

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation organization with more than one million members, I write in support of H.R. 4447, the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (CEIJA), that was introduced earlier this week. By investing in the technologies needed to build a low carbon future, this bill will help rebuild an economy stalled by the pandemic and begin to create the energy system we need to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Meeting the challenge of climate change demands that we move rapidly to an economy that is low carbon and powered by clean energy. That means more energy efficiency. That means more and better energy storage technologies and improved siting that together enable broad deployment of renewable energy like wind and solar. That means reducing the use of highly potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. That means modernizing the electric grid and accelerating the deployment of electric vehicles. And it means developing technologies like carbon capture and storage and advanced nuclear to enable the transition. CEIJA would address all of these issues and spur the innovation and investment that is required to reinvent our energy economy, not only allowing us to have more and better energy choices but also creating jobs and lowering costs.

We also appreciate the attention to addressing equity and workforce transition by providing resources for worker training, improved federal coordination on environmental justice issues, and investment in communities that have shouldered an outsized burden with respect to pollution and climate impacts.

CEIJA incorporates a wide array of individual bills with bipartisan support. Taken together, these bills will enable innovation in how we produce energy, driving economic growth, improved air quality, and reduced emissions. While more will need to be done to address the urgent challenge of climate change, CEIJA represents an important first step. We urge members on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation to build a better energy future in America.

The Nature Conservancy looks forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate to see energy innovation legislation enacted before the end of this Congress.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn Scarlett