

June 22, 2023

Administrator Michael S. Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between EPA and the
Department of Labor

Dear Administrator Regan,

Thanks to unprecedented investments from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act in clean energy and mobility, the Environmental Protection Agency is now responsible for managing billions of dollars in critical new and expanded environmental programs, including the Clean School Bus Program, the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles and Clean Ports Programs, and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. These investments will help the United States make real progress towards combating climate change and environmental injustice. **At the same time, the Agency can and should leverage these funds to “[improve] job opportunities for millions of Americans by focusing on high labor standards for these jobs, including prevailing wages and the free and fair chance to join a union.”**¹ Promoting a highly skilled, well-compensated, and diverse workforce will not only benefit workers and their families; rather, it is a central component of building a sustainable economy.

Under your leadership, EPA has already taken steps towards incorporating policies beneficial to workers and communities. **We commend EPA for taking these steps, and believe that the Agency can build on this success by following in the footsteps of the Departments of Transportation, Energy, and Commerce in signing a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Labor.** Such an agreement between EPA and DOL would “promote cooperative efforts ... to create and support pathways to millions of high-quality, good-paying” union jobs in the green economy.² An MOU will also help the Agency achieve its program goals by

¹ “Executive Order 14052 of November 15, 2021, Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” Code of Federal Regulations, title 3 (2021): 64335-64336.

² Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Labor, June 21, 2022.

improving alignment on efforts to “attract, train, and retain a diverse and skilled workforce – including bringing in people who have not had the opportunity to attain high-quality ... jobs while also supporting workers displaced by the energy transition.”

We urge you, therefore, to work with DOL to negotiate and execute such an agreement without delay.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Labor and
Congress of Industrial Organizations
(AFL-CIO)

American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for American Progress

Chispa Florida

Chispa LCV

Clean Energy Works

Dream.org

Earthjustice

Electric School Bus Newsletter

International Association of Sheet Metal,
Air, Rail and Transportation Workers
(SMART)

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

International Union, United Automobile,
Aerospace and Agricultural Implement
Workers of America (UAW)

Jobs With Justice

Jobs to Move America

League of Conservation Voters (LCV)

National Education Association

Natural Resources Defense Council

National Skills Coalition

National Women's Law Center

National Youth Employment Coalition

Sierra Club

Transportation Trades Department,
AFL-CIO

Transport Workers Union of America

Union of Concerned Scientists

cc:

Austin Brown, White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy

Ike Irby, Office of the Vice President

Drew Kodjak, White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy

Mitch Landrieu, Senior Advisor to the President for Infrastructure Coordination

Julie Su, Acting Secretary, Department of Labor

Matthew Tejada, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, Environmental
Protection Agency

Katelyn Walker-Mooney, Director, Good Jobs Initiative, Department of Labor

Ali Zaidi, White House National Climate Advisor