Congressman Andy Kim
2444 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2022

Dear Congressman Andy Kim,

The undersigned organizations, representing thousands of New Jersey residents, want to thank you for your support of climate action in your service in the Congress. We call upon you to further engage in this effort by pushing President Biden to include climate as a pivotal topic in his upcoming State of the Union address.

We know that you care about climate and are vocal in your support, and we thank you. You were quoted at the Mill Race Village event on Sept 20, 2021: "We are at a tipping point in our country and around the world, climate change is here and we can see its very real consequences in the violent tornados and flooding that swept across New Jersey just a few weeks ago, the wildfires raging in California and Minnesota's land of 10,000 lakes facings the worst drought in recent memory," said Rep. Andy Kim We agree.

The people of New Jersey are being battered by the impacts of climate change-related extreme weather, with storms becoming more frequent, more damaging, and more deadly every year. A recent report issued by the scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)[1] detailed more than 20 extreme weather events in 2021 that resulted in lost lives and damages exceeding $1 billion each. New Jersey was affected by four billion-dollar disasters with an estimated cost of up to $5,555,500 and 50 deaths[2]. These numbers are only going up.

As you know, we can still prevent the most catastrophic impacts. The potential costs of doing nothing, in lives and dollars, demand we act. These extreme weather events have inflicted unprecedented damage across the country. Last year, more than 40% of Americans were victims of extreme weather, an alarming fact that only demonstrates the urgency of action. President Biden promised to take ambitious action to tackle the climate crisis, address environmental justice, and quickly expand clean energy and jobs and opportunity for all. His plans are stalled in the Senate. Every day the Senate fails to pass the $550 billion in investments in climate, justice, and jobs, the cost of inaction only increases. The House of Representatives has passed this legislation - the most significant investments in climate change, environmental justice, and clean energy in history - and it's time for the Senate to follow. President Biden must do everything within his power to advance these important investments. One simple step is to include climate as a priority issue in his March 1 State of the Union address.

Climate can't wait. We call on you, Congressman Kim, to urge President Biden to raise the issue of climate in his State of the Union Address. Stressing the urgency of aggressive action nation-wide is necessary for us to mitigate the harmful impacts that we are already seeing. The obstruction today is

[1] *NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters, 2022*
[2] *NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information Storm Events Database, 1/24/22*

holding back the health, environmental, and economic benefits these climate, justice, and jobs investments will provide to the American people.

Sincerely,

Eileen Murphy, PhD
Vice President, Government Relations
NJ Audubon

Anjuli Ramos
Executive Director
NJ Sierra Club

Doug O'Malley
State Director
Environment New Jersey

Amber Hewett
Program Director, Offshore Wind Energy
National Wildlife Federation

Tim Dillingham
Executive Director
American Littoral Society

Ed Potosnak
Executive Director
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

Tina Weishaus
Co-Chair
Divest Coalition NJ

Amy Goldsmith,
State Director
Clean Water Action

Cc: staffers


NEW JERSEY
AUDUBON
www.njaudubon.org

SIERRA CLUB
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY
Coastal Conservation

ENVIRONMENT
NEW JERSEY

CLEAN
WATER
ACTION

NEW JERSEY
League of Conservation Voters

DIVEST
New Jersey

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SINCE 1936