



EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE PLANET.

August 20, 2020

Tom Perez, Chairman  
Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Perez,

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 3.8 million members and supporters, we demand that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) immediately reinstate the language originally included in its platform calling for the end of tax breaks and subsidies for fossil fuel companies. The climate crisis combined with the Trump Administration's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated this country's ongoing public health crisis caused by pollutants - pollutants that lead to early death, heart attacks, respiratory disorders, stroke and asthma. As we approach one of the most consequential presidential elections in modern American history, the DNC has the important charge of developing a platform that rejects the Trump Administration's threats to our collective humanity by establishing principles of equity, justice, and opportunity for all.

What we know is that recent polling proves that eliminating federal subsidies to the fossil fuel industry is very popular with voters from all political party affiliations. What we also know is that the egregious fossil fuel industry is primarily responsible for our climate crisis. What's worse - fossil fuel industry executives have received billions of dollars from the federal government to keep their businesses afloat, but little or nothing has gone to the clean energy industry. This country is already on track to fall behind on its promise to reduce our carbon footprint thanks to President Trump's disastrous decision to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Agreement. He blatantly favors polluters over people which is why we must lead the way in tackling the climate crisis and supporting the booming clean energy economy. The future of our planet depends on it.

Instead of reassuring the American people that the Democratic Party is committed to putting public health over corporate polluters, the DNC has quietly endorsed Trump's recklessness. The Democratic Party is not a party of climate change deniers. As the fossil fuel industry continues to shut down plants at record numbers, we must focus on redirecting fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy, which would give us a major boom in emissions reductions. Not only that, but by focusing our efforts on bolstering the clean energy industry, we will inevitably create jobs and meaningfully address the climate crisis to ensure a brighter future for all people.

Recently, the Sierra Club's Board of Directors endorsed former Vice President Biden for President of the United States because we know that he will take urgent action to address the climate crisis and



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protect our planet. Both VP Biden's and Senator Kamala Harris' campaigns publicly support banning fossil fuel subsidies and just recently, the Biden campaign reaffirmed their plan to end fossil fuel subsidies and reinvest them in clean energy.

Chairman Perez, we cannot disregard the tens of thousands of climate justice activists who demand that our nation's leaders fight for a livable, healthy planet. We need party leaders who are dedicated to solutions to the climate crisis that advance justice for communities confronted daily with systemic racism and toxic pollution. If we're going to have a planet that's safe and habitable for all, we must ensure a just transition off of fossil fuel production that protects workers and communities.

It's past time to end fossil fuel subsidies.

Respectfully,

Ramón J. Cruz  
President  
Sierra Club

Ross Macfarlane  
Vice President  
Sierra Club