

**Written Testimony from Coalition for Green Capital**

**In Support of LD 1659**

**An Act to Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator**

**Hearing of the Maine Legislature Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee**

**10:00am, May 12, 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of LD 1659, An Act to Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator. The Coalition for Green Capital (CGC) is the leading expert on “green banks”, mission-driven financing institutions that use public funds to accelerate clean energy and climate-related investments into underserved markets. CGC is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit, that has been working for over a decade at the national, state, and local level around the U.S., and increasingly around the world, to stand up institutions like the one proposed in LD 1659 for the purpose of lowering energy costs, creating jobs, and making homes healthier and more comfortable, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the end of 2020, 21 green banks in 15 states and the District of Columbia have driven \$7 billion of total clean energy investment, where three-quarters of that capital has come from private sources. The financing model proposed in LD 1659 is proven, popular and enjoys bipartisan support across the country, including in Congress. Maine can and should join this movement to deliver cost-effective clean energy solutions to its communities and households by passing LD 1659.

The first green bank in the country was created in Connecticut, and the model quickly spread in the Northeast to New York, Rhode Island, Maryland and the District of Columbia. It is now spreading across the country with green banks formed in Michigan, and Colorado and Nevada. The Republican Governor of Alaska, Mike Dunleavy, recently sponsored legislation to create an Alaska green bank. Green bank legislation passed in Virginia earlier this year. And legislation to create or explore green banks has been introduced in Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Utah all in the last year. Green banks are thriving in traditionally Republican states like Florida and Democratic states like Hawaii. The legislation to create the Connecticut Green Bank passed with nearly unanimous, bipartisan support from its legislature.

No matter the state and no matter the political party, the benefits of green banks are clear. Green banks use public capital to provide financing – not giveaways – specifically using tools that catalyze private co-investment. The objective is to move private investment into projects that ought to be built today, but which are not for a host of financing, market development and business model barriers. Green banks overcome those barriers to deploy proven technologies that lower energy bills, make buildings more efficient and comfortable, launch new businesses that bring new jobs, and reduce air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Green banks are a win-win-win for energy users, for businesses and for capital

providers. And of equal importance, they are a win for policymakers because of the incredible “bang for the buck” that green bank capital can generate with private co-investment. And because green banks use financing, rather than subsidies, the public capital put into a green bank is preserved for on-going future lending.

Maine has picked the exact right moment to consider this legislation. The federal government is currently advancing national green bank legislation, called the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator (HR 806), that would provide funding for the institution proposed in LD 1659. The Accelerator will fund state and local green banks, providing capital alongside state funding to boost investment and help clean energy markets reach scale. This bill passed the House of Representatives two times in 2020, was co-sponsored by then-senate, now Vice President Kamala Harris in the Senate and was officially endorsed by President Biden as part of his American Jobs Plan infrastructure package. The 2021 bill was reintroduced at a capitalization level of \$100B, and enjoys bipartisan co-sponsorship, including Representative Don Young of Alaska, the Dean of the House. Thanks to the hard work of local leaders and policymakers in Maine, U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree of Maine is also a bill co-sponsor, recognizing that the federal legislation should combine with the state’s LD 1659 to create a robust and well-capitalized green bank to attack the clean energy investment opportunity in Maine. Over 100 businesses and citizens signed a letter of support in favor of taking action to create a green bank and 33 Representatives and Senators sent a separate letter of support to the Maine congressional delegation earlier this year.

And what is that opportunity? There are abundant and cost-effective investment needs to convert fuel-oil heating to electric heat pumps to reduce energy burdens and lower pollution. The green bank can finance comprehensive home and building rehabs to reduce energy use and make homes more comfortable in the winter. The green bank can install solar on rooftops and on the ground. And the green bank can take on more innovative financing solutions like supporting small farmers to produce timber at high enough quality (and with greater carbon storage) to ultimately produce cross-laminated timber for sustainable construction across New England. An independent analysis of green bank impacts found that a green bank in Maine with \$240,000,000 in capital from a federal Accelerator would create 10,000 in four years.

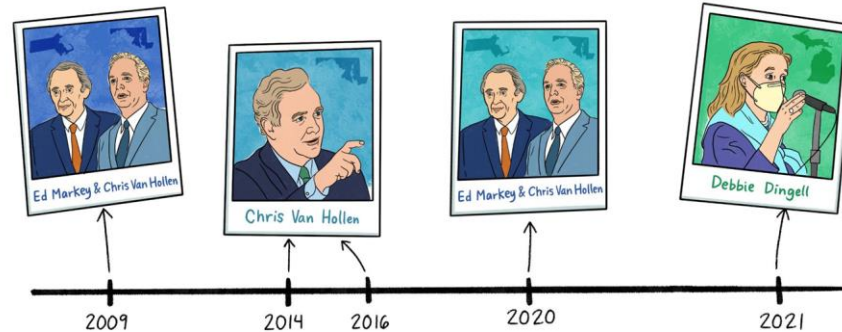
The time to act is now. Maine is uniquely positioned to receive and deploy federal capital through a green bank, as envisioned in LD 1659. This institution would reduce energy costs, create jobs, and make Maine’s homes more comfortable while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing the state’s ambitious climate goals.

