

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Shared Views on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**

March 1, 2023

Dear President Biden:

As organizations whose constituencies continue to experience the harm caused by past corporate-centered trade agreements, we have a strong desire to work with your administration to advance goals you have described for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) — particularly in terms of a long overdue shift in direction for U.S. trade policy that finally places working people and climate action at the center. We write today with shared views about IPEF terms that will be necessary for the pact to meet important labor, family farm and environmental goals, as well as recommendations for a more transparent and participatory process.

To begin, we are heartened by and appreciate reports that IPEF will not include some of the damaging provisions found in past trade agreements, such as the anti-worker, anti-environment and anti-democratic investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system and public procurement terms that could undermine “Buy America,” “buy local” and “buy green” programs.

The list of countries selected as initial IPEF partners, however, includes many with records of labor rights violations, including unionist assassinations, human trafficking, forced labor, child labor and more. To advance your administration’s promised worker-centered trade model, IPEF must include strong labor rights commitments based on standards set in the International Labor Organization’s core conventions, and it must also include facility-specific enforcement mechanisms, building off the Rapid Response Mechanism in the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). IPEF signatory countries must also be required to make the changes to their labor laws necessary to align them with their new IPEF obligations *before* the pact is signed by the United States. IPEF must take steps forward relative to the USMCA, not backward, on labor rights and labor enforcement.

In terms of IPEF’s climate provisions, “a step forward” will not be enough. Given that previous U.S. trade agreements, including the USMCA, fail to even mention the term “climate change,” IPEF will need to be particularly ambitious in its climate provisions if it is to help the United States and Indo-Pacific region achieve their climate and environmental justice goals. Among other environmental measures, IPEF must require that countries adopt, implement and maintain

binding climate standards, and must likewise extend swift-and-certain enforcement mechanisms to those provisions.

On the matter of “digital trade,” IPEF’s terms must not be allowed to undermine the administration’s domestic anti-monopoly and tech regulation agenda by locking in international rules that threaten consumer privacy, data security, worker rights, civil rights, algorithm justice and competition policy here and throughout the Indo-Pacific. In comparison to the USMCA’s digital terms, any data flow guarantees or limits on safeguarding where data can be processed or stored must be scaled back significantly in any IPEF deal, with much broader exceptions added to better protect Americans’ personal data, as well as to protect good-paying jobs in the digital economy. IPEF also must not include provisions that create special secrecy guarantees for Big Tech firms’ source codes and algorithms so that they can evade the pre-review and audits that are a feature of many criminal justice, civil rights, worker rights and other bills and the administration’s AI Bill of Rights. As well, an IPEF must not establish non-discrimination terms similar to those included in the USMCA and Trans-Pacific Partnership that capture policies with “discriminatory effects” based on larger entities being more impacted by facially neutral policies of general application. Non-discrimination rules in IPEF must be limited to de facto discrimination or such rules will undermine competition policy efforts as well as labor laws and other public interest policies. As your administration, Congress and other IPEF countries all work hard to rein in Big Tech abuses, IPEF must not be used as a backdoor to undermine those efforts.

Likewise, IPEF’s other provisions in both the trade pillar and other three pillars must also contribute to the creation of a worker-centered, climate-friendly trade model. For instance, so-called “Good Regulatory Practice” provisions must not replicate the terms of past trade proposals aimed at delaying, weakening and destroying future public interest policies before they are even created. And any agricultural provisions should allow for the creation of strategic food and grain reserves and other public investment in agricultural resilience and local food systems, include measures to stop land grabs and otherwise protect the human rights of farmers and farm workers, and set floors, rather than ceilings, when it comes to food safety and fair price measures for producers and consumers

Finally, the United States’ requirement that IPEF negotiating parties sign confidentiality agreements undermines the ability for an informed citizenry to provide input on policy that impacts their livelihoods and communities; we urge you to terminate these confidentiality agreements. We also urge you to publish upcoming U.S. IPEF proposals for public comment prior to tabling them, including those on critical chapters like labor, the environment and digital trade that we understand will be tabled soon, in addition to all other texts. And we urge the United States and other countries to publish proposals and any draft composite texts at the close of each IPEF negotiating round. A more transparent and participatory negotiating process for IPEF would allow for a wider set of interests to provide informed input and ensure equitable treatment of communities which are not part of the official U.S. trade advisor system, mostly representing corporations who now have access to U.S. proposals and other confidential IPEF texts. Reversing an unnecessarily bureaucratic and obtuse trade negotiating regime requires operating in a transparent manner and would facilitate broader public support and confidence among civil society organizations.

We look forward to being partners with your administration throughout the IPEF negotiating process so that any final deal corrects the errors of past trade pacts and becomes a useful model for future agreements that deliver real benefits to people and the planet.

