

January 9, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The [Partnership for the Civilian Climate Corps](#) appreciates your continued efforts to tackle the climate crisis, by signing the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). This follows earlier climate investments you championed, built into the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) last year. Your administration is taking major steps to address the climate crisis by bolstering clean energy industries, resilience and mitigation sectors throughout the economy via IRA, IIJA and ARPA investments. We applaud the fact that many of these programs focus on environmental justice and will help historically underserved and frontline communities.

ARPA, IIJA, and IRA have already begun funding transformative projects across the country, and we look forward to many more as implementation continues. With further necessary investments in national service and workforce development as originally envisioned in your Build Back Better Framework, these projects present the possibility to make the resulting job opportunities accessible to a broader range of the population and build a talent pipeline underpinning the growing industries carrying out resilience and mitigation work. With our country's aging workforce and the frequency of catastrophic weather events increasing year-over-year, we need to train the next generation and engage people in communities around the country to build a climate-ready workforce.

With the increased capacity offered by a skilled workforce, resilience-related infrastructure and other climate projects can get initiated and completed with greater efficiency. In the interest of ensuring that IRA, IIJA, and other legislative investments are successful, we hope that you will work with us on including funding through the regular appropriations process for climate resilience and mitigation national service and workforce development. We are grateful for the investments outlined in your FY23 Presidential budget request for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) towards these goals, and we would request that you continue to prioritize the creation of a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) with equitable member benefits in your FY24 budget request. We also deeply appreciate your commitment to raising the living allowance for AmeriCorps members to \$15/hour by FY25, as you outlined in the United We Stand summit, an investment which would make national service more accessible to all Americans.

A meaningful FY24 CCC proposal should include resources through all CNCS and DOL accounts outlined in your vision of the Build Back Better Framework. We urge you to include funding to support at least 5,000 new AmeriCorps members (~\$150M) that would coordinate and layer with Department of Labor workforce development programs (~\$150M) to undertake climate resilience and mitigation projects. This investment would cover a modest but still constructive new member footprint, relative to the proposed 300,000 members (or 30K members annually) outlined in the House-passed Build Back Better bill. Unfortunately, the necessary but modest increases to the AmeriCorps living allowance, made possible through ARPA, expire at the end of FY24. The upcoming budget request is an opportunity to make those necessary gains permanent for all AmeriCorps members and build towards a livable stipend, which will drive accessibility and equity of national service while adding climate-focused members.

We need your leadership on appropriations, and in the short term we need to make sure national service and workforce development partnerships are prioritized and elevated in forthcoming IRA, IIJA and GAOA competitive grants and cooperative agreements. This could cover guidance to federal agencies on competitive awards and state agencies on the receiving end of formula funds. Longer term, additional executive action is required to ensure the longevity and success of the CCC. We applaud your earlier efforts to push federal agencies to plan for a CCC embedded within [one of your first executive orders released in Jan. 2021](#), a vision [well-received by our Congressional champions](#), resulting in multiple Dear Colleague letters advocating for the CCC and standalone legislation introduced by Sen. Coons (D-DE), Markey (D-MA), Cortez-Masto (D-NV), and Casey (D-PA) along with Reps. Neguse (D-CO), Chu (D-CA), and Lamb (D-PA). We are eager to review the report that those federal agencies were instructed to draft on how they plan to set up a Civilian Climate Corps.

While inclusion in the January 2021 Executive Order was a good first step, the Partnership for the CCC respectfully requests a new Executive Order creating a formal Interagency Task Force for development of the CCC, including a federal advisory committee to bring together state and local partners. An Executive Order would establish the purpose, leadership, membership, responsibilities and parameters of the CCC task force. This task force would serve as the primary federal organizing body responsible for the management, reporting, and oversight of the CCC and could develop MOUs, coherent financial agreements across agencies, unified branding, messaging, and recruitment efforts, and advise on distribution of state-level CCC funds, including any project-side funding available through IIJA, IRA, and ARPA.