Please see below information on how a federal institution could work in partnership with a Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator as proposed in LD 1659.

Questions on this document may be submitted to the CGC’s Executive Director, Jeffery Schub at [jeff@coalitionforgreencapital.com](mailto:jeff@coalitionforgreencapital.com).

# The Case for the National Climate Bank

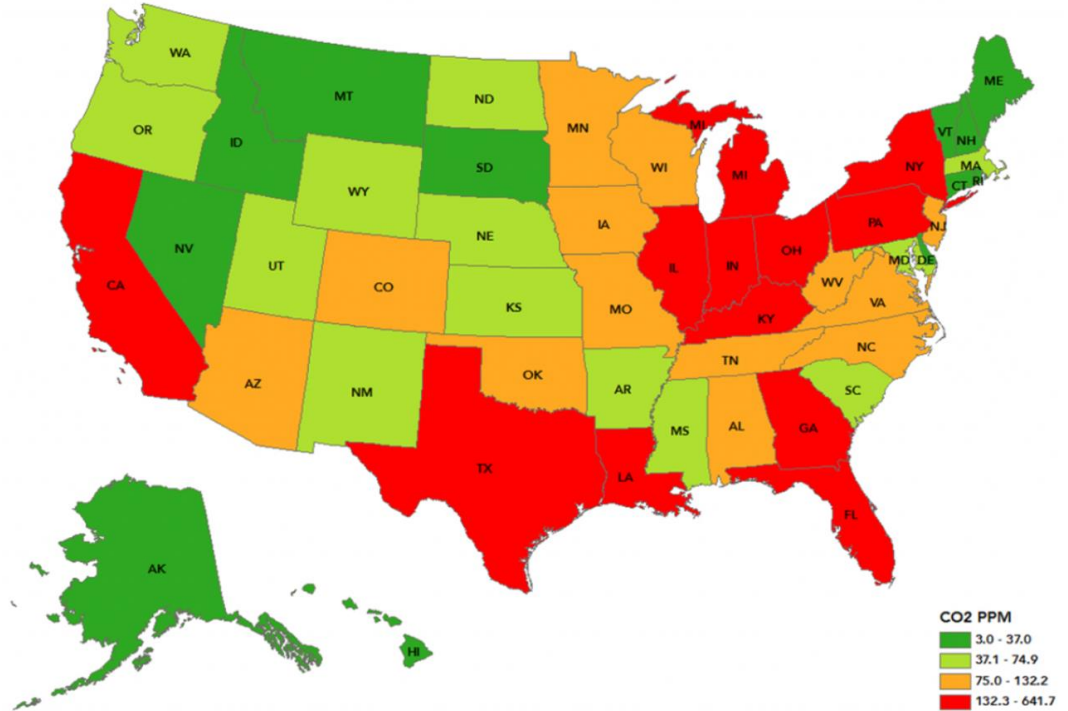
Reed Hundt



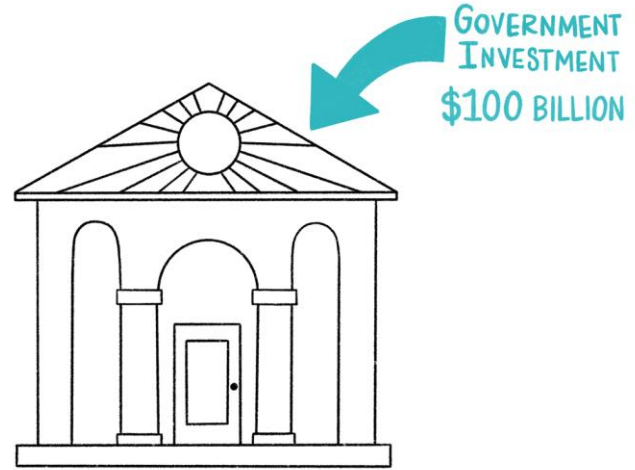
# Total CO2 Emissions Vary By State

## Top 12 Emitting States:

1. Texas
2. California
3. Florida
4. Louisiana
5. Pennsylvania
6. Ohio
7. Illinois
8. Indiana
9. New York
10. Michigan
11. Georgia
12. Kentucky



