

THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the President's Jobs Cabinet

FROM: Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor  
Anita Dunn, Senior Advisor

SUBJ: Pushing President Biden's Full, Popular, and Bipartisan Build Back Better Agenda Forward

DATE June 29, 2021

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President Biden and his team worked tirelessly across the aisle to formulate the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework that will be a critical step towards implementing the President's vision to reimagine and reinvent a new American economy and win the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Framework contains transformational investments in clean energy, water and power infrastructure, climate resiliency, and more. The Framework also includes the largest federal investment in history to modernize and expand transit and rail networks across the country, which would improve access to sustainable transportation while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Many of the President's clean energy and sustainable transportation proposals are not only bipartisan, they're popular. Polling has consistently showed – across party lines – that the elements included in the Framework focused on clean energy, resilience, and environmental justice enjoy broad public support from Americans. As we seek to implement President Biden's full agenda on multiple legislative tracks, our ability to advance a number of key elements in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework underscores the popularity of the breadth of these provisions.

We know more work needs to be done, which is why President Biden will continue championing his American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan. This memo outlines our efforts to advance President Biden's full vision to build back better and tackle the climate crisis, as well as the broad, bipartisan popularity of President Biden's climate and economic proposals.

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework contains key components that advance President Biden's American Jobs Plan and vision to build back better and tackle the climate crisis. These key components include:

- **Largest investments in the nation's clean water infrastructure**, including the funds needed to eliminate and replace 100% of lead water pipes and service lines to ensure all families and children have access to clean drinking water. The investments in water infrastructure are unprecedented and also include funding to modernize waste water systems across the country, including in rural areas and on Tribal lands. According to an [April 2021 Morning Consult poll](#), nearly three quarters of Americans supported the

American Jobs Plan investment to replace all lead water pipes and service lines – including a strong majority of republicans (60%) and Independents (69%). Similarly, [Reuters](#) found 68% of Americans support replacing all lead pipes, including definitive majorities of Republicans (58%) and Independents (69%).

- **Largest investment in addressing legacy pollution** that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods with \$5 billion to clean up Superfund and Brownfield sites and \$16 billion to reclaim abandoned mines and cap wells, advancing environmental justice and supporting good-paying, union jobs in hard-hit coal and energy communities. These policies advance environmental justice and have broad support from the public with a majority of Americans supporting work to plug abandoned oil and gas wells and restore abandoned mines, according to [Morning Consult](#).
- **Largest investment in in public transit in history** and is the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak to improve healthy, sustainable transportation options for millions of Americans by modernizing and expanding transit and rail networks across the country while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These investments are critical for reducing emissions from the transportation sector and improving access to jobs and opportunity for millions of Americans. According to [Morning Consult](#), 63% of Americans supported robust proposals for transit and rail investments.
- **Modernizing America’s electrical grid with a historic investment and new grid development authority**, which is critical to achieving President Biden’s goal of a carbon-free power sector by 2035. [Data for Progress](#) found that a majority of the American public supports clean energy infrastructure investments like modernizing the electric grid, including 86% of Democrats, 63% of Independents, and 42% of Republicans. Similarly, about 60% of Americans support investing in clean energy to help avoid power outages, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and combat climate change, according to a [Yahoo News/YouGov poll](#).
- **Investing in electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure to create a national charging network** along highways and in rural and disadvantaged communities – helping reach the President’s goal of building 500,000 EV chargers across the country. In addition, these investments are paired with a significant mobilization of resources to electrify the nation’s school and transit buses to reduce harmful emissions. According to [Morning Consult](#), a majority of Americans support investments that will accelerate the production and deployment of EVs, including expanding EV charging infrastructure across the country. A [Navigator poll](#) found 61% backed building up EV charging stations, including 85% of Democrats and 59% of Republicans. The broad support for expanding EV infrastructure reflects the traditional bipartisan support for American manufacturing, as investing in EVs would bolster American supply chains and domestic jobs that support the development of American-made cars and parts.
- **Strengthening the resilience of physical and natural systems** to withstand the impacts of a changing climate, investing nearly \$50 billion in drought, wildfire, flood, and multi-hazard resilience programs. These investments are the largest in U.S. history targeted towards building the resilience of physical and natural systems to prepare more

of our infrastructure for climate change impacts, cyber attacks, and extreme weather events. According to a [Data for Progress polling memo](#), a strong majority of voters – 61% – thinks the government should provide more assistance to cities and states for improving the resiliency of infrastructure to extreme weather events.

