

CENTRIST DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA

October 21, 2021

Rep. Joyce Beatty
Chairwoman
Congressional Black Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Beatty,

My organization, the Centrist Democrats of America, is writing to you to thank you for your leadership for the African American community, and to support the Congressional Black Caucus to focus the reconciliation negotiations on policies that benefit and uplift working class and low-income communities, rather than allocating large sums of money to policies, subsidies and mandates that primarily benefit wealthy Americans.

After all, it was these communities who – under the leadership of Majority Whip James Clyburn – delivered the White House to Joe Biden, and ended a disastrous four-year presidency that enflamed racial tensions. We must also stay vigilant because the former President and his allies continue to cast doubt only on the votes cast only in African American communities that swung the election in favor of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. No question, once the Congress resolves the reconciliation debate, the next focus must be on restoring the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The one area of concern for my organization, is using the reconciliation bill offering massive federal subsidies to electric vehicles, and allowing those subsidies to be prioritized over benefits to help the working classes.

Please do not misunderstand — this is not a bias against electric vehicles. I believe they are a critical component of our nation's efforts to fight climate change. However, when we have limited resources to help our fellow Americans recover after the pandemic, deficit spending should be focused on people struggling to make ends meet. Not, for the owners of electric vehicles, who tend to be wealthy.

We understand that in such a closely divided Congress, balancing the priorities of both factions is key. As moderates and progressives work together to find common ground and pass a reconciliation bill, we believe that the focus should be on priorities for working-class families, such as child and senior care, expanding Medicare to cover dental care, hearing aids and eye glasses and lowering the cost of healthcare. Of course, we also need to ask corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share for these benefits that will improve the lives of all Americans by making this a more just and equitable country.

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The millions of dollars that are currently going towards electric vehicle mandates and subsidies could go much further and benefit our communities in greater ways if they were put towards issues that directly affect us.

Again, thank you for your leadership in these challenging times and for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Trey Daniels

Trey Daniels
Centrist Democrats of America