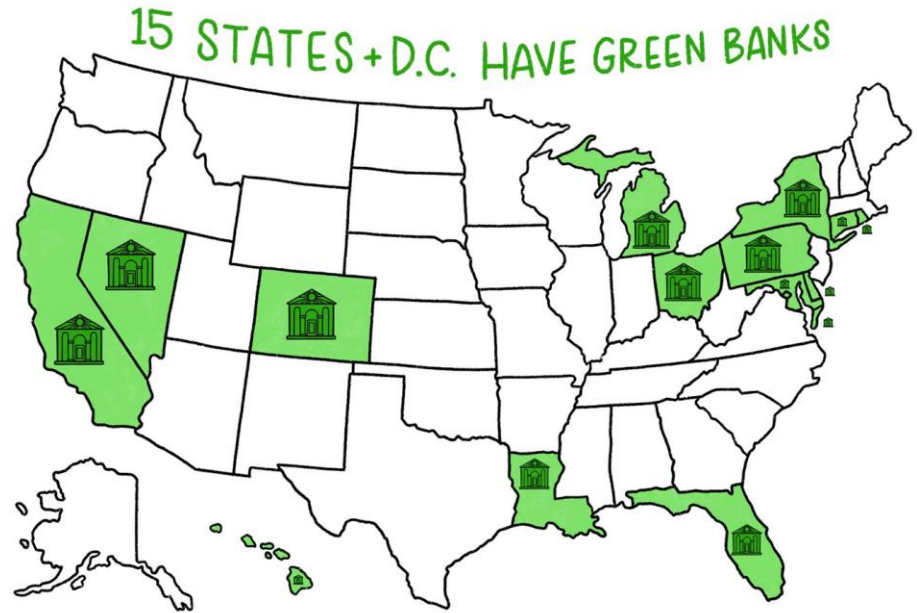
**Green Banks** combine  
**\$1 public money with**  
**\$3 private money**



# Proven network success

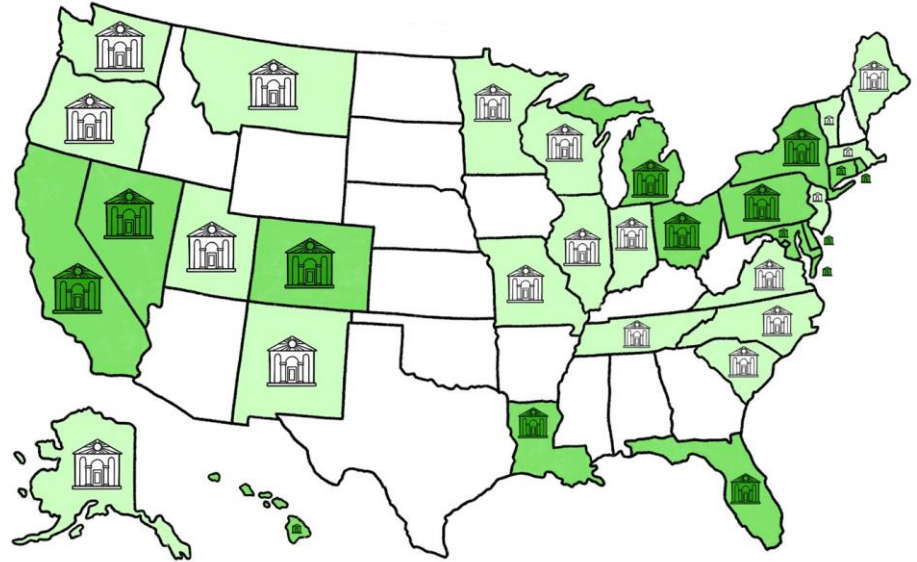
21 green banks in 15 states & D.C. during last 10 years.

They have spent \$1.9 billion, causing **\$7 billion total investment** in clean power platform.



