

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring provisions of the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act were included in the reconciliation package, and for your years of advocacy for public schools, which launched your career in government.

As recent events have shown—including the proliferation of unscientific and dangerous misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic that have led to the pandemic's fourth deadly wave—public education is an essential service for a functioning democracy. Sadly, the funding mechanism for most schools, property taxes, serves to magnify economic and racial disparities between communities. For decades, many public schools have been left in physical disrepair, unsafe and toxic, in service to the narrative that public education does not work. The powerful interest groups that seek to dismantle the public education system are the same that would allow catastrophic climate change to destroy our habitable planet and the same that would seek to dismantle every union and grind away workers' wages and benefits.

Fortunately, restoring our public schools can also further the decarbonization of our infrastructure and strengthen working people's organization. Representative Jamaal Bowman's Green New Deal for Public Schools would invest \$1.4 trillion in retrofitting public schools to be safer, healthier, and climate resilient. It retrofits for efficiency and zero-carbon energy, eliminates toxic building materials, increases teachers and support staff, and provides services to the broader through the school. This would eliminate 78 million metric tons—or 17 million cars' worth—of CO<sub>2</sub> every year; it would also create 1.3 million union or union rate jobs. The bill would prioritize the 1/3 of public schools with the greatest need, making it an investment in a more equitable education system. What is more, the improvement of HVAC systems would reduce the threat of disease outbreaks like COVID-19.

Please pass as much of the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act in the reconciliation package as is possible, and use your office as the second most powerful Senator to align your party behind a bold vision of public education facilitating public good. Working people fought to elect Democrats, but only on the promise that Democrats would then fight for working people. Thank you for your leadership and commitment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pass the Federal Green New Deal Coalition

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring provisions of the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act were included in the reconciliation package. The upcoming reconciliation package is one of a vanishingly small number of opportunities to avert multiple crises of stability and government legitimacy. Climate change is here; the catastrophic heatwave killed over 800 people in the Pacific Northwest this summer, the deadliest weather event our state has ever seen. COVID-19 has killed 1 in 500 people, more hospitals are in crisis standards of care than at any time previously during the pandemic—including our neighbors in Idaho and, increasingly, eastern Washington-- and the Democratic government has just unilaterally ended the most successful poverty alleviation program in American history.

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