

(Date of Delivery)

The Honorable Representative (Representative’s full name)

(Office Street Address)

(City, State Zip)

Dear Representative (Representative’s Last Name):

**As your constituent, I am asking you to support the full $3.5 trillion reconciliation Infrastructure bill and resist any effort to shrink this groundbreaking legislation.**

The complete $3.5 trillion package is packed with programs and policies that address essential needs of the people and the planet—needs that were not previously being met.

Contemporary American society is rife with seemingly intractable crises that have lingered for decades, including the runaway cost of an underperforming healthcare system; need for affordable housing, childcare, and higher education; the persistence of mass poverty; ever-increasing wealth inequality; poor nutrition; crumbling infrastructure; a seeming inability to combat the climate emergency.

Forty years after Ronald Reagan’s famous words at his inauguration, “Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem,” it’s become clear that the market by itself cannot solve these endemic crises. What’s required is strategic government intervention. As such, the Build Back Better legislation represents a historic turning point. This is the moment when the U.S. Congress reclaims its power to improve the lives of Americans and help save the planet.

Every one of the social crises listed above, which plague American society, is directly addressed in the current reconciliation bill. **We need the full $3.5 trillion package**.

I will end by highlighting two measures that absolutely must be included in the reconciliation bill but face fierce opposition from powerful lobbyists. Please support both of them.

The first is allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, saving individual Americans and the federal government tons of money. As such, it will save lives because Americans will no longer be unable to afford their essential medicine. It will also save the government an estimated $500 billion dollars, revenue that can be used to fund the programs in the $3.5 trillion package.

The arguments against this measure are as hollow as they are reprehensible. U.S. taxpayers already fund pharmaceutical research that directly benefits the industry, so lowering prices will not impact pharmaceutical innovation (as the industry falsely claims). Even more outrageous is this fact: Americans currently pay, on average, 2.5 times as much for their medicine than in any other country. How can that possibly be justified?

**Please support allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices for the American market to the tune of $500 billion in savings over the next decade**.

The second is the elimination of domestic fossil fuel subsidies. Like Medicare negotiating drug prices, this change will save the government billions of dollars, and thus help fund the rest of the legislation. The reconciliation package will likely eliminate existing international fossil fuel subsidies, but it’s uncertain whether century-old domestic subsidies will remain on the books.

These domestic subsidies are no joke. They continue to motivate the development of new fossil fuel production that, of course, is 100 percent unacceptable in 2021 and destroys our credibility as climate champions. If the United States is going to claim the mantle of world leader in the fight against the climate emergency at the upcoming global COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, we simply cannot be funding fossil fuel production.

**Please support the elimination of all domestic fossil fuel subsidies in the reconciliation legislation.**

And **please support the historic $3.5 trillion reconciliation bill.** It will improve the lives of Americans in innumerable ways and launch a new era of American environmental stewardship.

Your constituent,

(your name)

(your address)

(your e-mail)

(your phone number – optional)

(Or, if you'd rather not be contacted, sign your name and ID yourself and say “Contact Mike Fox, Deputy Executive Director, Progressive Democrats of America, mikefox@pdamerica.org”)