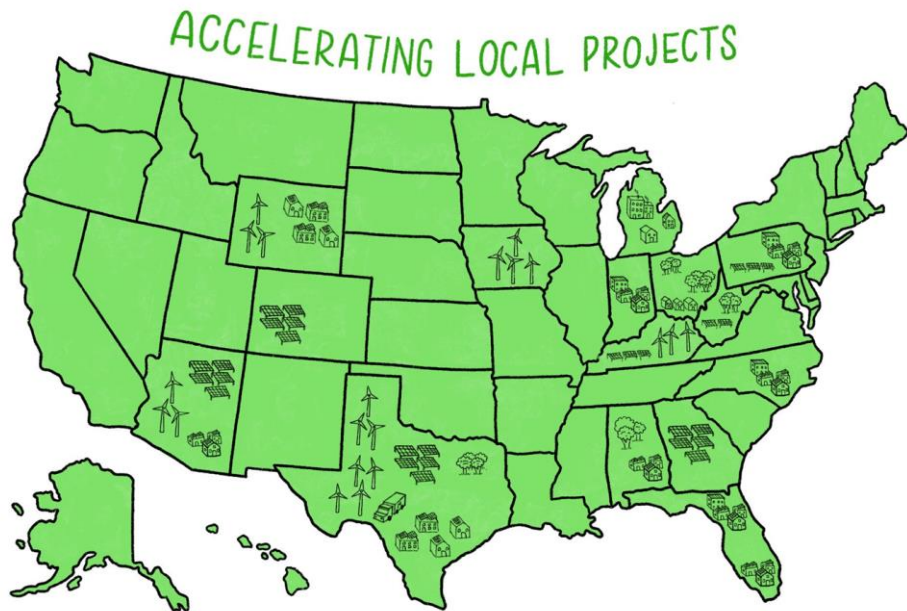
# Extending the network

**22 more states** are asking for green banks



# Must fund \$20B backlog

- Day 1: Accelerator funds state green banks
- Must fund projects in top CO2-emitting regions
- Seeks local solutions to local problems
- Collaborates with private investors, utilities, transmission contractors, and mayors





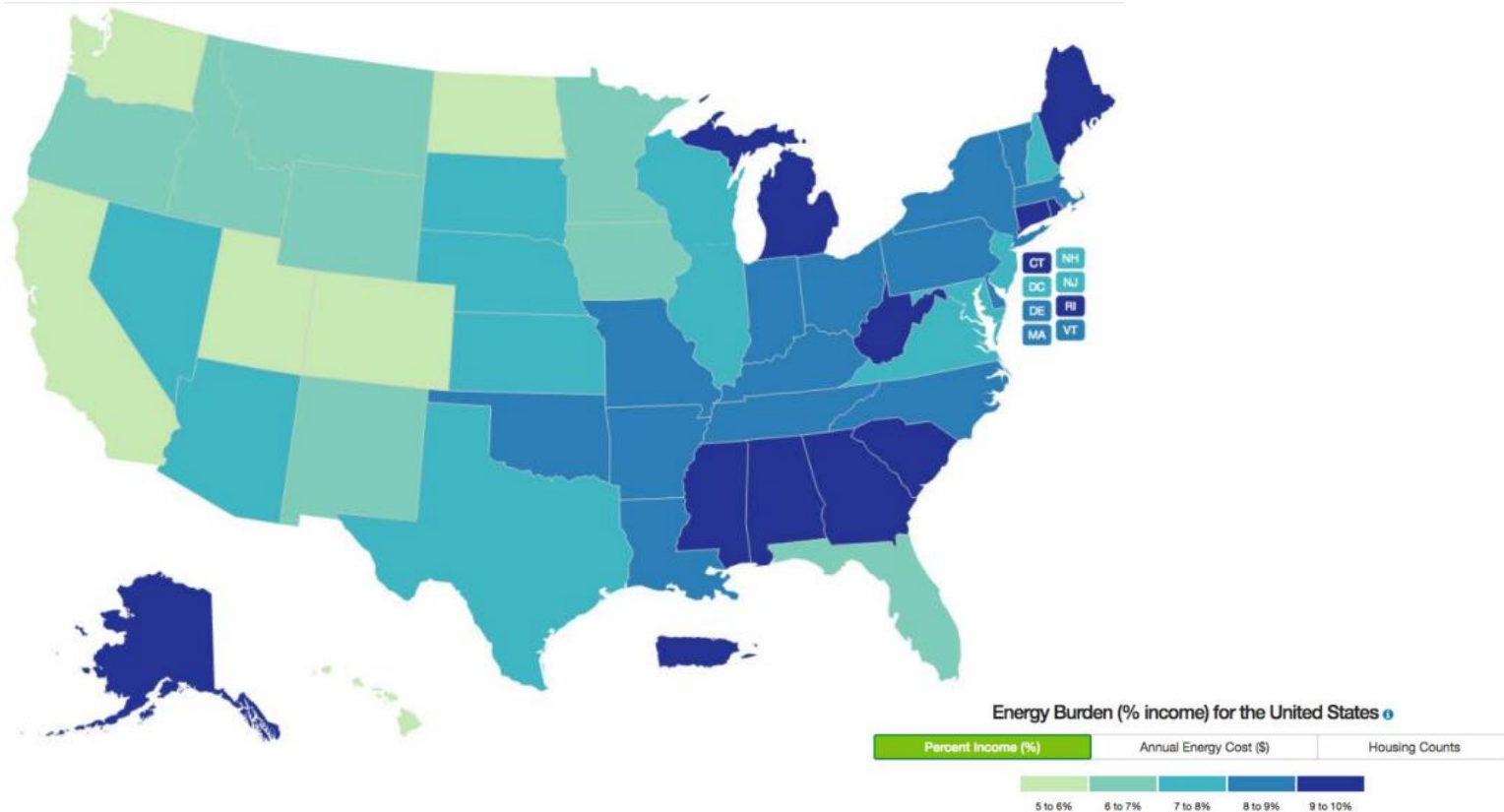
# Accelerator creates 4M jobs in 4 years

- Accelerator \$100 billion + private sector money = **\$900 billion invested in 10 years**