- **Creating a first-of-its-kind Infrastructure Financing Authority** that will leverage billions into clean transportation and clean energy, water, distributed energy resources, and retrofits of residential, commercial, and municipal buildings. The Infrastructure Financing Authority will provide low-cost capital to state, local, and private entities, including green banks and community financial institutions – seeking to address the most significant needs of our time through a broad toolkit of financial assistance.

### **Additional Congressional Action**

As [President Biden has noted](#), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework leaves out critical initiatives on climate change that he proposed as part of his Build Back Better agenda. That is why he intends to work with Congress through the budget process to pass additional legislation that will position the U.S. to combat climate change, create good-paying, union jobs, and win the clean energy future.

There are other core components of the President's American Jobs Plan that have earned widespread public support from both Democrats and Republicans that President Biden remains committed to advancing, including:

- **Providing tax cuts for businesses and consumers who invest in clean energy technologies** like renewables, battery storage, and electric vehicles. This will spur demand for domestic manufacturing – not only accelerating clean energy deployment, but also growing our capacity to build those technologies here in the United States. The President has also called for these credits to be paired with strong labor standards to ensure the jobs created are good-quality jobs with a free and fair choice to join a union and bargain collectively. Clean energy tax credits are widely popular too. 64% of Americans support incentives, like tax credits, to spur clean energy deployment – and this broad support spans party lines. 85% of Democrats, 67% of Independents, and 47% of Republicans support clean energy tax credits, according to [Reuters](#).
- **Sending a market signal that brings additional private investment off the sidelines and into modernizing our electric grid through an Energy Efficiency and Clean Electricity Standard (EECES)**, which is designed to cut electricity bills, increase competition in the market, incentivize more efficient use of existing infrastructure, decrease pollution, and continue to leverage the carbon pollution-free energy provided by existing sources like nuclear and hydropower. The EECES would spur the creation of millions of good-paying, union jobs all across the country. And much like clean energy tax credits, the EECES is popular – a [Data for Progress poll](#) found nearly two thirds of respondents supported government action to move the country to a fully clean power sector by 2035.
- **Mobilizing the next generation of conservation and resilience workers** with a \$10 billion investment to conserve and restore our public lands and waters, bolster

community resilience, and address environmental injustice, all while maximizing the creation of accessible training opportunities to create a pathway for good-paying, union jobs. The concept of a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) has strong bipartisan support. According to [recent polling from Data for Progress](#), 77% of respondents support a CCC, including 65% of Republicans and 87% of Democrats.

The President remains committed to using all the tools at his disposal to drive a whole-of-government approach to tackling the climate crisis, create good-paying, union jobs, and advance environmental justice. This includes everything from the core components outlined above to leveraging the power of federal procurement as a tool for jumpstarting clean energy manufacturing to building, preserving, and retrofitting homes and commercial buildings. As we work to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework, we will also continue to advance the full suite of proposals in the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan through additional congressional action, including budget reconciliation, to ensure we build back our economy and country better.

### **Pushing Build Back Better Forward**

When President Biden thinks of climate, he thinks of jobs. He has always seen economic prosperity and community resilience as going hand-in-hand because tackling the climate crisis is an opportunity to grow the middle class, create millions of good-paying, union jobs, and advance environmental justice.

President Biden will continue to take unprecedented, bold, and transformational action to position America to win the clean energy future that will define the 21<sup>st</sup> century, make sure communities across America can participate in that economic growth, and ensure the U.S. remains on a permanent path towards reaching net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

His American Jobs Plan included historic investments that would enable America to tackle the climate crisis – proposing bold investments to build resilient and sustainable infrastructure, ensure all Americans have access to clean water, and invest in R&D clean energy technologies and innovations. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework is a critical first legislative step to investing in creating jobs, resilience, and American competitiveness – with climate goals embedded throughout. When paired with the administration’s [supply chain resilience work](#), they lay out a clear strategy for [advancing a new industrial strategy](#) centered on advancing U.S. economic competitiveness by tackling the climate crisis and creating quality jobs.

These provisions are historic and a necessary down payment to achieve the twin goals of tackling the climate crisis and jumpstarting our economy. The Framework is just a start. President Biden will continue to work with Congress to build upon the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework this year, and he is encouraged that both the House and Senate are working on budget plans that would do so.

President Biden remains committed to championing his full climate agenda and the American Jobs Plan – and the American people agree.

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