

DRAFT March 25, 2020

United States Congress  
Washington, DC  
DATE

Dear Member of Congress,

As Jewish communities we pray for your health and leadership as you respond to the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis.

Thank you for the steps you have already taken to fund public health and direct economic assistance to the families and communities most in need.

As you continue to address the current crisis, we urge you to consider how the decisions you make now will contribute to our nation's welfare and preparedness not only now but long after this crisis has passed. Measures you put in place today may well determine how effectively we meet future challenges, in particular the existential threats posed by the rapidly changing climate. We must accelerate the transition to a more sustainable path as well as put in place resiliency planning that will temper the health and economic effects of the next virus, flood, fire or other environmental disaster.

To insure that your continuing legislative efforts address both current and future imperatives, we urge you to adhere to the following principles:

- Generously fund public health so that everyone has access to what they need to be healthy.
- Provide economic relief directly to people most impacted. Direct support to those who are suffering the most, including communities of color and indigenous communities.
- Evaluate every measure in relation to its ability to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy. Invest in growing industries, including renewable energy and clean transportation, that can ramp up quickly and provide much-needed jobs.
- Resist calls to bail out fossil fuel industries which would further entrench our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Ensure that funds that are provided to the airline, cruise ship, and other industries require conditions that they protect their workers and reduce their carbon emissions.

At this moment of crisis, we are commanded by our faith to remember that our actions today will impact the third, fourth and even thousandth generations to come (Exodus 34:6-7.) Today's carbon emissions will persist in the atmosphere for hundreds or even thousands of years. We ask you to respond to today's crisis in ways that will protect people today and in the future.

Sincerely,