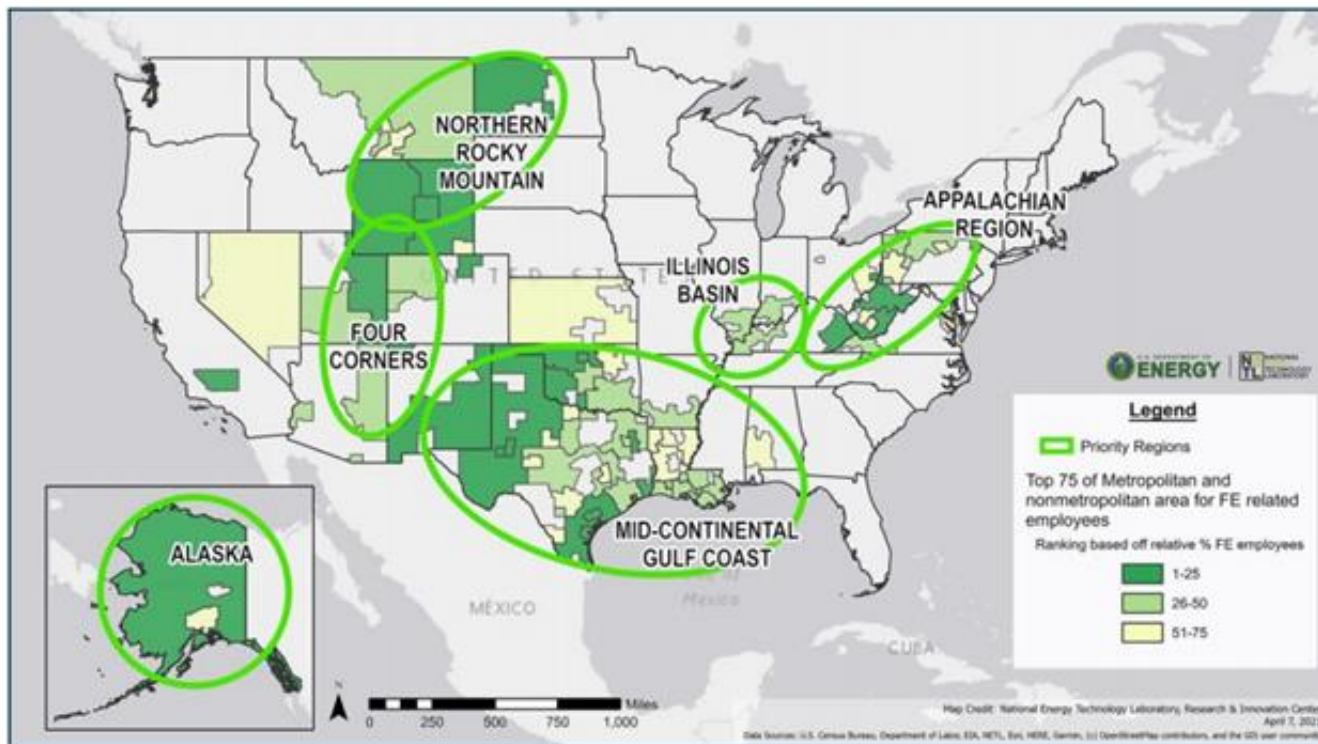
# Jobs for Everyone in New Clean Economy

SOC Code	Job Classification	SOC Code	Job Classification	SOC Code	Job Classification
11-9021	Construction Managers	17-2040	Chemical Engineers	13-1071	Human Resource Specialists
13-1082	Project Management Specialists	51-2022	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	13-1051	Cost Estimators
17-1022	Surveyors	17-2071	Electrical Engineers	13-1041	Compliance Officers
17-2050	Civil Engineers	17-2112	Industrial Engineers	13-2011	Accountants and Auditors
17-2081	Environmental Engineers	17-2131	Materials Engineer	13-2031	Budget Analysts
17-2141	Mechanical Engineers	17-3012	Electrical and Electronics Drafters	13-2040	Credit Analysts
17-3012	Electrical and Electronics Drafters	17-3012	Electrical and Electronics Drafters	13-2053	Insurance Claims Adjusters
17-3012	Electrical and Electronics Engineers	17-3012	Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technicians	13-2072	Loan Officers
17-3025	Environmental Engineering Technicians	17-3026	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	27-3031	Public Health Statisticians
47-2011	Boilermakers	17-3027	Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians	43-4131	Loan Interviewers and Clerks
47-2061	Construction Laborers	41-4011	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Retail Trade, Except Durable Goods	43-4161	Human Resources Interviewers and Clerks
47-2073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	43-6014	Secretaries
47-2111	Electricians	49-9043	Maintenance Workers, Machinery	13-1151	Training and Development Specialists
47-2131	Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall	51-1011	First-line Supervisors of Production and Operations, Except Farming	43-3011	Bill and Account Collectors
47-2132	Insulation Workers, Mechanical	51-2022	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	43-3021	Billing and Posting Clerks
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	51-2092	Team Assemblers	43-3031	Bookkeepers
47-2211	Sheet Metal Workers	51-2099	Assemblers and Fabricators, all others	43-3051	Payroll Clerks
47-2231	Solar Photovoltaic Installers	51-4041	Machinists	43-3061	Procurement Clerks
47-3013	Helpers – Electricians	51-4081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal	43-4041	Credit and Collection Clerks
47-3015	Helpers – Pipelayers, Plumbers, Steamfitters, and Construction Equipment Operators	51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	43-4051	Customer Service Representatives
47-4011	Construction and Building Inspectors	51-4122	Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Operators	43-4171	Receptionists and Information Clerks
47-4090	Construction and Related Workers, All Other	51-4193	Plating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	43-5070	Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks
499-209	Electrical and Electronics Repairers and Installers	51-4199	Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other	43-9199	Office and Administrative Supply Workers
49-2095	Electrical and Electronics Repairers and Installers	51-8012	Power Distributors and Dispatchers		
49-9012	Control and Valve Installers and Repairers	51-9032	Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders		
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers		
49-9051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	51-9124	Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders		
49-9071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, All Other				

