April 20, 2021

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

In your inaugural address, you spoke with urgency about the challenges facing our nation: a deadly virus, economic struggle, racial injustices, and climate change. You said, “The cry for survival comes from the planet itself. A cry that can’t be any more desperate or any more clear.” This is certainly the case for America’s lands, waters, and ocean.

To confront the rapid loss of America’s natural places and wildlife, the U.S. must accelerate locally-led land, water, and ocean conservation and restoration efforts at all levels of government and across the country. For more than a century, the United States has risen to meet the major environmental challenges facing our nation. Conserving 30 percent of our lands, waters, and ocean by 2030 — a commitment that is widely supported by Americans, with 4 out of 5 voters expressing support — is a critical milestone in the effort to tackle the challenges we face today.

As the Biden-Harris administration works to achieve the national 30x30 target, we, the undersigned 342 organizations and businesses, on behalf of our members and supporters, stand in support of this ambitious and inclusive vision for conservation. By empowering the ongoing, locally-driven conservation efforts of communities across the country, your administration can help limit the negative consequences and immense costs of climate change, a critical goal not only for the Biden-Harris administration, but for our planet.

The science is clear: conserving and restoring 30 percent of lands, waters, and ocean worldwide is the bare minimum needed to save nature and buffer against the worst impacts of climate change. Our future depends on the natural systems that provide our food, clean air, and fresh drinking water, and are the source of our well-being and economic security. At a time when the nation faces many challenges ahead, your administration can help drive meaningful economic recovery and safeguard the future prosperity of communities across America by investing in restoring our natural systems.

And by conserving 30 percent of U.S. lands and inland waters and 30 percent of our nation’s ocean by 2030, your administration has a unique opportunity to work towards a more inclusive and equitable vision for nature conservation that better reflects the nation’s values. For too long, the costs and impacts of the loss of nature have fallen disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color. Due to the inequitable distribution of greenspace, these communities are denied nature’s benefits and suffer from higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. In reaching a 30x30 goal, we can help end this shameful legacy. We are also pleased that 30x30 will honor Tribal sovereignty and prioritize Tribal communities' visions for the stewardship of natural, cultural, and historic resources, leading us all closer to environmental justice.
Conserving 30 percent of our lands, waters, and ocean is a unique opportunity to support community-led conservation efforts and engage with all those on the frontlines of stewarding, restoring, using, and enjoying nature. Your efforts will only succeed by supporting the efforts of local communities, and by listening to experts on the ground — including landowners, Indigenous peoples, scientists, and other resource experts. For communities across America who have long been doing the meaningful work of conserving and restoring the places that matter most, 30x30 is a welcome indication that they now have a supportive partner in the White House.

We look forward to collaborating with your administration, local and state leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen and women, fishers, diverse communities across America, and the multitude of stakeholders committed to accelerating the pace of locally-driven conservation, advancing nature-based climate solutions, and ensuring that nature’s benefits are accessible to all Americans.

Together, we can take bold action to stem the collapse of the natural world we all need to live and thrive.