Sincerely,

Citizens Trade Campaign  
A Growing Culture  
A Well-Fed World  
Agricultural Justice Project  
Alliance for Democracy  
Amazon Labor Union  
American Economic Liberties Project  
American Friends Service Committee  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Americas Program  
Amnesty International USA  
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO  
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA  
Association of Western Pulp & Paper Workers  
Backbone Campaign  
Biofuelwatch  
BlueGreen Alliance  
Campaign for America's Future  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Center for Global Justice  
Center for Policy Analysis on Trade & Health (CPATH)  
Center for Sustainable Economy  
Climate Crisis Policy  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Codepink  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
Communities and Postal Workers United  
Corporate Accountability Lab  
Corporate Campaign, Inc.  
Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company  
Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute  
Demand Progress Education Fund

Environmentalists Against War  
Equal Exchange  
Ethix Merch  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance  
Fight for the Future  
Food & Water Watch  
Food Empowerment Project  
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)  
Freedom to Thrive  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict  
Global Exchange  
Global Justice Institute Metropolitan Community Churches  
GMO/Toxin Free USA  
Government Information Watch  
Green America  
Greenpeace USA  
Health Action International Asia Pacific  
Holy Cross International Justice Office  
Hope Border Institute  
Inlandboatmen's Union - Marine Division ILWU  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Project  
Intemperate Earth  
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
International Women's Alliance  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Labor Network for Sustainability  
Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.  
Legacy of Equality Leadership and Organizing (LELO)  
Living Economies Forum  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mountain Lion Foundation  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
National Family Farm Coalition  
National Jobs for All Network

National Organization for Women  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action  
North American Marine Alliance  
Novasutras  
Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU)  
Our Revolution  
Partners for Dignity & Rights  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
People's Health Movement-USA  
Popular Resistance  
Presbyterian Church USA  
Pride at Work  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Public Citizen  
RadiationTruth.com  
Responsible Sourcing Network  
Rethink Trade  
Revolving Door Project  
Rootcity Press  
RootsAction.org  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Social Security Works  
Sunrise Movement  
The Borneo Project  
The Earth Bill Network  
The Oakland Institute  
The Rick Smith Show  
The United Methodist Church -- General Board of Church and Society  
Trade Justice Education Fund  
Transport Workers Union of America  
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community  
Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD)  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE)  
Veterans For Peace

Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S.  
Women's Voices for the Earth

350 Eastside  
350 Seattle  
350PDX  
A2D2 Ann Arbor in Divisible for Democracy  
Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet  
AFT 4999  
AFT Washington  
Albany County Central Labor Council  
ALIGN  
Alliance for Democracy - Oregon  
Alliance for the Wild Rockies  
Alliance of South Asians Taking Action (ASATA)  
American Friends Service Committee, Colorado  
Americans for Democratic Action Iowa  
Anakbayan Portland  
APALA Texas Chapter  
Appetite For Change  
APWU Local 380  
Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers Union (Ohio)  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, Seattle Chapter  
Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera  
AWPPW California Area Council  
Baltimore/DC Chapter of Pride at Work  
Berkeley Fellowship Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee  
Bernie PDX  
Bexar County Young Democrats  
Beyond Toxics  
Border Agricultural Workers Project  
Boulder Area Labor Council, CO AFL-CIO  
Cal YDSA  
California Communities Against Toxics  
California Trade Justice Coalition  
Carpenters Local 276  
Casa Baltimore Limay  
Central Illinois PDA  
Central South Carpenters Regional Council

Centro Fronterizo del Obrero (dba) La Mujer Obrera  
Chicago Fair Trade  
Church Council of Greater Seattle  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Coalition of Seattle Indian Americans  
Communications Workers of America (CWA) District 4  
Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1122  
Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1985  
Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7800  
Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901  
Community Alliance for Global Justice  
Community to Community Development Projects  
Coulee Region Progressives  
Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity  
CSEA LOCAL 807  
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)  
Democracy Out Loud (Indivisible)  
Democratic Socialists of America (Dallas)  
Denver Justice and Peace Committee (DJPC)  
District W24 IAMAW  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Earth Democracy Committee Alliance for Democracy  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
EGG350.org  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Equity Transit  
Faith Action Network  
Faith-Labor Committee, Portland Jobs with Justice  
Family Action Network Movement (FANM)  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Florida Alliance for Retired Americans  
Florida Chapter - Progressive Democrats of America  
Food for Maine's Future  
For the Many  
Fort Collins, CO Chapter - Progressive Democrats of America  
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice  
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
GABRIELA Seattle  
Global Justice Committee, Portland JwJ

Greater Boston Trade Justice  
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
Green Song Press  
Health Advocacy International  
Health Care For All Texas  
Hernando County Green Party  
Hike The Good Hike  
Housing Works  
Huron Valley Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO  
IAM 751  
IBEW Local 840  
ILWU Washington Area District Council  
Indiana Pride At Work  
Indivisible Austin  
Indivisible Bainbridge Island  
Indivisible Beaverton  
Indivisible Bellingham  
Indivisible Detroit (MI)  
Indivisible Eastside (WA)  
Indivisible Outcry  
Indivisible Plus Washington  
Indivisible Skagit  
Indivisible Warren County  
Indivisible Washington's 8th District  
Indivisible Whidbey Island (WA)  
International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - Portland Chapter  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
IUE-CWA Local 301  
Jews For Racial and Economic Justice  
Jobs with Justice of East Tennessee  
Kalikasan Solidarity Organization  
Kickapoo Peace Circle  
Knowledgepanel  
Labor Community Alliance of South Florida  
Lampasas County Democratic Party  
LCLAA LA  
Leelanau Indivisible  
LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern)  
Let Cuba Live Committee of Maine



