

**ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF MASSACHUSETTS, DELAWARE, ILLINOIS,  
MAINE, MARYLAND, MICHIGAN, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, OREGON,  
RHODE ISLAND, AND VERMONT**

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Ensuring Funding for Implementation of Inflation Reduction Act**

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Our states are reeling from this summer's extreme weather. Our communities faced unprecedented levels of dangerous pollution due to uncontrolled wildfires across the continent.<sup>1</sup> Our residents suffered in the hottest summer on record.<sup>2</sup> The excessive heat, wildfires, flooding, and powerful storms caused by the climate crisis affect all of us, with the most profound impacts falling disproportionately on historically marginalized communities that are least prepared to address the financial, public health, and public safety consequences.<sup>3</sup> And we face mounting

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Aditi Sangal et al., "Millions under air quality alerts in the US due to Canadian smoke," *CNN.com* (June 28, 2023), <https://www.cnn.com/us/live-news/canada-wildfire-smoke-air-quality-06-28-23/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> See Ntl. Aeronautics & Space Admin. Glob. Climate Change, "NASA Announces Summer 2023 Hottest on Record" (Sept. 14, 2023), [https://climate.nasa.gov/news/3282/nasa-announces-summer-2023-hottest-on-record/#:~:text=Summer%20of%202023%20was%20Earth's,\(GISS\)%20in%20New%20York.](https://climate.nasa.gov/news/3282/nasa-announces-summer-2023-hottest-on-record/#:~:text=Summer%20of%202023%20was%20Earth's,(GISS)%20in%20New%20York.)

<sup>3</sup> See EPA, *Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States*, Executive Summary, 6-7 (Sept. 2021), <http://www.epa.gov/cira/social-vulnerability-report>; see also IPCC, 2022: *Summary for Policy Makers, Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* 9, 12 (2022), <http://bit.ly/3EEzBCy>.

costs associated with responding to and recovering from these and other climate change-induced disasters, which threaten only to accelerate in the coming months and years.<sup>4</sup>

Congress established critical tools to respond to these growing threats by passing the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Many of our states previously have advocated in support of equitable and effective implementation of this groundbreaking law,<sup>5</sup> which promises major steps toward a just transition away from fossil fuels—reducing greenhouse gas emissions while also creating good, green jobs. But to fulfill its promise, IRA program funding must be preserved, and federal agencies must have the resources to conduct their important oversight and implementation responsibilities.

In particular, we oppose proposed appropriations bills that threaten to, among other things:

- revoke funding for programs to help rural small businesses and agricultural producers convert to renewable energy and make energy cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable for Americans living in rural areas;
- rescind grants intended to spur economic opportunity in disadvantaged communities while also reducing pollution and spurring clean energy technology; and
- undermine support that would enable low- to moderate-income families to make important transitions to cleaner homes and appliances.<sup>6</sup>

We, the undersigned states, urge you to ensure that these promised programs become a reality.

An efficient, effective, and equitable roll-out of the IRA also requires robust funding for the agencies Congress has tasked with its implementation and oversight. In particular, the Treasury Department requires significant resources to educate consumers and taxpayers about the tax benefits and rebates available to them, and for the IRS efficiently to process them. This is not the time to be clawing back funding from this essential agency.

The IRA presents an enormous opportunity to make critical strides toward an equitable clean energy economy, advance environmental justice and resilience, and stave off the worst effects of the climate crisis. Thank you for your leadership and your continued support for the IRA at this pivotal moment.

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<sup>4</sup> Ntl. Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. Ntl. Ctrs. for Env't Info., *U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather & Climate Disasters* (2023), <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>.

<sup>5</sup> See Comments of the Attorneys General of Massachusetts, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia; the California Air Resources Board, and the Ramsey County, Minnesota, Attorney on Implementation Guidance for the Inflation Reduction Act (Dec. 1, 2022), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/multistate-inflation-reduction-act-comments>.

<sup>6</sup> *STATE FACT SHEETS: House Republicans' Funding Bills Would Have Devastating Impacts for Hard-Working Families Across America*, The White House (Sept. 12, 2023), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/12/state-fact-sheets-house-republicans-funding-bills-would-have-devastating-impacts-for-hard-working-families-across-america/>.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS



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