

Clean Air Moms Action * Clean Water Action * Climate Hawks Vote * The Climate Reality Project * Defend Our Future * Earthjustice * Endangered Species Coalition * EDF Action * Evergreen Action * GreenLatinos * Greenpeace * Interfaith Power & Light * League of Conservation Voters * National Wildlife Federation Action Fund * Natural Resources Defense Council * Ocean Conservancy * Rachel Carson Council * Sierra Club * Union of Concerned Scientists * The Wilderness Society

June 22, 2021

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we urge the Senate to pass the For the People Act (S1). This historic act would expand and protect the public's access to fair elections and rein in the destructive influence money plays in political decision-making and protect the freedom to vote. This bill ensures that our democracy works for everyone, especially communities of color, which historically carry the heaviest burden of pollution and voter suppression.

The 2020 election underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Despite record turnout, people across our country experienced unprecedented voter suppression, including historic efforts to drown out their voices. These attacks have only increased over the past few months as 48 states have introduced more than 389 bills restricting voter access. These attacks continue to disproportionately harm the most vulnerable communities in our country, especially BIPOC communities who endure the brunt of pollution and the effects of climate change. The systemic racism rooted in voter suppression is also central to the disproportionate environmental harms faced by communities of color. Strengthening our democracy and returning power to the people are essential to ensuring we act on the critical issues putting our communities' health at risk.

These past few years have made it crystal clear that our community cannot effectively tackle the environmental issues facing our country — like combating the climate crisis, advancing environmental justice, and protecting our air, lands, waters, biodiversity, wildlife, and oceans — without fixing our broken system that provides disproportionate access and power to the wealthy. The broken status quo rewards special interests instead of the public and lets them push their toxic agenda in Congress while workers, families, communities, and our environment pay the price.

The time has come for bold, ambitious reforms to strengthen democracy for, and by, the people. We urge you to support S1, the For the People Act, so that we can make real and lasting climate progress, protect the environment and advance justice for all. Our environmental community stands ready to support your leadership.

Sincerely,

Clean Air Moms Action
Clean Water Action
Climate Hawks Vote
The Climate Reality Project
Defend Our Future
Earthjustice
Endangered Species Coalition
EDF Action
Evergreen Action
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace
Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters
National Wildlife Federation Action Fund
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Conservancy
Rachel Carson Council
Sierra Club
Union of Concerned Scientists
The Wilderness Society