Green Stimulus: Talking Points and Calling Guide

BACKGROUND: In order to protect the economy during the Covid-19 shutdown, the US Congress plans to pass multiple stimulus packages to help businesses and consumers continue their usual spending habits and minimize unemployment and recession. This is a unique opportunity for Congress to create green jobs, support sustainable agricultural practices, and start the transition away from fossil fuels towards public transport and greener infrastructure.

Taking a couple minutes to call your representative CAN make a difference: For every 1 person who calls about an issue, politicians assume several more voters care about the issue who didn’t call. Your call may be answered by a staffer or you may be sent to voicemail: either way, your message will eventually be noted and listened to!

Try to keep your call under 60 seconds to be respectful of the staffer’s time. Writing out a draft of what you want to say beforehand can help.

STEP 1: Go to the CCL calling tool to find your elected legislators and their phone numbers. (CCL’s tool is specifically geared towards the Energy and Innovation Act, but for these times, we recommend focusing on a Green Stimulus Package as a response to Covid-19.)

STEP 2: Introduce yourself and tell the person on the other end your address. Spell your name and zip code.

STEP 3: Be courteous: playing the blame game or complaining will not help your cause, but thanking the legislator for the work that they do might.

STEP 4: Be specific and have a strong “ask”. This article is a good overview of some of the Green Stimulus ideas, but make this personal! Tell your representative what you want the package to support, and why that matters to you.

EXAMPLE:

Hello, my name is Bob Bishop and I am a voter in Delaware County, zip code 43015. I am calling in support of an initiative to pass a green stimulus, which will protect the economy while laying the groundwork for a greener future.

When voting on the next stimulus package, please encourage your colleagues to invest in nation-wide clean public transportation. Constructing and managing better transit will create thousands of jobs and help Americans get to work safely, while greatly reducing traffic and air-polluting emissions from automobiles.

Thank you for working to protect Americans in this crisis, and please make green infrastructure a priority in the next stimulus package.