



# AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation  
of Labor and  
Congress of Industrial  
Organizations**

815 16th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-637-5000  
aflcio.org

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June 12, 2020

The Honorable Thomas Perez, Chair  
Democratic National Committee  
430 South Capitol Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Perez:

We want to thank you for clarifying the process of developing the policies and platform of the Democratic National Committee, and the role of the Committee's Environment and Climate Crisis Council in that process. Labor certainly has a central interest in how we fight climate change, and we look forward to making our contributions when the Committee begins its deliberations.

The recommendations of the Environment and Climate Crisis Council are clearly aspirational, and in many cases technologically infeasible. They would, if implemented, cause millions of working Americans to lose their jobs and devastate local economies already reeling during the crisis. We appreciate knowing the recommendations are not an official document of the Committee.

We firmly believe that the Democratic Party adopts these recommendations at the electoral peril of many of its nominees up and down the ballot. Workers in these communities will reject politicians who call for the shutdown of their industries and some of the best working-class jobs anywhere on the promise that something better is around the corner. They know that in America these promises have never been fulfilled in over 40 years of free trade, deregulation, downsizing and precarious work that hurt all workers everywhere.

The unions of the AFL-CIO Energy Committee have accumulated decades of expertise by representing workers in these sectors. We know how to create good jobs in the energy and manufacturing sectors, and the genuine struggle that often entails. Workers and communities must be at the center of these discussions, with a voice on the job. We intend to advocate for solutions that will mean not just effective energy transition, but also effective and politically viable worker and community transition.

Letter to The Honorable Thomas Perez  
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We thank you again for your clarifications, and we look forward to a productive and unifying discussion.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Trumka  
President



Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President



Cecil E. Roberts  
International President

RLT/BM/vh

cc: AFL-CIO Energy Committee