

August 19, 2021

Sen. Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi:

On behalf of our more than 4 million members and supporters across the country, I write to express the Sierra Club's strong opposition to new federal subsidies for continued operation of existing and aging nuclear power plants. This includes any form of production tax credit currently being considered.

As Congress moves forward with drafting important legislation based on the American Jobs Plan to improve our infrastructure, create millions of new jobs, and tackle the climate crisis, the Sierra Club asks that the Federal Government prioritize and focus investments on creating the grid of the future. That is a grid resourced entirely by renewable energy.

Fortunately, today, many forms of clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are much more affordable climate solutions when compared with nuclear energy. Wind, solar, energy storage, demand response, and other energy efficiency products are primed to be deployed at scale in the effort to arrive at a 100% clean grid by 2035. Proven renewable resources are the most economical way of meeting our climate goals and objectives, and tax incentives help unlock private investment to achieve the volume of renewable energy needed. These incentives have helped renewable technologies grow into commercially competitive and preferred grid resources. Additional investment in this policy tool will not only help ensure those existing renewable technologies are deployed at scale, but it will also help develop nascent and emerging renewable energy resources like geothermal and tidal energy, among others, that can also help the U.S. meet its climate goals.

The Sierra Club continues to call on Congress to invest significant levels of federal funds in any infrastructure legislation this year, yet it is clear that resources will both be limited and will cover many priorities. Providing a broad taxpayer-subsidized bailout of existing nuclear plants would divert resources from the most critical opportunity in front of us, which is to deploy and spur the development of the next generation of clean, renewable electricity that will serve us now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Brune  
Executive Director  
Sierra Club