

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of 16 Members of Congress, we want to thank you for leadership in addressing the global climate crisis and for the actions you have already taken to make sure that the United States cuts all greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by 2050. We now ask that you build on these commitments by issuing an Executive Order to spark innovation and open opportunities for decarbonizing the maritime sector and future-proof this critical component of our supply chains. We strongly urge your Administration to make this Executive Order effective, actionable, and equitable by including specific, time-bound actions and creating and maintaining high-quality jobs and advancing environmental justice.

Maritime shipping accounts for 90% of traded goods globally and is an important part of the world's economy and our national security. However, greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping account for three percent of total global emissions and are projected to increase. Facing the rapidly growing threat of climate change, the shipping industry must change course to avoid devastating impacts.

In July 2023, at the 80th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 80), member states adopted the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Ships. This strategy puts shipping decarbonization on a new and more ambitious course, calling for international shipping to reach net-zero GHG emissions by or around 2050. The United States continues to be a leader at international forums like the IMO, and no doubt played a major role in delivering this more ambitious strategy. However, despite the new targets in this strategy, international shipping is still not on course to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goals of limiting warming to no more than 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This goal is still in reach with available technologies and policy tools, but we must continue to elevate our strong domestic action to reduce emissions from shipping.

We can and should be building on existing domestic efforts and plans like the Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization and the Ocean Climate Action Plan. However, we must marry our commitments with concrete and immediate actions to meet these goals. Therefore, we support the following actions and urge you to consider including them in an Executive Order without delay:

- Use existing Clean Air Act authority to establish a goal-based fuel standard for ships calling on U.S. ports.

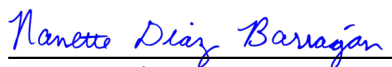
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- Use existing authorities to eliminate in-port ship emissions by 2030.
- Immediately establish a monitoring, reporting, and verification mechanism to collect fuel consumption and emissions data from all ships that traverse U.S. waters and use U.S. ports, building a baseline for emissions management.
- Direct resources toward the electrification and quieting of the U.S. federal ferry and harbor craft fleet.
- Support U.S. shipbuilders and maritime stakeholders to build low- and zero-emission and quiet marine vessels.
- Support the development, demonstration, and value chains of zero-emission alternative fuels and technologies for the maritime sector.
- Phase out and ban the use of sulfur scrubbers on ships in U.S. waters.

Once again, we thank your Administration for its commitment to addressing the climate crisis and your leadership to ensure the United States is on a path to cutting all greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector by 2050. Your Administration should now act on that commitment by issuing an Executive Order with specific time-bound actions that will unlock opportunities and innovation for decarbonizing the maritime sector and future-proofing this critical component of our supply chains, while creating and maintaining high-quality jobs and advancing environmental justice.

Sincerely,



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress

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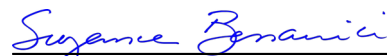
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



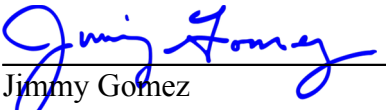
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