# Energy burden varies by state & income

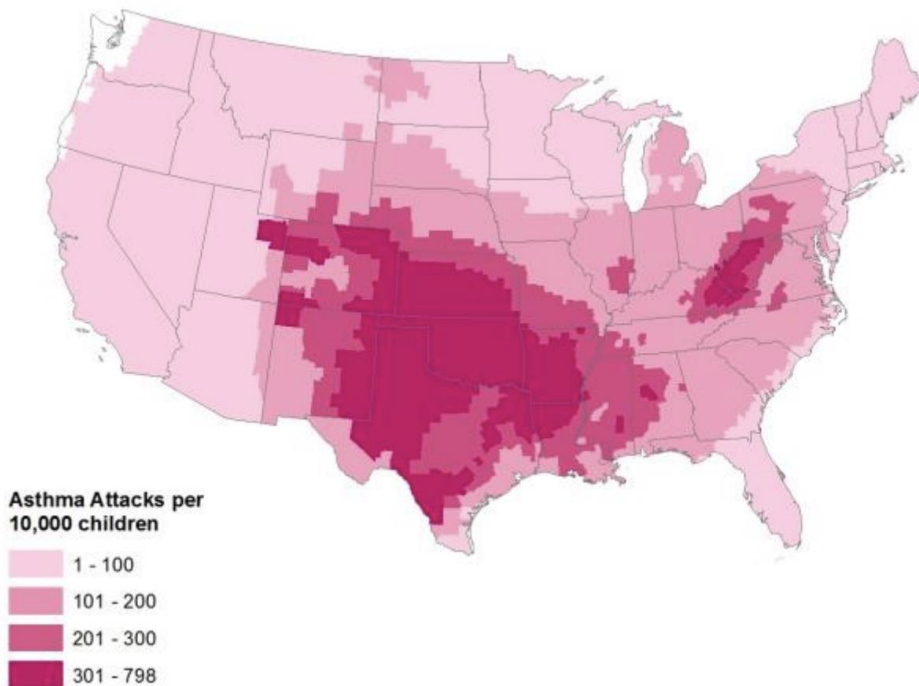


# Energy Communities need transition support



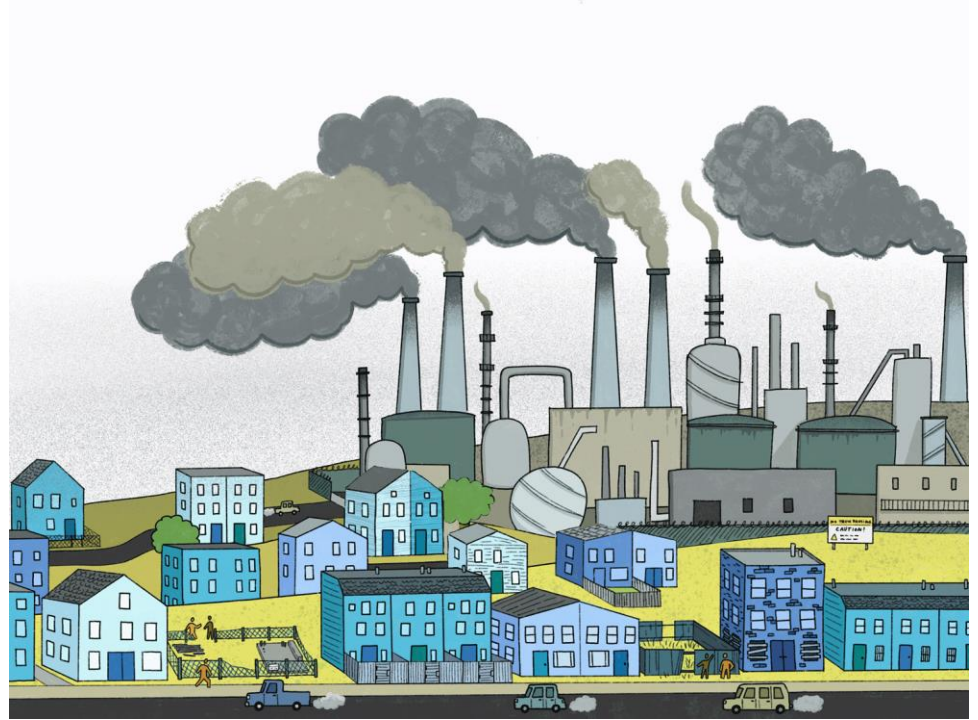
# Childhood Asthma Risk from Carbon Pollution

