

October 2, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways
and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Neal and Grassley and Ranking Members Brady and Wyden:

The undersigned health and medical organizations urge you to incentivize clean energy deployment through the tax code, as one of our best opportunities to meaningfully address climate change in this Congress. Investments in clean energy are critical to combatting the harmful health effects of air pollution and climate change. Clean energy is better for our health and better for the climate.

There are so many reasons why the transition to clean energy is critical: devastating wildfires, the hottest months in recorded history, and life threatening superstorms all made worse by the climate crisis. We must deploy every tool we have to accelerate the just transition to a clean energy economy in order to address climate change and protect the health of our communities across the country, especially those communities that are disproportionately vulnerable to air pollution and climate change impacts.

Clean energy technologies, including on-site solar plus storage, also improve the resilience of emergency and public health services and U.S. hospitals in the face of increasing climate-related extreme weather events. One immediate step you can take is to support a federal tax policy that develops innovative clean energy solutions and cleaner, safer, healthier sources of energy.

As you consider a package of tax proposals, that package should include tax incentives to drive innovation and wider deployment of clean energy technologies, including energy storage, electric vehicles, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Many of the clean energy tax incentives are outdated, are phasing down, or have expired. Updating and extending these tax credits is critical to addressing climate change, and we urge you to include the provisions listed below.

- H.R.2096 and S. 1142, *“Energy Storage Tax Incentive and Deployment Act of 2019.”* Extends to batteries and electricity storage systems the same 30 percent Investment Tax Credit (ITC) currently offered to Photovoltaic (PV) solar.

- H.R. 3473 and S. 1957: “*The Offshore WIND Act.*” Extends the 30 percent investment tax credit for offshore wind facilities through 2025. This legislation will give us another tool in the climate fight by unlocking vast quantities of affordable, zero emissions electricity.
- H.R.3961 and S.2289, “*Renewable Energy Extension Act.*” Extends the ITC and residential renewable energy tax credit for solar as well as the ITC for other clean energy technologies, such as fuel cells, small wind, and geothermal heat pumps, that are set to phase out. This will ensure continued deployment, growth, and innovation of key technologies that reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- H.R.2256 and S. 1094, “*Driving America Forward Act.*” Increases the number of electric vehicles that are eligible for the existing tax credit, thereby substantially increasing the number of electric vehicles on the road, improving air quality and cutting carbon emissions.
- Extend and modify several tax incentives for energy efficiency. This will save residential consumers and businesses money, reduce harmful air pollution, and is the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. The Section 179D deduction for energy efficient commercial and multifamily buildings is expired and must be extended. The 25C incentive for homeowner efficiency improvements and Section 45L incentive for energy efficient new homes are outdated and should be modified to reflect new technologies and market conditions.

We urge you to support the inclusion of these important clean energy tax policies. These incentives will lower pollution that threatens our health and exacerbates climate change, while improving health sector climate resilience, which is a win-win for both growing the economy and protecting public health.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Health Care Without Harm
National Medical Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Health Institute’s Center for Climate Change & Health