The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The climate crisis is accelerating at an alarming pace. To date, Congress has been unwilling to take comprehensive action, with key components of your climate agenda being held hostage by uncooperative Republicans and a lone Democrat from a coal-producing state who remains unwilling to accept the real-world consequences of Congressional inertia.

The events of the week underscore the practical and political obstacles we face. While record heat swept across Europe and North America, members of our own party announced intentions to thwart key parts of your climate agenda.

We must continue to move forward. We want to reiterate our commitment to working together to take the action climate change demands and finding new ways to work around those Senators who chose to keep their head in the sand instead of confronting the crisis we are all facing together. Partnering with California and other leading states and cities is now essential. Together we can take this approach to the next level.

Your Administration has stood shoulder to shoulder with California to address today’s new climate realities. From combating wildfires to supporting emerging technologies, you have been a true partner. Thank you for granting our Clean Air Act waiver for our key car standards which helped California lead the nation in setting ambitious and implementable clean vehicle standards. California is now home to almost half of our nation’s electric vehicles. Your leadership in
passing the Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is allowing states like California to invest and act boldly on climate.

California stands as a proof point of how each state can drastically reduce carbon pollution and grow our economies. As Congress continues to stall on critical climate legislation and funding, California is ready to go further towards building a better future. Our state is dedicating $54 billion to climate action. Our regulatory agencies are moving forward on every front, including rules that will require all new cars sold be zero emissions in 2035. Yesterday I announced bold targets on offshore wind, carbon removal, and clean buildings and fuels. I plan to work with our partners in the California legislature in the coming weeks to accelerate our ambitious climate and clean energy goals. To help achieve these goals, we streamlined our permitting process for clean energy projects that deliver worker and community benefits.

In order for California to continue leading the world on climate action, we need the federal government to take strong measures on all pollution sources, including goods movement, which poses a major pollution threat to overburdened communities. California moves much of the nation’s freight and this year, we look forward to an ambitious final EPA truck rule aligned with California’s rule, as well as federal waivers to allow California to continue to set standards in this sector.

While Republicans and climate deniers in Congress continue to do the bidding of polluters, California and other leading states are taking action. Together we can meet the climate crisis with the urgency it requires. California, as a climate innovation and implementation juggernaut, is ready to stand with you to address this crisis head on.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California