

5 February 2020

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. 2474, 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,

ActionAid USA

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Already Devalued & Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany

Asian Pacific Planning & Policy Council Environmental Justice Committee

Athens County Future Action Network

Beyond Extreme Energy

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Climate Change & Health

Center for International Environmental Law

Citizens For Water

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

Climate Action Rhode Island

Climate Hawks Vote

Climate Mobilization Project

Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline NJ

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

The Democracy Collaborative

Earthworks

Faithful America

Food & Water Action

Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice

Franciscan Action Network

Friends of Buckingham

Friends of the Earth

Great Lakes Water Protectors

Green America

Green For All

Greenpeace USA

Harford County Climate Action  
Idle No More SF Bay

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program  
Jewish Climate Action Network – Massachusetts  
League of Conservation Voters  
Long Beach 350  
Louisiana Bucket Brigade

Louisiana Rise  
Miami Climate Alliance  
Mothers Out Front  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North Country 350 Alliance

Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
NYH2O  
Oil Change International  
Organic Consumers Association  
Peoples Climate Movement – New York

Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania  
Plymouth Friends of Clean Water  
Public Citizen  
Safe Climate Campaign  
Safe Energy Rights Group

Save the Pine Bush  
Seeding Sovereignty  
Sierra Club  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
Stand.earth

Sunflower Alliance  
Sunrise Bay Area  
Sunrise Movement  
Toxics Action Center  
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action

Washtenaw350  
Wendell State Forest Alliance

350.org

350 Colorado

350 DC

350 Deschutes

350Kishwaukee

350 Loudon

350 Merced

350 New Hampshire

350 Wenatchee

350 West Sound Climate Action