



Shellfish
Growers
Climate
Coalition



September 24, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the thousands of shellfish businesses we represent nationwide, the undersigned organizations urge you to include meaningful climate solutions in the infrastructure and reconciliation bills and to pass both swiftly.

When it comes to climate change, our food system is the canary in the coal mine – and given the grim conditions shellfish growers have been experiencing over the past several years, we should all be gravely concerned about the future. In just the last few months, record shattering temperatures and an above-average hurricane season have cost shellfish growers untold millions in property damage and product loss. With the added challenges of rising sea levels, ocean acidification, changing rainfall patterns, algal blooms, the spread of disease, and increasing water temperatures, it's getting harder and harder to grow shellfish.

Financial and environmental pressures have already forced some growers to leave the industry, and more will likely follow suit as the climate continues to change. If that were to happen, it will have devastating consequences for coastal communities that depend on shellfish for jobs and food security.

The good news is that prompt and decisive action can save our oceans and our planet from the worst-case projected scenarios. *To secure a prosperous future for the shellfish industry and everyone who depends on it, it is absolutely imperative that the climate provisions in the current bills are passed quickly and fully intact.* This is an essential first step towards a low carbon future

and must be followed by meaningful and sustained action to decarbonize the economy and build resilience. We stand ready to work with you to ensure your efforts adequately meet the needs of shellfish growers and their expansive communities.

Sincerely,

Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition
East Coast Shellfish Growers Association
Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association
Oyster South