



Thursday, June 3, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Majority Leader Schumer,

Thank you for your strong leadership and continued dedication to making progress on essential priorities for the American people and for our democracy in the face of partisan obstruction.

We have moved past hypotheticals and entered a perilous new moment for our democracy. Senate Republicans' decision to block legislation establishing a bipartisan commission to investigate the January 6th insurrection is a shameful abdication of their duties to our country. As Senator Joe Manchin said, "So disheartening. It makes you really concerned about our country." That Republicans could not even support a bipartisan investigation into a deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol reflects dangerously misplaced priorities: they have chosen party over country, obstruction over progress, and Trump over democracy.

In the face of Republicans' inability and unwillingness to defend our democracy, it is clearer than ever that the filibuster needs to be eliminated. As Senator Brian Schatz stated, "filibustering a bipartisan Commission regarding the January 6 insurrection is a three dimensional way to make the point that the filibuster is primarily a destructive force in American politics."

Meanwhile, we are witnessing the "greatest contraction of voting rights since the end of Reconstruction and the beginning of Jim Crow," as Republican legislatures across America attack voting rights and play partisan games with their election laws.

Passing S.1, the For the People Act, is essential in light of these attacks on Americans' fundamental voting and civil rights. Yet Senate Minority Leader McConnell has called blocking the For the People Act his "top priority" and is committed to using the filibuster as a weapon to keep our democracy rigged.

We cannot allow the filibuster to stand in the way of progress or imperil the health of our democracy. As columnist E.J. Dionne noted, "No amount of cajoling, compromising, begging, pleading or standing-on-your-head-and-holding-your-breath will change this ... you can defend voting rights or you can defend the filibuster. You can't do both."

Investigating an insurrection and protecting voting rights should not be controversial or partisan – and they should not be issues that a minority of senators are allowed to block.

We call on you and the Senate Democratic caucus to eliminate the filibuster as a weapon that Sen. McConnell can use to block efforts to defend and strengthen our democracy and make our government work for the American people.

Signed,

Fix Our Senate
Battle Born Collective
Common Cause
Indivisible
People For the American Way
Stand Up America
Working Families Party
#NoRA
20/20 Vision
350 Butte County
350 Eugene
350Hawaii
44 Virtues
Alliance for Youth Action
American Family Voices
Athens County's Future Action Network (OH)
Be A Hero
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Blue Future
Blue Wave Postcard Movement
Brave New Films
Broward for Progress
Businesses for a Livable Climate
CA Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
Can't Stop! Won't Stop Consulting
CatholicNetwork US
Center for International Policy
Center For law And Social Justice at Medgar Evers College
Center for Popular Democracy Action
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Clean Elections Texas
Climate Hawks Vote
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate
Colorado Small Business Coalition
Common Power
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Conejo Climate Coalition

Courage California
Demand Progress
DemCast USA
Democracy Initiative
Democracy North Carolina
Demos
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
Equal Justice Society
Faith in Public Life Action Fund
Feminist Majority
Fix Democracy First
For All
Free Speech For People
Friends of the Earth
Future Coalition
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenpeace USA
Impulse Group DC
Indivisible Georgia Coalition
Indivisible Marin
Indivisible Northern Nevada
International Indigenous Youth Council, Los Angeles
Mainers for Accountable leadership
March For Our Lives
Michiganders for Fair and Transparent Elections
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action
MoveOn
National Immigration Law Center
National Organization for Women
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New American Leaders Action Fund
North Range Concerned Citizens
Northridge Indivisible
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Our Revolution
PEER: Suffolk County
People's Action
People's Parity Project
Presente.org
Progress Arizona
Progressive Democrats of America-Virginia
Progressive Turnout Project
Public Citizen
Rapid Shift Network

Red2Blue
RepresentUs New Mexico
Secure Elections Network
Sierra Club
Social Eco Education (SEE-LA)
Social Security Works
Southern Christian Coalition
Spirit of the Sun
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
Sunrise Movement
Supermajority
Take Back the Court
The Workers Circle
True Blue New York
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unite North Metro Denver
Wall of Women
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Women's March
Working Families Party WV
WV Citizen Action Group