

May 30, 2023

To: The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, House Minority Leader  
Members of Congress

**Re: Support for Voting for Clean Debt Ceiling Bill and Opposition to Poison Pills:  
Completing Mountain Valley Pipeline, Undermining the National Environmental Policy  
Act, Harming Disadvantaged Communities**

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, House Minority Leader Jeffries, and all Members of Congress:

On behalf of frontline communities, as well as environmental, environmental justice, and other organizations representing millions of members and supporters nationwide, we are writing to express our great opposition to several poison pills in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, including but not limited to the completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, rollbacks to the National Environmental Policy Act, and the stripping of social benefits for disadvantaged communities. **We strongly urge Congress to vote on a clean debt ceiling bill and reject these poison pills.**

We urge Congress to pass a clean debt ceiling bill free of unnecessary poison pill riders that would harm disadvantaged communities, Tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples, working families, and the physical environment.

We oppose several poison pills in the bill that have no place in legislation addressing the country's financial debt obligations:

- **Greenlighting the climate-killing Mountain Valley Pipeline**, which [over 750 frontline communities and environmental justice organizations](#) have vehemently opposed. This project is equivalent to the emissions from 26 coal plants and would sacrifice Appalachian communities to decades more of hazardous pollution.
- **Rolling back the National Environmental Policy Act**, including provisions that limit the public's ability to provide input on fossil fuel projects and other destructive developments that would harm the communities most burdened by pollution, while allowing corporate polluters to effectively rubberstamp the projects they're proposing.
- **Freezing non-defense spending** and weakening agencies' ability to protect communities and the environment.
- **Stripping families of vital social safety net benefits** like food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by imposing work requirements.

- **Cutting the IRS' budget** which weakens its ability to crack down on wealthy individuals and big corporations evading tax payment.
- **Restarting student loan payments** for millions of Americans.

Congress must pass a clean debt ceiling bill. This is the only moral and just path forward for lawmakers.

Sincerely,

1. Center for Biological Diversity
2. Food & Water Watch
3. Friends of the Earth
4. Indigenous Environmental Network
5. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
6. Oil Change International
7. People's Justice Council
8. Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)
9. 198 methods
10. 7 Directions of Service
11. Greenpeace USA
12. GreenLatinos
13. Earthworks
14. 350.org
15. Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
16. Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
17. Sunrise Movement Education Fund
18. Chesapeake Climate Action Network
19. 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
20. 350 Chicago
21. 350 Eugene
22. 350 San Luis Obispo
23. 350 Seattle
24. 350 Triangle
25. 350Hawaii
26. 350MA- Berksires
27. 350Merced
28. Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
29. Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc
30. Arm in Arm 4 Climate DC
31. ARTivism Virginia

32. Better Brazoria Clean Air & Water
33. Better Path Coalition
34. Between the Waters
35. Beyond Extreme Energy
36. Black Millennials 4 Flint
37. Boston Clean Energy Coalition
38. Businesses for a Livable Climate
39. Call to Action Colorado
40. CatholicNetwork US
41. Center for International Environmental Law
42. Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)
43. Chatham Research Group
44. Chicago Benedictines for Peace
45. Christians For The Mountains
46. Church Women United in New York State
47. Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
48. Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)
49. Clean Water for North Carolina
50. Climate Action Team, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth
51. Climate Reality Project, North Broward and Palm Beach County Chapter
52. CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
53. Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
54. Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
55. Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate
56. Community for Sustainable Energy
57. Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
58. Democratic Socialists of America - Knoxville, TN
59. Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
60. Earth Ethics, Inc.
61. Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking
62. End Climate Silence
63. Environmental Protection Information Center- EPIC
64. Equation Campaign
65. Extinction Rebellion Delaware
66. Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
67. Farmworker Association of Florida
68. Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce
69. Forest Keeper
70. Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
71. Freedom BLOC

72. Freedom Forward
73. Fridays For Future NYC
74. Fridays for Future US
75. GASP
76. Grassroots International
77. Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
78. Green House Collaboration Center
79. GreenFaith
80. Haw River Assembly
81. Honor the Earth
82. Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Climate Action Campaign
83. I-70 Citizens Advisory Group
84. Indivisible Ambassadors
85. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
86. Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
87. Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group
88. Jewish Climate Action Network DMV
89. John Muir Project
90. Kickapoo Peace Circle
91. KIWA
92. Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & Environment
93. Littleton Business Alliance
94. Loudoun Climate Project
95. Maryland Ornithological Society
96. Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board
97. Memphis Community Against Pollution
98. Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
99. Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
100. Micronesia Climate Change Alliance
101. Mind Eye World
102. Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association
103. Mothers Out Front Tompkins
104. MoveOn.org Hoboken
105. Natural Capitalism Solutions
106. Nature Coast Conservation
107. NC Alliance to Protect Our People and the Places We Live (APPPL)
108. NC Climate Justice Collective
109. New York Climate Action Group
110. New York Communities for Change
111. No North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance

112. North Range Concerned Citizens
113. Oil and Gas Action Network
114. Our Revolution Hawaii
115. Our Revolution Ocean County
116. Pelican Media
117. People for a Healthy Environment
118. Peoples Climate Movement-NY
119. People's Justice Council
120. Plastic Pollution Coalition
121. Presente.org
122. Preserve Monroe
123. Preserve Montgomery County VA
124. Preserve Wild Santee
125. Project Eleven Hundred
126. Project Outreach: Frac Sand Sentinel
127. PSR Arizona
128. Putnam Progressives
129. RapidShift Network
130. Raptors Are The Solution
131. RedTailed Hawk Collective
132. Resource Renewal Institute
133. Rise Up WV
134. River Guardian Foundation
135. Rogue Climate
136. Sane Energy Project
137. Santa Cruz for Bernie
138. Santa Fe Forest Coalition
139. Save EPA
140. Save EPA (former employees)
141. Save the Environmental Protection Agency
142. SAVE THE FROGS!
143. Science and Environmental Health Network
144. Scientist Rebellion
145. SEE (Social Eco Education)
146. Sequoia ForestKeeper®
147. Small Business Alliance
148. SoCal 350 Climate Action
149. Social Justice Ministry of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
150. Southwest Organization for Sustainability
151. Sowing Justice

152. Spirit of the Sun
153. Spirit of the Sun, Inc.
154. Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
155. Sunrise Movement NYC
156. System Change Not Climate Change
157. Terra Advocati
158. The Climate Center
159. The Green House Connection Center
160. The Manzanita Foundation
161. The Revolving Door Project
162. Third Act
163. Third Act NYC
164. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
165. Unite North Metro Denver
166. United For Clean Energy
167. Vets for Peace
168. Wall of Women
169. Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
170. Wild Nature Institute
171. Women Working Together Usa
172. Womxn from the Mountain
173. Working for Racial Equity
174. Youth Vs Apocalypse
175. Zero Hour