



March 23, 2020

Dear Members of Congress:

Given the significant threat COVID-19 poses not only to the American people's health, but also to their livelihoods and our economy, we appreciate Congress' sincere efforts to aid families who have lost jobs or income due to the virus.

However, we were deeply disturbed by recent reports that some lawmakers are considering loading the phase three stimulus package with tax incentives and spending for unreliable "green" energy programs. Taking advantage of a national emergency to pursue a political agenda is unconscionable and immature political opportunism in a time when Americans' lives are literally at stake.

Your constituents expect decisive action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate financial hardship. Tolerating such blatant pork barrel spending on programs that will provide no relief from the economic strain of the coronavirus is an affront to their trust and their hard-earned tax dollars. In fact, expanding renewable energy subsidies will harm our economy by favoring intermittent, expensive energy that weakens our electric grid, creates few jobs, and needlessly raises the cost of electricity — which, ironically, actually harms public health in the long run as struggling families are forced to choose between putting food on the table, refilling life-saving prescriptions, and paying utility bills.

Furthermore, the results of previous energy stimulus initiatives suggest this proposal would not be effective. Spending from the Section 1603 green energy program of the 2009 stimulus did not peak until 2013, and some was disbursed as late as 2018. If history repeats itself, as is likely, four years is too little too late for families struggling to make ends meet today.

This is no time for political games. Climate change is not an immediate threat to humanity. Climate-related deaths have declined 98.9% in the last century, and humanity is growing more and more resilient thanks to the availability of affordable, reliable energy. On behalf of all Americans, we urge you to oppose any stimulus proposals that carve out special treatment for or bail out any energy companies and focus instead on stopping COVID-19.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Jason Isaac  
Senior Manager & Distinguished Fellow  
Life:Powered, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Myron Ebell  
Director, Center for Energy and Environment  
Competitive Enterprise Institute

*Life:Powered is a national initiative of the Texas Public Policy Foundation to raise America's energy IQ. We exist to educate policymakers and the public about the importance of affordable, reliable energy to human flourishing around the world.*

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ConservativeHQ.com

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