

November 17,2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We write to you today on behalf of E2 and Taxpayers for Common Sense, two national, nonpartisan groups that advocate for responsible fiscal policy and smart policies that are good for both the economy and the environment. E2 is a group of more than 10,000 business leaders, investors, and professionals from every state and every sector of the economy. Our members have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs, and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital. Taxpayers for Common Sense is an independent, nonpartisan organization that believes in fiscal policy based on facts. We have a rich history of reading the fine print of bills and highlighting wasteful programs that poorly spend our money. We sound the alarm on government waste, like the infamous \$231 million ‘bridge to nowhere’ to Gravina Island, Alaska.

Congratulations on your election as Speaker and garnering a large bipartisan majority of the House to enact a Continuing Resolution to keep government open into 2024. The role you now have comes with tremendous power and opportunity. As you know the nation is facing a staggering \$33 trillion in debt and paid \$659 billion in interest last year servicing that debt. Weather-related disasters are a rapidly growing cost to taxpayers and drag on the economy.

While there are many pressing issues, we urge you to tap your power to unite the House in support of energy policies that will serve to reduce taxpayer costs and long-term liabilities while creating U.S. jobs, driving economic growth and making America more competitive in the \$23 trillion global clean energy economy.

You have the unique opportunity to forge a new nonpartisan path on clean energy that will benefit businesses, young people and taxpayers nationwide that you and your caucus care about.

Sixty-two percent of all Republicans and 78 percent of Republicans from the millennial generation and younger say the US should prioritize renewable energy over fossil fuel, according to [PEW research](#).

A recent [E2 report](#) found that more than half of all major clean energy project announcements were in Republican districts, and 18 of the top 20 congressional districts for clean energy investments are held by Republicans. About 60 percent of all jobs and investments announced in the past 14 months were in Republican districts.

A [recent report by Taxpayers for Common Sense](#) shows taxpayers, regardless of political party, are footing the steadily growing bills from natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, flooding and drought. Taxpayer average annual disaster costs over the last five years are up 35 percent over the previous five. Shifting to cleaner energy can help blunt those costs.

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We encourage you to lead the charge in supporting policies that further [domestic clean energy sectors](#), which are pivotal for U.S. manufacturing and job creation. You have the unique opportunity to forge a new nonpartisan path on clean energy that will benefit businesses, young people, and taxpayers nationwide that you and your caucus care about, including:

- **Cost Savings for Consumers:** According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), consumer costs are rising for everything from food to lumber to natural gas because of growing natural disasters. Clean energy policies provide tax credits and rebates for home improvements that reduce energy leakage, potentially lowering heating and cooling costs by up to 20%. As the clean energy economy expands, a typical family can save hundreds of dollars per year on their energy bills.
- **Reduced Future Liabilities for Taxpayers:** Transitioning to clean energy can help mitigate the steadily growing costs from natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and drought. This shift can reduce future liabilities for taxpayers and promote sustainable and equitable outcomes.
- **Economic Growth for All:** Clean energy policies can drive economic growth, which benefits taxpayers. In 2021 and 2022, clean energy jobs grew faster than overall U.S. employment; This job creation is a result of increased investments in clean energy infrastructure and projects, which require a larger workforce.

Our members and supporters stand ready to engage in dialogue on these issues and to work collaboratively towards propelling our economy and society forward. We are eager to discuss these matters in more detail with you. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss fiscally responsible clean energy policy and how we can help to move the economy and the country forward. Please feel free to have your staff contact us at bkeefe@e2.org or steve@taxpayer.net.

Thank you,



Bob Keefe,
Executive Director
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Steve Ellis,
President
[Taxpayers for Common Sense](#)