Lipari Renewables, Inc.  
LIUNA Local 190  
Local Clean Energy Alliance  
Long Island Pine Barrens Society  
Maine AFL-CIO  
Maine Fair Trade Campaign  
Make The Road, New York  
Maryland Chapter Progressive Democrats of America  
Maryland United for Peace and Justice, Inc.  
Metro Justice  
Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition  
Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans, Education Fund  
Missouri Chapter - Progressive Democrats of America  
Mothers Against Greg Abbott  
MSEA-SEIU Local 1989  
New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ Economic Justice Mission Group  
New Mexico Climate Justice  
New Paltz Climate Action  
New York Communities For Change  
New York Metro Area Postal Workers  
New York Trade Justice Coalition  
News Guild of New York, CWA  
NJ State Industrial Union Council  
North Kitsap Indivisible  
NYC Friends For Clear Water  
NYS Alliance for Retired Americans  
Occupy Bellingham  
Occupy Bergen County  
Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 8, AFL-CIO  
OLÉ  
Olympia Indivisible  
Olympic Climate Action  
Oregon BlueGreen Alliance  
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Oregon Progressive Party  
Our Revolution North Texas  
Our Revolution Ohio  
Out Now  
Outlaw Ink

Pacific Northwest Labor Council  
Parallax Perspectives  
Park Slope Food Coop - International Trade Education Squad  
Partners For Progress SWPA  
PDA Illinois  
PDA Nebraska  
Peace Action Bay Ridge  
Peace Action Maine  
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW  
Peacemakers of Schoharie County  
Peninsula Peace & Justice  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter  
Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 7  
PODER  
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)  
Portland Jobs with Justice  
Portland Rising  
Pride at Work - Arizona Chapter  
Pride at Work - Hawai'i  
Pride At Work - Long Island  
Pride at Work - Ohio Chapter  
Pride at Work - Rochester Finger Lakes Chapter  
Pride at Work - WA South Chapter  
Progressive Democrats of America - Arizona  
Progressive Democrats of America - Tucson  
Progressive Democrats of Hawaii  
Progressives for Democracy in America Florida  
PSARA (Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action)  
Rise Up WV  
Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center  
Rural & Migrant Ministry  
RWDSU LOCAL 338  
San Francisco Living Wage Coalition  
Santa Clara Sunrise  
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network  
Seattle CISPES  
Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation  
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

SEIU6 Property Services NW  
Sequoia Forestkeeper  
Sierra Club - Lone Star Chapter  
Sierra Club - Washington State Chapter  
SMART Local 112  
Snohomish & Island County Labor Council  
Snohomish County Indivisible  
SOAR Local 2599  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
Social Justice Indivisible  
Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), IFPTE Local 2001  
Solidarity Committee--Capital District  
South Central Federation of Labor (WI)  
South Seattle Climate Action Network  
South Texas Human Rights Center  
Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice  
Spokane Regional Labor Council  
Stand Indivisible AZ  
Stanford Democrats  
Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees SOAR  
Students of Color in Public Policy  
Sunflower Alliance  
Sunrise PDX  
TCU-IAM  
Teamsters Joint Council 28  
Teamsters Local 391  
Teamsters Local 814  
Teamsters Local Union No. 117  
Terraza 7  
Texas Alliance for Retired Americans Austin Chapter  
Texas Drought Project  
Texas Fair Trade Coalition  
Texas Progressive Caucus  
The Center for Family Farm Development, Inc.  
The Living Hope Wheelchair Association  
The Old Anglo-Catholic Movement/IAL  
Thurston Climate Action Team  
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition  
Trade Justice New York Metro  
Transformations CDC

UAW Local 221  
UFCW District Union 1  
UFCW Local 2013  
Unitarian Universalist Action of NH  
United For Action  
United Service Workers Union  
United Steelworkers (USW) District 12  
United Steelworkers (USW) District 13  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 10-234  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1280  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 135L  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1774  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 183  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 248  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 3267  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 338  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 3403-Unit 25  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5025  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5429  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 675  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 7014  
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 9-01762  
UNITEHERE Local 150  
UUFHCT  
Voz Workers Rights Education Project  
WA People's Privacy  
Waist Shapers Meal Preps  
Wallingford Indivisible  
Warlords  
Washington BlueGreen Alliance  
Washington Fair Trade Coalition  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council  
WashTech Local 37083  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.  
Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO  
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center  
Whiskey Ally's  
WIN W.I.N. Florida Voter Messaging Coalition

Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Fresno

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Santa Cruz Branch

Worker Justice Center of New York

Workers United SEIU

WV Citizen Action Group

Xochipilli Chicano/Latino Men's Circle

Yolpaki Co

Young Democratic Socialists of America at UC Berkeley

Youth Vs Apocalypse