 1970, global carbon dioxide emissions have nearly doubled, spiking the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, increasing the risk of drought, and putting the future of our entire planet at risk. Over that same period, income and wealth inequality have exploded in the United States and elsewhere — incomes have risen by 229% in the U.S. for the top 1% of earners since 1979, while the bottom 90% of households have seen income growth of just 46%, or 1% on an annual basis.<sup>1</sup> These parallel trends reflect an economy built to serve the interests of a small group of the extremely wealthy and powerful, not people or the planet.

One key element of fixing our broken economic system is ensuring that working people have a voice in the economy and earn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Workers are often unable to have their voices heard or to earn fair pay, a function of weak labor laws that have made it virtually impossible for workers to organize and form unions in the face of unrelenting, aggressive corporate opposition.

The PRO Act would make common-sense changes to existing law to enable workers who want to organize and form unions to do so. It would penalize corporations that break the law, limit tactics used to intimidate workers, help workers who organize secure timely collective bargaining agreements, and institute a number of changes to better enable workers to act in solidarity with one another.

Remaking our economy and environment to address climate change and rising inequality will require substantial investment and transition, across many sectors. This is an opportunity to create millions of good jobs with family-sustaining wages and strong worker protections. We need strong, common-sense worker protections like those in the PRO Act to ensure that a sustainable economy reverses rather than reinforces rising inequity. There is no way to build a greener, more inclusive economy without strong, thriving labor unions.

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<sup>1</sup> Elise Gould, Economic Policy Institute, "Decades of rising economic inequality in the U.S.: Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee," <https://www.epi.org/publication/decades-of-rising-economic-inequality-in-the-u-s-testimony-before-the-u-s-house-of-representatives-ways-and-means-committee/>, (27 March 2019).

Our planet and our communities are under enormous threat. We must act urgently to confront the dangers imposed by climate change, including by ensuring that working people are treated fairly and helping lead the transition to a fair, green economy. The PRO Act would help advance that goal and help us rebuild our economy to function for both people and the planet. Therefore, we urge you to vote in favor of the PRO Act.

Sincerely,

Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club  
Alameda County Interfaith Climate Action Network  
Alliance for Climate Education (ACE)  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
Athens County's Future Action Network (OH)

Broward for Progress  
Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Call to Action Colorado  
CatholicNetwork.US  
Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Environmental Health  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
citizens awareness network  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition  
Climate Hawks Vote

Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ  
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate  
DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council  
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition  
Durham DSA Democratic Socialists of America

Earth Action, Inc.  
Earthworks  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Feminists in Action, Los Angeles  
Food & Water Watch

FracTracker Alliance  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends of the Earth US  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
GreenFaith

Greenpeace USA  
Heart of America NW  
Holman United Methodist Church  
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.  
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

League of Conservation Voters  
Loudoun Climate Project  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North American Water Office  
Nuclear Energy Information Service NEIS.org

Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Oil Change U.S.  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania  
Plymouth Friends for Clean Water  
Progressive Democrats of America

Rachel Carson Council  
RapidShift Network  
Resource Renewal Institute  
SEED Coalition  
SoCal 350 Climate Action

The Climate Mobilization  
Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
198 methods  
350 Humboldt

350 New Orleans  
350 NewHampshire  
350 Seattle  
350 Silicon Valley  
350.org

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