The federal task force should be led by a dedicated, full-time White House appointee, with close ties to the White House and across federal agencies, who is able to inspire, coordinate, and lead the CCC as a unified entity. The task force should be composed of CNCS, the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Labor, Commerce, Energy, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, as well as the EPA, FEMA, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To ensure state and local input on strategic planning and management of the CCC, a separate CCC Federal Advisory Committee should be developed to include Governors, state service commissions, representatives of state, local and tribal government, along with national, regional and local climate, conservation, service, corps, and workforce development organizations and experts. We would also strongly recommend including members, with adequate regional diversity, who can speak to lived experience in frontline communities, including representatives from community-based organizations focused on local environmental justice and resilience concerns.

A formal CCC Interagency Task Force and Advisory Committee working together could:

- Identify appropriate project models and types,
- Coordinate and elevate project funding opportunities available through IIJA, IRA, ARP, etc. for existing and new service and workforce programs, including providing grant and cooperative agreement guidance,
- Oversee effective implementation of the CCC including adhering to Congressional intent, to bring existing climate resilience programs into a more unified network and foster new programs to the extent possible,
- Offer guidance to ensure uniform monitoring and evaluation, reporting, and oversight,
- Identify barriers to CCC implementation and participation that could be addressed through federal regulation and rulemaking,
- Ensure coordinated grant applications and packages,
- Develop consistent branding and messaging across agencies,
- Build partnerships with employers, unions, and other state and local workforce bodies,
- Liaise and advise state agencies and state leaders seeking to build out state-level climate corps programming,
- Guide engagement with and recruitment from frontline communities, and
- Support the development of education and workforce programming, curriculum, and credentials, along with career or education pathways and track member outcomes.

CNCS has the authority to enter into interagency agreements with the other federal agencies to enroll CCC members in national service positions. We believe that IIJA, IRA and ARPA funding to partner agencies could be devoted towards this effort, through interagency agreements with CNCS, under the guidance of a new Presidential task force. Our Partnership briefed CNCS on these funding opportunities in early August, and we are enclosing those recommendations here as well for your review.

We are grateful to your Administration for your continued leadership on tackling the climate crisis and acknowledging the human capital required to power a clean energy future. We look forward to working together to advance the Civilian Climate Corps.

Sincerely,

**Members of the Partnership for the Civilian Climate Corps:**

America Learns - Nationwide

American Society of Adaptation Professionals - Nationwide

America's Service Commissions - Nationwide

Ampact - Nationwide

Center for Law and Social Policy - Nationwide

Conservation Legacy - Nationwide

Evergreen Action - Nationwide

Farallon Strategies - Nationwide

JFF - Nationwide

KABOOM! - Nationwide

National Recreation and Park Association - Nationwide

National Wildlife Federation - Nationwide

National Youth Employment Coalition - Nationwide

SBP, Inc. - Nationwide

Service Year Alliance - Nationwide

Sierra Club - Nationwide

States for Service Coalition - Nationwide

Sunrise Movement - Nationwide

The Corps Network - Nationwide

The Nature Conservancy - Nationwide

Youth Jobs Connect - Nationwide

California Volunteers, Office of the Governor - CA

Embracing the Bear - CA

LA Conservation Corps - CA

CT Commission on Community Service - CT

Forum for Youth Investment, DC

Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service - HI

American YouthWorks (Louisiana Conservation Corps, Texas Conservation Corps, YouthBuild Austin) - LA & TX

Massachusetts Service Alliance - MA

Volunteer Maine - ME

Michigan Community Service Commission - MI

ServeMinnesota - MN

Conservation Trust for North Carolina - NC

New Jersey Youth Corps/Delaware River Climate Corps of Phillipsburg - NJ

Green City Force - NY

Next 100 - NY

The Urban Wild - NY

Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action - OH & WV

Volunteer West Virginia - WV