

#PUTAPRICEONITDC

May 2, 2018

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

We learned this week that you introduced a bill that would increase the District's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for clean electricity to 100% by 2050. We commend the intent of this measure, and our 70 member-strong coalition of business, environmental, faith, housing, labor, community, and youth organizations looks forward to working with you to advance a strong, equitable, and comprehensive carbon pricing approach to reduce emissions in the near term.

In this letter we wish to communicate two key concerns:

1. A 100% by 2050 RPS policy will not help the District achieve its 2032 climate and energy goals. These goals demand a comprehensive approach centering on a robust carbon price.
2. Your RPS bill has been introduced outside of the ongoing conversation among leading environmental and clean-energy advocates in the District about policies to reduce DC emissions in the near term. This presents difficulties in coherently advancing our local climate objectives. A strengthened RPS can and should be pursued, but within a comprehensive carbon pricing framework.

As has been made clear in the weekly Working Group meetings, organized by Councilmember Cheh's office, we are not on track to meet the District's 2032 climate and energy goals. Closing the emissions gap demands a significantly more ambitious approach across all sectors. It is feasible, cost-effective, and equitable to close the gap with a robust and comprehensive polluter fee that dedicates revenue to residential rebates and energy transition investments.

Unfortunately, because it only looks to action in 2033 and beyond, your proposed RPS bill will not put DC on track to meet our 2032 targets. Due to the time-urgent nature of climate disruption, immediate measures to conserve and clean up our energy use are orders of magnitude more valuable than delayed action. Your bill also does not address climate pollution

related to inefficiency, transportation, or other fossil-fuel based sources in DC, including gas and home heating oil.

A more comprehensive and timely solution would couple a strengthened RPS with an equitable carbon price. This would reduce emissions and advance clean energy in the near term and close the gap toward our 2032 goals. As you know, a large and growing coalition of residents, advocates, and policy experts has worked for three years to advance a fair and strong price on carbon that would help close that gap. Our coalition has invested in additional consultative processes at your recommendation.

We stand united in our call for a fair, meaningful and steadily rising carbon fee, rebate, and investment solution that will equitably achieve DC's greenhouse gas emissions goals. As you know, we are ready to negotiate on the specifics of carbon pricing legislation. And as you know from conversations with advocates over the past two weeks, the 100% clean energy goal can readily be achieved in coordination with the carbon pricing approach already under development.

A direct conversation is the next step in integrating these policy aims. We look forward to immediately engaging in a productive dialogue with you to solidify DC's climate leadership.

As you know, Councilmember Mary Cheh has indicated she intends to introduce a carbon pricing bill no later than June 5. We will be working with her to craft a strong and thoughtful bill. The coalition appreciates the intent behind your introduction of a 100% RPS by 2050 bill and we view this as a starting point toward the aim of fully pricing carbon in DC. We hope you will stand with us and Councilmember Cheh and your constituents on June 5 for this historic moment in the District's climate leadership.

Sincerely,

1. Americans for Transit
2. American Sustainable Business Council
3. ANC 1A
4. ANC 5D
5. ANXO Cidery
6. Arcadia Power
7. Art Killing Apathy
8. Biomass Thermal Energy Council
9. Black Millennials for Flint
10. Board of Governors of the Woman's National Democratic Club
11. CCAN Action Fund
12. Central North East Civic Association in Ward 7
13. Center for Clean Air Policy
14. Chozen Consulting

15. Citizens' Climate Lobby DC Chapter
16. Clean Choice Energy
17. Climate Reality DC Chapter
18. Cork Wine Bar & Market
19. Crestwood Citizens Association
20. Crossbow Strategies
21. DC Divest
22. DC for Democracy
23. DC Environmental Network
24. DC Fiscal Policy Institute
25. DC Statehood Green Party
26. DC Sun
27. DC Working Families
28. District Solar
29. Effect Us Legal
30. Fire & Knives
31. Generation E PAC
32. Green America
33. Green Compass
34. Green Drinks DC
35. Health Alliance Network
36. Honeydew Energy Advisors
37. Impact Business Leaders
38. Interfaith Power & Light (DC MD NoVA)
39. Ipsun Power
40. Jews United for Justice
41. Jigar Shah
42. Moms Clean Air Force
43. Neighborhood Sun
44. ONE DC
45. Our Climate
46. Organic Consumers Association
47. Pleasant Pops
48. Potter's House
49. PSM Strategies
50. Public Citizen
51. Rising Hearts Coalition
52. Roosevelt Institute at American University
53. Runningbyrd Tea
54. SEIU 32BJ
55. Sierra Club DC Chapter
56. Solar Solution
57. Sparkfund

58. Universal Child Care Now - DC Coalition
59. U.S. Climate Plan
60. Up Top Acres
61. Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
62. Washington Walks
63. We Act Radio
64. Zenful Bites
65. 350 DC

CC: Councilmember David Grosso
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Robert White
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
Councilmember Jack Evans
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Brandon Todd
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie
Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Vincent Gray
Councilmember Trayon White