

**Californians for Western Wilderness ♦ Center for Civic Policy ♦ Chaco Alliance
♦ Citizens Caring for the Future ♦ Citizens for a Healthy Community ♦
Climate Advocates Voces Unidas ♦ Conservation Voters New Mexico ♦ Earth
Ethics, Inc. ♦ Environmental Protection Information Center ♦ Los Padres
ForestWatch ♦ Montana Environmental Information Center ♦ New Mexico
Wild ♦ Ocean Conservation Research ♦ ProgressNow New Mexico ♦ Project
Eleven Hundred ♦ Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens ♦ Rocky Mountain Wild ♦
Sierra Club ♦ Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance ♦ Waterkeeper Alliance ♦
Western Environmental Law Center ♦ Winter Wildlands Alliance**

September 1, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

Congratulations on achieving a historic legislative victory in the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. We applaud the IRA’s extraordinary investment in and incentives to boost the clean energy transition in the U.S. that are predicted to bring the country closer to meeting your administration’s important climate commitments.

Yet, even as we celebrate this important achievement, we are mindful that the legislation is a political compromise which falls far short of the actions needed to meet the urgency demanded by the climate crisis and—especially given the IRA’s furtherance of oil and gas extraction on federal public lands and in off-shore waters—is squarely at odds with the scientific reality that any new commitment of fossil fuel infrastructure and production is incompatible with constraining global warming to 1.5°C.¹ A continuation of the federal fossil fuels program as contemplated by the IRA also fundamentally runs counter to your policy to “secure environmental justice” by directing agencies to “address the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities.”² Fortunately, your administration retains considerable discretion in accord with

¹ International Energy Agency, Net Zero by 2050: A roadmap for the global energy system at 21 (2021). Available at: <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/4719e321-6d3d-41a2-bd6b-461ad2f850a8/NetZeroby2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector.pdf>.

² Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, Sec. 219 (Jan. 27, 2021).

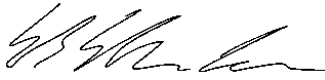
existing constitutional and statutory authorities to avoid and minimize the federal fossil fuels program's adverse impacts.

For these reasons, we once again call on you to open new doors to a thriving, resilient future by promulgating regulatory guardrails governing the federal public lands and waters fossil fuels programs. Such action would complement the IRA's beneficial provisions and mitigate the adverse impacts that will flow from the IRA's continuation of the federal fossil fuels program. Now is the time for your administration to take bold action to center federal public lands and waters as the cornerstone of long-term ecological and community resilience in the face of a changing climate. We have previously provided your administration with the tools to do just that.

- First, on June 10, 2021, 12 organizations provided the U.S. Department of the Interior with a [recommended set of actions to provide interim guardrails](#) on the federal fossil fuels programs regarding both oil and gas as well as coal. Though our recommendations were provided as the administration was ostensibly in the midst of a comprehensive review of the oil and gas program which was apparently completed in November 2021, these actions, in the wake of the IRA's passage, are more critical than ever for the administration to consider.
- Second, on January 19, 2022, 361 organizations [petitioned](#) your administration and Interior to use existing authority in the Mineral Leasing Act, Outer Continental Shelf Act, and other laws to implement a steady and managed decline of all onshore and offshore oil and gas production on public lands and waters such that oil and gas production is reduced by 98% of current levels by 2035.
- Third, on May 18, 2022, 31 organizations [petitioned](#) Interior and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to promulgate a regulatory framework to fully implement the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and modernize public lands resource management in response to the climate crisis. Our recommended framework would empower Interior to leverage FLPMA's long standing climate and conservation-centered powers, which provide your administration with the authority and responsibility to serve as both the trustee of federal public lands for the benefit of the American people and the regulator of federal public lands uses.

To secure a livable planet for our children, grandchildren, and all those in the future who will be forced to contend with the consequences of our decisions today, we urge you to act now by taking bold, interim policy and more durable regulatory action to both complement the climate provisions of the IRA and to avoid and minimize the adverse impacts—particularly to Environmental Justice and frontline communities—of locking in fossil fuel production for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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