



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H 232 The United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We urge you to direct the Chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction to hold hearings on H. Res. 109, Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

This proposal's mandates are sweeping and will impact nearly every aspect of American life. Its stated and much-publicized goal of zero-emission energy production within ten years is just a fraction of the legislation's full scope. It also includes programs such as federal job guarantees and government-run healthcare.

While a full analysis of the Green New Deal has not been completed, we do have an understanding of how proposals within it will affect working Americans.

- **ENERGY PRICES:** Increased energy costs fall especially hard on low-income households, who already devote up to three times as much income to energy costs as higher-income households.¹ In California, where versions of Green New Deal climate proposals are already in place, one million people pay over a tenth of their income per month to home energy expenses, excluding gasoline and other transportation costs.² This meets the definition for "**energy poverty**." For lower-income Americans in communities across the country, this would be a crushing expense.
- **HOME PRICES:** The Green New Deal calls for every home to be retrofitted for maximum efficiency. In California, a recent mandate that all new homes have solar

¹ "Report: 'Energy Burden' on Low-Income, African American, & Latino Households up to Three Times as High as Other Homes, More Energy Efficiency Needed," American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, April 20, 2016

² Robert Bryce, "House California Promotes Energy Poverty," Manhattan Institute, August 3, 2015

panels is expected to add \$8,000 to \$12,000 to the cost of a home.³ In fact, civil rights leaders are suing the State for climate policies they say disproportionately harm its poorest residents by driving up the cost of housing.⁴ Higher costs of home ownership would disparately impact lower-income Americans nationwide, possibly putting home ownership out of reach entirely.

- **JOBS:** To get to zero emissions, many manufacturing, truck-driving, and oil-and-gas related jobs, often the source of high-paying income for individuals with or without a college degree, may have to be eliminated.
- **HEALTH CARE:** This proposal insinuates eliminating private health insurance. The vast majority of Americans are opposed to a ‘Medicare for All’ style system if it means abolishing private health insurance plans.⁵ Seven-in-ten Americans oppose switching to a single-payer system if it leads to delayed treatment, as is endemic to such systems in other countries.⁶ If the United States adopts a single-payer system, working- and middle-class Americans would pay higher taxes, for less choice, and potentially face longer wait times for lower-quality care.

Taken together, we fear the Green New Deal would hurt Americans struggling to make ends meet – the very people it purports to help. Worst of all, it could permanently put the American Dream out of reach for millions of Americans.

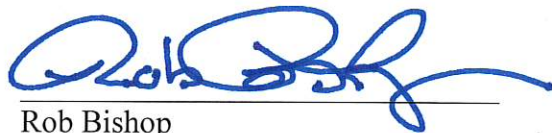
As the committees to which it has been referred, we have a responsibility to fully understand how the Green New Deal will affect the cost of living and economic mobility of hardworking Americans. We need to get to the facts, the American people deserve answers.

President Woodrow Wilson, a leading political scientist before his election, said that “Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work.” We should heed Wilson’s wisdom. Congress needs to get to work to closely examine and comprehensively debate the Green New Deal. We urge you to direct the Chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction to schedule hearings on the proposal without delay.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Republican Leader
Committee on Energy and Commerce



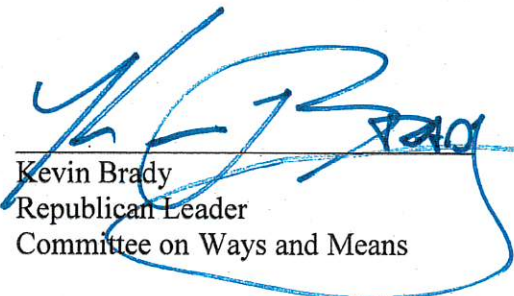
Rob Bishop
Republican Leader
Committee on Natural Resources

³ Iven Penn, “California Will Require Solar Power for New Homes,” *The Orange County Register*, May 9, 2018

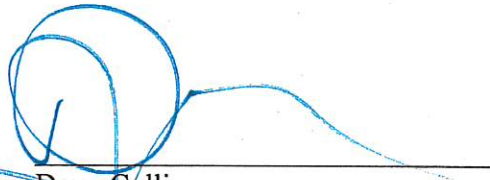
⁴ Susan Shelly, “Climate activists versus affordable housing,” *The Orange County Register*, January 9, 2019

⁵ Matthew Sheffield, “Poll: Just 13 percent want ‘Medicare for all’ if it means end of private insurance,” *The Hill*, February 2, 2019

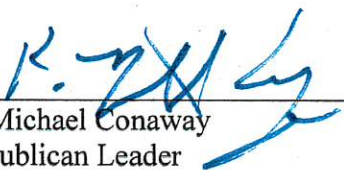
⁶ Ashley Kirzinger, Cailey Muñana, and Mollyann Brodie, “KFF Health Tracking Poll – January 2019: The Public On Next Steps For The ACA And Proposals To Expand Coverage,” Kaiser Family Foundation, January 23, 2019




Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
Committee on Ways and Means



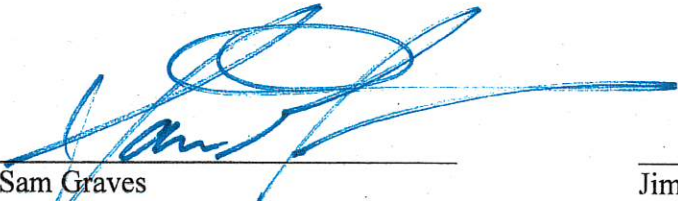
Doug Collins
Republican Leader
Committee on Judiciary




K. Michael Conaway
Republican Leader
Committee on Agriculture




Virginia Foxx
Republican Leader
Committee on Education and Labor




Sam Graves
Republican Leader
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



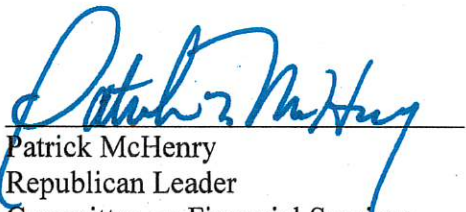
Jim Jordan
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Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform



Frank Lucas
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Committee on Science, Space,
And Technology



Michael McCaul
Republican Leader
Committee on Foreign Affairs



Patrick McHenry
Republican Leader
Committee on Financial Services