

Write Your Members of Congress:

# No Compromise on Climate



August 2021

*Sample letter is on the other side of this page.*

**Letter Delivery Instructions:** Coordinator should scan and email letters to Ed Kopf at [Letters@JewishEarthAlliance.org](mailto:Letters@JewishEarthAlliance.org). Please combine letters to each Member of Congress in one Word or PDF document ([more detailed instructions](#)). Letters must be received by **Tuesday, August 10**. We will deliver them by email directly to the appropriate staffer. Questions? Mirele at tel. (917)679-2121.

## Background

For six days in June 2021, a dome of hot air over the western United States caused [temperatures to skyrocket](#). Seven western states had all-time maximum temperatures. The national media spotlight on the cycle of drought, heat and fire made climate change tangible, frightening, and impossible to ignore.

President Biden proposed sweeping climate measures in the [American Jobs Plan](#), but the [July 2021 bipartisan compromise](#) on an infrastructure package kicks these promises to the curb. Jewish Earth Alliance Action Alerts have highlighted the American Jobs Plan goals of driving down carbon emissions, environmental justice, and resilient infrastructure. All of these [goals have been watered down or eliminated](#). Initial analysis of the bipartisan plan suggests that it may cut as much as one trillion dollars in environmental, climate and clean energy spending and tax incentives from the original American Jobs Plan. Scrapping these key elements would not only make it impossible for the U.S. to meet its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030, it would mean [missing enormous opportunities](#) for cleaner air, quality jobs and resilient communities.

Americans are [waking up to the realities](#) of climate change. A majority say they see the effects of climate change in their own communities and believe that the federal government falls short in its efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change. A [recent poll](#) found that a majority of [American voters would be disappointed](#) if climate-friendly investments were left out of the final infrastructure package.

## Why Now?

There is still time to fight for including important climate measures in infrastructure legislation based on President Biden's American Jobs Plan. Despite recent hoopla about a bipartisan compromise, the process of shaping legislation is not over. The compromise was reached by just 10 senators—5 Democrats and 5 Republicans. Passage is not assured in either the House (Democrats hold a slim majority of 220 to 211) or Senate (10 Republican votes are needed to overcome a filibuster.) If the bipartisan compromise is passed, President Biden and the Democratic leadership promise to use the rules of reconciliation to pass additional legislation featuring key climate and environmental justice priorities. If the bipartisan compromise is not passed, they will have to find an alternate path such as a series of bills or a larger reconciliation package. In addition to writing to your legislators, look for opportunities to see them in person when they are home for recess (Senate recess is Aug 9-Sept 10, House recess is Aug 2-27.) Votes are still anticipated to take place by September 30.

## Jewish Perspectives

Didn't I already write to my legislator about this? Do I need to repeat it again? Although it may feel awkward, we need to keep repeating ourselves until we achieve our goals. Judaism has been called a religion of repetition. Three times a day we recite virtually the same prayers, we observe *Shabbat* with the same rituals every week, and each year we find new insights in the same familiar *Torah* portions that we read the year before. The commandment of *v'shinantem levaneikha*, repeat [these teachings] to your children, included in the *Shema* prayer which is itself repeated at least twice per day, reminds us that saying something once is almost never enough. We need to keep repeating ourselves until our message sinks in and our legislators pass comprehensive legislation to put our country and world on a just and sustainable path.

## Key Message

Don't compromise on climate. Fight for comprehensive climate change solutions in the infrastructure package that will drive down carbon emissions, further environmental justice, and protect communities with resilient infrastructure.

## Talking Points

- Don't compromise on the aim of President Biden's American Jobs Plan—to [cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030](#), the pace needed to reach net zero by 2050 to stabilize global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- We must protect the American Jobs Plan's focus on [climate justice](#) during Congressional negotiations.
- Let's combine taking care of people now and in the future by producing, preserving, and retrofitting over two million [affordable and sustainable homes](#), as called for in the American Jobs Plan.
- Legislating the American Jobs Plan's [federal clean electricity standard](#) will cut carbon emissions and raise demand for renewable energy.
- Repealing fossil fuel subsidies, as called for in the American Jobs Plan, [will free up billions](#) for investments in renewable energy and other human needs.

## Learn More

- [6 crucial climate actions the Senate left out of its infrastructure deal](#), Vox
- [New infrastructure deal must focus on climate, activists say](#), AP
- [As the Infrastructure Bill Moves Forward, Is a Climate Bill Next?](#) Sierra
- [State by State Fact Sheets on the American Jobs Plan](#), White House

## SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

**Subject: Climate Solutions in Infrastructure Legislation**

**Date:** *Date*

**Dear Senator/Representative** *Last name,*

**Thank you for the steps you have taken to address climate change. I appreciate...** *Thank your MOC for a specific action. Check the MOC's website, committees, or [congress.gov/members](https://congress.gov/members).*

**I join the majority of Americans who support comprehensive legislation to address climate change. I support the steps proposed in the American Jobs Plan to put us on the right path.**

*Insert a talking point from above or a specific component of the American Jobs Plan that interests you.*

*Insert your personal story here: Do you know someone affected by fires, drought, or heat waves? Have you seen the effects of climate change worsen in your lifetime? How does climate change impact your lifestyle or community? How do your children or grandchildren view their future? How have you, your friends, family, or community, made personal sacrifices to stave off climate change?*

**As a Jew...** *Insert your own Jewish connection, for example: This is not my first letter to you on this subject, but my Jewish tradition teaches that repetition is a virtue. Every year we complete a reading of the entire Torah (5 Books of Moses) and start again in search of new inspiration. I hope my messages inspire you.*

**I urge you not to compromise on climate. Fight for comprehensive climate change solutions in the infrastructure package that will drive down carbon emissions, further environmental justice, and protect communities with resilient infrastructure.**

**Sincerely,**

*INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, FULL ADDRESS, AND EMAIL*

Find your Members of Congress:  
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[JewishEarthAlliance.org](https://JewishEarthAlliance.org)