Sincerely,

2% for Conservation
Alabama Audubon
Alachua Conservation Trust
Alaska Wilderness League
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
American Battlefield Trust
American Hiking Society
American Littoral Society
American Rivers
Anacostia Watershed Society, Inc.
Annapolis Green, Inc.
Appalachia Ohio Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Archaeology Southwest
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Athens Conservancy
Audubon Naturalist Society
Audubon South Carolina
Azul
Bay Paddle
Bergen County Zoological Park
Better Building Institute Inc. (nfp)
Blank Park Zoo
Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation
Blue Planet Strategies
Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
Bold Alliance
Buckeye Trail Association
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV)</th>
<th>Committee on the Middle Fork Vermilion River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Native Plant Society</td>
<td>Connecticut Ornithology Association</td>
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<td>California Wilderness Coalition</td>
<td>Conservation Alabama</td>
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<td>Californians for Western Wilderness</td>
<td>Conservation Colorado</td>
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<td>Capital Region Land Conservancy</td>
<td>Conservation Council For Hawaii</td>
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<td>Cascadia Wildlands</td>
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<td>Center for Biological Diversity</td>
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<td>Conservation Voters of South Carolina</td>
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<td>Conserve Southwest Utah</td>
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<td>Corazon Latino</td>
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<td>Clean Water Action</td>
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<td>Defenders of Wildlife</td>
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<td>Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts</td>
<td>Delaware Nature Society</td>
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<td>Earth Strategy</td>
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<td>Colorado Ocean Coalition</td>
<td>Earthjustice</td>
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<td>Colorado Wildlands Project</td>
<td>Eco-Justice Collaborative</td>
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Ecology Center
Ecumenical Eco-Justice of St. Joseph, Inc.
Elements of Change
Environment America
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental League of MA
Florida Conservation Voters
Florida's Nature Coast Conservancy
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Forest Conservancy, Limited
Forever Maryland Foundation
Fort Ord Recreation Trails Friends (FORT Friends)
Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area
Friends of AZ Joshua Tree Forest
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Friends of Browns Canyon
Friends of Dyke Marsh
Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of Plumas Wilderness
Friends of Quincy Run Watershed
Friends of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Mariana Trench
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
Friends of the Nanticoke River
Friends of the Owyhee
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
Friends of the San Pedro River Inc
Full Circle Design and Consulting - Benefit LLC
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance
Georgia Conservation Voters
Gila Conservation Coalition
Gila Resources Information Project
Goose Creek Association
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Prairie Friends Land Trust
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Hells Canyon Council
Greater Highland Area Concerned Citizens
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
GreenRope
Guam Community College Ecowarriors
Gullah/Geechee Fishing Association
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
Healthy Ocean Coalition
High Country Conservation Advocates
Highlands Nature Sanctuary
Hispanic Access Foundation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michigan League of Conservation Voters</th>
<th>New Jersey League of Conservation Voters</th>
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<td>Mill Creek Alliance</td>
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<td>Milwaukee Riverkeeper</td>
<td>New River Land Trust</td>
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<td>New York League of Conservation Voters</td>
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<td>Mission Blue</td>
<td>Next 100 Coalition</td>
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<td>Nicole Croft Consulting</td>
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<td>NorthFork Financial</td>
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<td>Ohio Parks and Recreation Association</td>
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<td>National Ocean Protection Coalition</td>
<td>Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden</td>
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<td>National Parks Conservation Association</td>
<td>Open Space Institute</td>
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<td>National Wildlife Federation</td>
<td>Oregon Environmental Council</td>
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<td>Native Fish Society</td>
<td>Oregon League of Conservation Voters</td>
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<td>Natural Land Institute</td>
<td>Oregon Natural Desert Association</td>
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<td>Natural Resources Council of Maine</td>
<td>Oregon Wild</td>
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<td>Natural Resources Defense Council</td>
<td>Oregonians for Wild Utah</td>
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<td>Outdoor Industry Association</td>
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<td>NeighborSpace of Baltimore County</td>
<td>Pacific Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada Conservation League</td>
<td>Park County Environmental Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>New England Aquarium</td>
<td>Partnership for the National Trails System</td>
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<td>New Jersey Audubon</td>
<td>Patagonia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN)
Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia Zoo
Piedmont Environmental Council
Poder Latinx
Potomac Conservancy
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Presbyterians for Earth Care
Rachel Carson Council
Rebel Hawaii
REI Co-op
River Alliance of Wisconsin
River Revitalization Foundation
Rockfish Valley Foundation
Rocky Mountain Wild
Round River Conservation Studies
Sachamama
Saline Indivisible
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Savanna Institute
Save Mount Diabo
Save Our Shores
Save Red Rock
Save the Redwoods League
Scenic America

Scenic Virginia
SE Alaska Conservation Council
Seattle Aquarium
Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Alaska
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
South Alabama Land Trust
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
Southern Maryland Audubon Society
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Starboard
Surfrider Foundation
Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
TAO
The Chaparral Lands Conservancy
The Conservation Foundation
The Conservation Fund
The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee
The Frontera Land Alliance
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey
The Mountain Pact
The Nature Conservancy
The Rewilding Institute
The Time Farms
The Trust for Public Land
The Trustees
The Wetlands Initiative
The Whale Guitar Project
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlands Conservancy
Tree Fredericksburg
Trees Forever
Tuleyome
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Upper Missouri Waterkeeper
Urban Ecosystem Restorations
Vermont Conservation Voters
Vet Voice Foundation
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Virginia Zoo
Waitt Institute
Washington Friends of Wild Utah
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Western Leaders Network
Western Resource Advocates
Western Slope Conservation Center
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Wicomico Environmental Trust
Wild Heritage, a Project of Earth Island Institute
Wild Virginia
WILDCOAST
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Network
Wisconsin Conservation Voters
Women Working for Oceans (W2O)
Working Dogs for Conservation
World Wildlife Fund
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Zaniac LLC