

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 8, 2019

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Select Committee Chair Castor:

We write on behalf of the members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC) to request a meeting to discuss the membership and focus of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and other important priorities for action on climate change in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. As you know, SEEC is a coalition of Democratic members committed to fighting for action on climate change and advocating for sustainability across the Congressional agenda. We know that you are fellow advocates for urgent action on climate change, and we look forward to speaking with you about priorities on this front soon. In the interim, we have outlined some general priorities for the Select Committee's consideration.

*Membership*

We ask you to prioritize the placement of SEEC members on the Select Committee given their demonstrated commitment to action on climate change and their leadership in this space. We also believe it is essential to ensure that Democratic members representing a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds are present on the panel to ensure robust analysis and review.

*Focus*

We believe that it is vital that the Select Committee maintain a focus on discerning the specific policy solutions needed to radically transform our economy and keep the world below a 1.5 degree rise in median global temperature. We know the urgency with which we must act—what remains is determining the best path to safeguarding our planet and strengthening communities across the country. On this front, we also encourage the Select Committee to work in conjunction with standing committees to assess the following:

**Emissions reduction**

- Investigate policies needed to reduce emissions across all sectors of the economy. In particular, we encourage you to review policies that will: decarbonize the electricity grid, electrify the economy, significantly increase energy efficiency, and further increase the affordability of clean energy.
- Investigate how farmers can help capture and hold carbon emissions in the soil and how climate policies can ensure increased prosperity across rural communities.
- Investigate land use practices that can help sequester climate-warming gasses.
- Investigate the role of methane emissions from natural gas extraction.
- Review existing models for climate protection by investigating climate policies instituted by local, state, and foreign governments to assess their strengths and weaknesses.
- Highlight commitments being made by U.S. businesses to promote sustainability and reduce their carbon footprints.

### Environmental justice

- Assess the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, rural and low-income communities, and communities of color. Investigate proposals to address these inequities.
- Review policy ideas that help ensure equal access to clean energy jobs and prosperity in a clean energy economy.
- Review how potential policies could impact frontline communities.

### Just transition

- Review proposals for supporting fossil fuel dependent communities and working Americans in fossil fuel industries as we transition to a clean energy economy.

### Resilience

- Assess the role of natural and innovative man-made infrastructure in protecting communities from the extreme weather associated with climate change, including increased storm surges, wildfires, flooding, and drought, among other impacts.
- Review requirements that might be necessary for federally funded construction to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not misspent on projects lost to extreme flooding, sea-level rise or other climate-related hazards.

### Creating well-paying jobs

- Assess how climate policies can also ensure the creation of well-paying jobs, and how we can make sure these jobs are available to diverse communities across the country.

### National security

- Work with defense experts and military leaders to review the national security implications of climate change and how Congress can best protect the country and our men and women in uniform.

### The U.S. role in global emissions reductions

- If we are truly serious about dealing with climate change, we need to engage with the entire world. As such, we encourage the Select Committee to assess the dangers of the proposed US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement as well as lapses in our commitments to clean energy funding and financial support for developing nations in addressing climate change.
- Review proactive steps we can take to engage foreign countries to promote international action on climate change and provide assistance to vulnerable populations.

Equally important, we encourage the Select Committee to use this platform to tell the story of how climate change is already impacting all Americans; how it is putting their homes, finances, health and security at risk. We further encourage bringing in victims of climate change from across the country to testify about how climate change has impacted their families and communities. This should be a forum not just for experts but also for Americans to speak to their elected officials about what they need to protect their communities from the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request, and we look forward to discussing with you further.

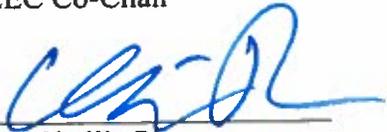
Sincerely,



Rep. Doris Matsui  
SEEC Co-Chair



Rep. Paul Tonko  
SEEC Co-Chair



Rep. Chellie Pingree  
SEEC Vice-Chair



Rep. Alan S. Lowenthal  
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Rep. Gerald E. Connolly  
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Rep. A. Donald McEachin  
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