



May 9, 2023

Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the Community Builders of Color Coalition (Coalition) and its member organizations, I am writing to urge you and your colleagues in the Senate to oppose H.R. 1 and other efforts to undo the clean energy and climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), including repeal of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). IRA and, by extension, GGRF present a rare, generational opportunity to advance climate equity and justice for historically marginalized communities, particularly those that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation and social injustice.

The Coalition, led by the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs, is a national network of 16 financial institutions and advocacy organizations led by people of color committed to fostering equitable environmental outcomes in low-income communities and communities of color. Together, we have made a pledge to assist in eliminating the imbalanced consequences of climate change on Justice40 communities by furnishing resources to organizations led by BIPOC individuals that are firmly established in and committed to serving the marginalized and underprivileged. As such, we are deeply disappointed by the passage of H.R. 1 by the U.S. House of Representatives, which effectively halts the Administration’s agenda to address climate change. Climate change is an urgent threat that disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color, which often lack the financial and technical resources to adapt to risks borne of extreme weather events, air pollution, and other environmental hazards. The GGRF is specifically designed to address this disparity by directing at least \$15 billion of its proceeds to projects that are critically necessary for communities with high levels of pollution and socioeconomic vulnerability. In addition to reducing energy consumption, energy costs, and health impacts of pollution for low-income households, projects funded by the IRA and GGRF can help create new and innovative job opportunities and spur economic growth in communities that have been historically underserved and under-resourced. Ultimately, the opportunity

presented by IRA and GGRF will help low-income communities and communities of color to become more resilient and better prepared to face the challenges of climate change and transition to a more sustainable future.

Therefore, I urge you and your Senate colleagues to oppose H.R. 1 and resist future attempts to weaken or remove the clean energy and climate provisions in the IRA. The current window of opportunity for tackling clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction at such a significant scale may not present itself again, so it is imperative that we seize the current opportunity with urgency and commitment. The future of our planet and the well-being of all Americans, especially those in low-income communities and communities of color, depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lenwood V. Long, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Lenwood V. Long, Sr., President and CEO
African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs