

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Department of Energy Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub Program

Secretary Granholm:

We are writing regarding Texas labor organizations seeking labor standards for any future development of clean hydrogen projects and infrastructure in Texas as part of the Department of Energy's Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program (H2Hubs). Congress, through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, authorized H2Hubs to facilitate demonstration projects involving networks of clean hydrogen producers, consumers, and the connecting infrastructure. Whether it is hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, or end-use, H2Hubs will undoubtedly create jobs.

As Members of Congress who stand united with workers, we applaud President Biden for making it clear that positive collaboration with labor organizations strengthens the American economy. That is why we believe the Department of Energy should ensure that the federal investments made through the H2Hubs program will include concrete labor standard commitments to support the Texan workforce.

Texas employment is unique in comparison to many other parts of the country. Our state experiences a combination of low union density, low wages, lack of benefits and apprenticeship training, rising income inequality, and high proportion of immigrant workers and workers of color subject to these conditions.<sup>1 2</sup>

As representatives of communities impacted by these economic realities, we believe that the Department of Energy should prioritize applicants for the H2Hubs program whose applications include:

- Written confirmation that H2Hubs will be a source of high-quality, good-paying, union jobs in Texas;
- A signed community workforce agreement with participating Texas labor organizations and disadvantaged community groups;
- A written labor peace agreement for all operations and maintenance employees as they decide whether to form a union;
- And a written plan for existing unionized fossil fuel workers to transition into unionized hydrogen jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forworkingfamilies.org/sites/default/files/publications/BBS%20Full%20Report.pdf>.


<sup>2</sup> <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60e76bd34e5317302f87f357/t/60fb7a01c70a9b41e8ddfeb3/1627093525030/Final+Texas+Climate+Jobs+Report.pdf>


We are deeply committed to the Biden administration’s goal of achieving a 50-52% reduction of greenhouse gas pollution from 2005 levels by 2030.<sup>3</sup> In addition, we strongly support the Biden administration’s commitment to ensuring that “the 2030 emissions target will create millions of good-paying, middle class, union jobs” and “advance environmental justice, and improve the health and security of communities across America.”<sup>4</sup>

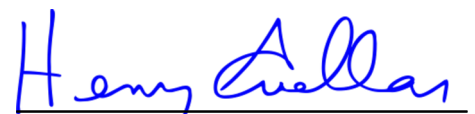
As the President works towards these commitments, we believe we must ensure new projects do not contribute to the climate crisis. We are confident that H2Hubs has the potential to positively transform our state by making significant clean energy investments that will accelerate the use of hydrogen as a clean energy carrier. However, it is our contention that green hydrogen hubs – hydrogen made through electrolysis that is powered by renewable energy – are prioritized in Texas as we work towards President Biden’s goal of a 100% clean energy grid by 2035.<sup>5</sup>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

  
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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

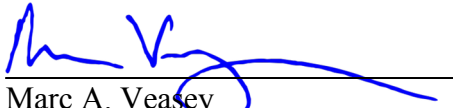
  
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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

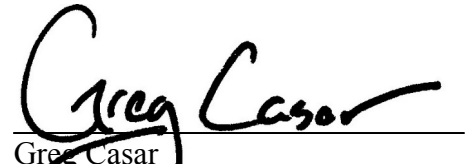
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/oced/regional-clean-hydrogen-hubs>




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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress




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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress




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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



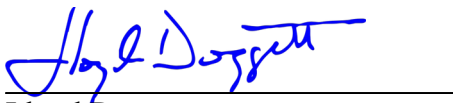
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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



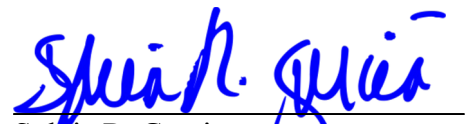
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress