



To the leadership of New Consensus:

We, as individual frontline groups were invited to participate in this meeting with New Consensus, representing our organizations, networks and communities to provide input into drafting policy language for the Green New Deal (GND). It should be noted that some member groups within CJA's network who were invited to this meeting decided not to attend until the points listed below are addressed with more clarity.

The Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) includes 67 urban and rural frontline communities, Indigenous Peoples, organizations and supporting member networks that are leading the climate justice movement with allies. The founders of our network were integral in establishing the Environmental and Economic Justice Movement. An early intervention of CJA was to specifically address the problematic pattern of outside groups being contracted in a way that supplants grassroots work, and to link organizing to policy work at all levels of government. Collectively, we have built local to global support for Frontline and Just Transition policies that center workers and entire communities. We are rooted in our authentic relationships and mutual accountability for, and to, each other and our allies across sectors.

Those of us here today were led to believe that CJA was invited and actively participating in this process. It is now clear that this is not the case. This is a direct violation of the *Jemez Principles*, and the *EJ Principles of Working Together*, which are guiding principles that our movement has developed over several decades to protect frontline groups from extraction and division, and to level the inequities of power between groups with many resources and those without.

Why was CJA, which directly contributed the language on frontline communities, Indigenous Peoples, and Just Transition in the GND resolution currently before Congress, not invited to this meeting? Why is its lens being excluded from any "high level" meeting associated with the development of climate justice policy? We are disappointed in AOC's office for calling us two weeks ago to be on media supporting the Green New Deal but not including us in this meeting to discuss policy.

The Principles of Working Together (Jemez Principles) demand that people from the outside not come into movement spaces with the assumption that there is no leadership in grassroots communities; in reality our leaders in community, organizations and networks in CJA are often the best versed in real climate solutions. Moreover, these principles hold that people from these communities are in the best position to lead themselves, while creating a legacy by sharing tools with young people to, themselves, be leaders.

The Principles of Working Together also includes a firm commitment to changing any process when it is determined that it is not meeting the needs of the people, and that these changes should be informed by the people's timely feedback and evaluation to ensure accountability among all partners.

To this end, in order for us to continue in this process, we have four clear demands of New Consensus and your partners:

- 1. Include both the Jemez Principles and the EJ Principles of Working Together in all work stemming from this gathering and forthcoming;**
- 2. Disclose and maintain transparency in your funding sources, current and emerging, and commit that funding directly to those most impacted, including frontline and base-building organizing groups, alliances and networks for the development of policy priorities and language;**
- 3. Clearly outline who New Consensus is accountable to and who it works for; and why is there redundancy, going into communities where work is already being done when the country is vast and there is so many other places where there isn't yet consensus.**
- 4. Commit to New Consensus' participation in a strategy meeting with CJA and allied frontline partners in order to move our collective conversation and possible relationship forward, we would ask that a MOA be entered into between New Consensus and CJA frontlines.**

Without a firm commitment to support these demands, it will be challenging to stay engaged in this process or any others necessary to build the trust required to move the kind of Green New Deal we need to save people and Mother Earth in the next decade.

In Power and Unwavering CJA Solidarity,

CJA Steering Committee and member groups