Asthma Attack Risk by County



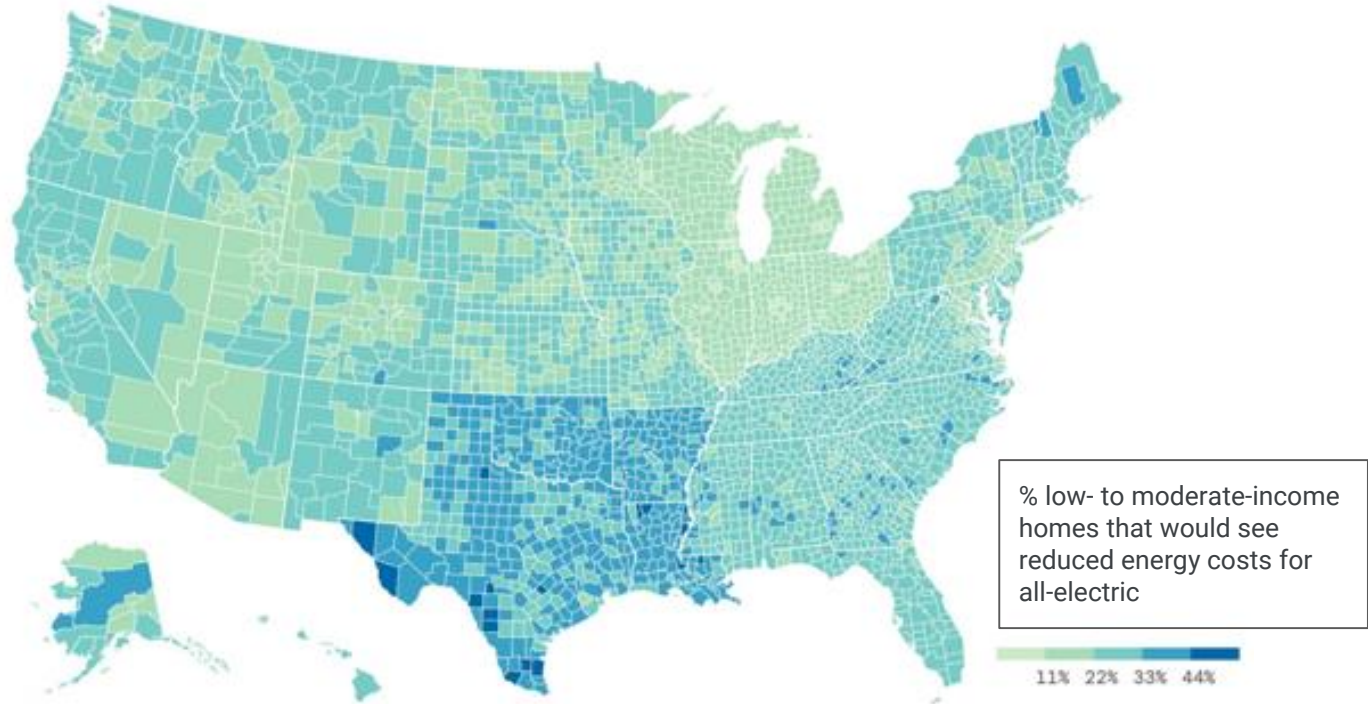
# Justice for All

- Accelerator invests 40% into front-line, low-income communities
- True carbon to clean transition delivers **victory in climate crisis, justice for communities** harmed by pollution, hit by job loss, left out of gains enjoyed by the rest of country

