



American Association of Geographers

AAG Members Urge Members of Congress to Support the Climate Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act

Dear Members of Congress,

In the past decade scientists and policymakers have proposed sweeping initiatives to reduce global emissions and avert a climate catastrophe. Despite this, continued and unmitigated burning of fossil fuels has propelled the world toward the 1.5° C threshold of irreversible impacts to global environmental and biological systems at an alarming rate, with the U.S. playing a proportionally outsized role. Addressing this emergency requires immediate action. That is why I am asking you to vote in support of the Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376) for its environment and energy provisions, which represents the single-largest investment in meeting our country's low-carbon goals.

As geographers, my colleagues and I have an acute interest in the social and environmental impacts that a warming climate has on the world around us. This once-in-a-generation piece of legislation invests in renewable energy infrastructure and manufacturing, incentivizing industries and individuals to become active participants in developing our economy into a clean energy champion, while also reducing net-carbon emissions by nearly 40% by the year 2030. Additionally, this legislation aims to reduce disparities and impacts of environmental injustice, by investing billions in low-income and disadvantaged communities, taking substantive steps to ensure all Americans have access to a clean and free environment.

The discipline of geography bridges the gap between the social and hard sciences and reflects the profound and dangerous impacts climate change poses, including mass displacement of people and irreversible damage to physical infrastructure. Without a massive investment in clean energy to overhaul the status quo, such as this bill provides, these dangerous impacts will only worsen.

I encourage you to visit aag.org and reach out to the American Association of Geographers (AAG) to connect with members who have relevant expertise and who can provide feedback on the compounding effects of a changing climate in the United States and around the world.

Thank you.