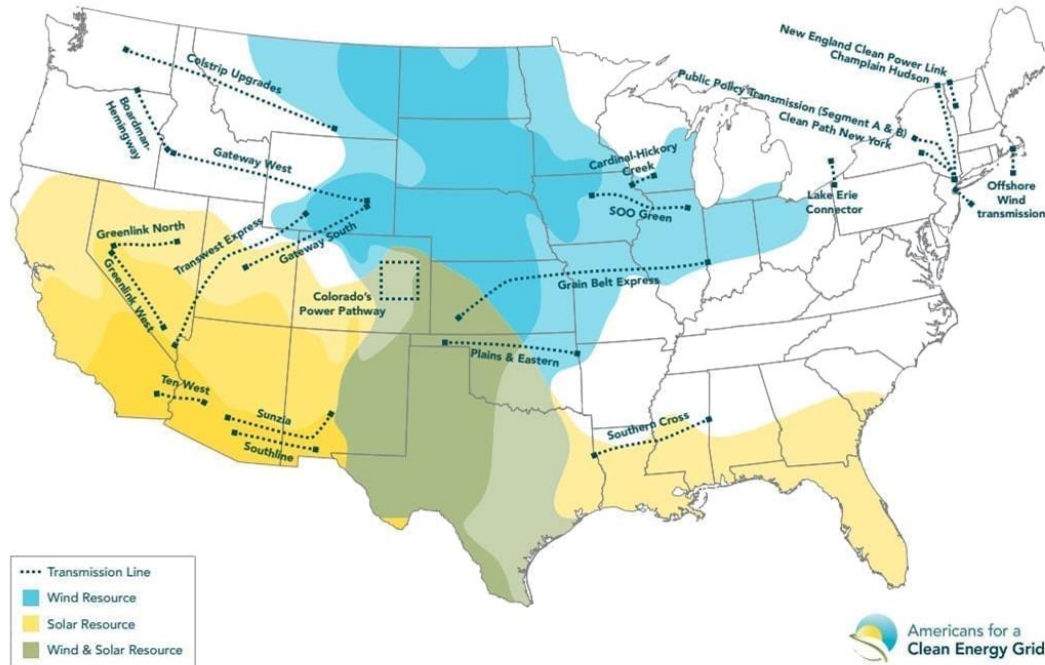




# Electrification lowers energy bills



# Modern grid brings affordable clean power to all Americans





# Brand new day



## \$100B Accelerator Vital to Critical Objectives

- Wind and solar power electricity multiply market share by 6x
- High-voltage lines link offshore, Great Plains wind and desert solar to every distribution utility
- Battery storage in every regional grid
- Heavily-driven vehicles use electric motors

# Big Bang for Buck

- Accelerator-driven investment **reduces 20% of American emissions**
- Single biggest **climate reduction program per dollar** in American Jobs Plan
- “Biggest investment opportunity of century”



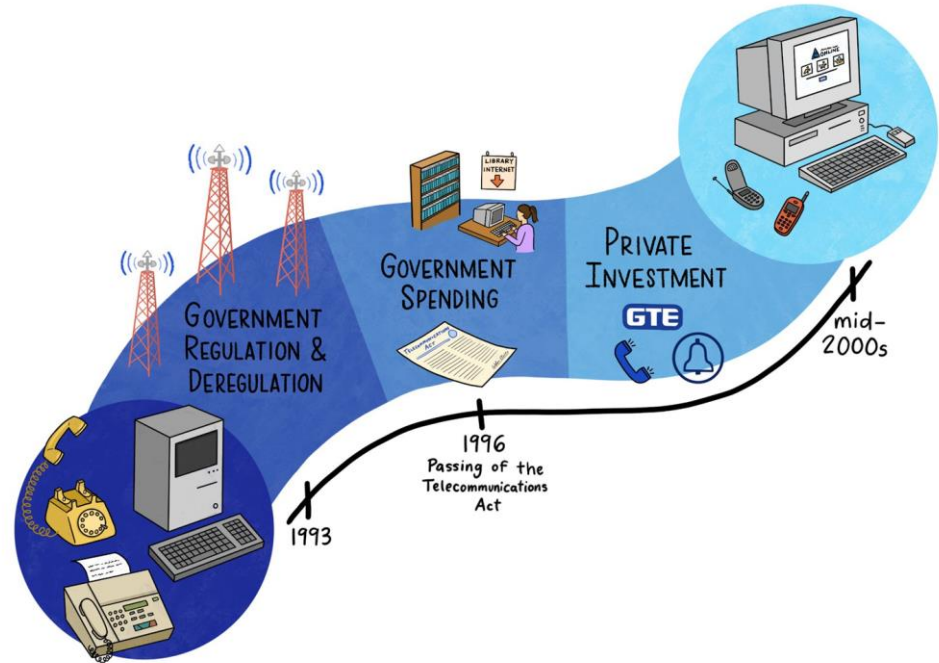
# We've done it before.

From mid-90s to 2010, total transformation of information platform.

Government working together with the private sector can drive another generation of American glory.

We are a nation of dreamers and doers.

It's time to *accelerate*.



# Let's do it again.

- Allocate funds everywhere, with focus on clean power and just transition
- Fund the Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator

