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GARY ANDRES,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 1, 2022

Re: Request for Information Related to the Climate Crisis and Health Industry

To Whom It May Concern,

The impact of the climate crisis on health is well documented – from increasing rates of asthma in vulnerable communities, to an increase in deaths from extreme weather events, heat, infectious and vector-borne diseases, and compromised food supplies.¹ Yet, less attention has been paid to the fact that the health care industry as a whole is responsible for an estimated 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States (U.S.) and more than four percent of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions.^{2, 3} If the global health sector were a country, it would be the fifth-largest emitter on the planet.⁴ With U.S. greenhouse gas emissions rising by an estimated six percent between 2010 and 2018, it is clear that all actors in the health care system have roles to play in addressing their contributions to the climate crisis.⁵

To begin to address the ways the federal government can support providers in responding to extreme weather events and reducing their carbon footprint, Ways and Means majority staff have developed a survey instrument to better understand the current landscape. Specifically, I request your participation in two ways.

First, the Ways and Means Committee requests input on the ways your association creates and promotes climate-related policies for your members to use in their daily operations, in addition to your future plans in this area. Please review the PDF of questions attached, gather relevant information across your members' organization, and respond to the request for

¹ John Balbus et al., *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*, GLOBALCHANGE.GOV (2016), https://health2016.globalchange.gov/high/ClimateHealth2016_FullReport.pdf.

² Matthew J. Eckelman & Jodi Sherman, *Environmental Impacts of the U.S. Health Care System and Effects on Public Health*, 11:6 PLOS ONE (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0157014>.

³ Mathew J. Eckelman et al., *Health Care Pollution and Public Health Damage in The United States: An Update*, 39:12 HEALTH AFFAIRS (2020), <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01247>.

⁴ Josh Karliner et al., *Health Care's Climate Footprint*, HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM (Sept. 2019), https://noharm-global.org/sites/default/files/documents-files/5961/HealthCaresClimateFootprint_090619.pdf.

⁵ Mathew J. Eckelman et al., *Health Care Pollution and Public Health Damage in The United States: An Update*, 39:12 HEALTH AFFAIRS (2020), <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01247>.

information electronically at [REDACTED] by **the end of the day on Friday, April 22, 2022**. Please note that the Ways and Means Committee may choose to publish the results from this request for information (RFI) on its website.

Second, I am asking that you send a facility-level survey to a *representative sample* of your organization's membership that will explore their climate-related policies and future plans in this area. You may determine the type and quantity (between 10-20) of facilities you send the survey to, but graciously request it be an illustrative sample of your membership, taking into account such factors as geographic location, facility size, and facility ownership type, to name a few. That survey can be accessed at [REDACTED], and I request a response **by Friday, April 29, 2022**. Additionally, attached for your members is a PDF of the RFI questions and an accompanying letter from Chairman Neal.

Tackling the climate crisis requires a commitment from everyone. Our nation's health care sector strives to keep people healthy, and that includes protecting Americans from the impacts of the climate crisis. Your responses will be vital in helping us develop policies and supports to promote climate action in the health care sector. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. For additional questions, including assistance with responding to the RFI, please contact the Committee on Ways and Means Majority staff at healthdem.submissions@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means

Climate Crisis: Request for Information

Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for answering the following questions about your organization's work to combat the climate crisis. Please note that the Ways and Means Committee may choose to publish the results from this survey on its website <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/>.

If you need to change your answer to a previous question before final submission, please use the "PREV" button at the bottom of the page rather than the "BACK" button on your computer's browser.

Questions on the online survey will flow based on your answers, so the question numbers on your PDF version may differ slightly from the online survey. Please note that questions marked with an asterisk are required, and you will not be able to move on to the rest of the survey without first answering the question.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact healthdem.submissions@mail.house.gov. We look forward to receiving your responses by the end of the day on Friday, April 22, 2022.

PART I – Overview of Association and Climate-Focused Leadership

The following questions will provide us with information about your association's leadership and the ways you dedicate organizational resources to your members to address the climate crisis.

* 1. What is the full name of your association?

* 2. Which of the following **best** describes your association? Select all that apply.

- Health Facility Association
- Professional/Accreditation Association
- Manufacturer/Supply Chain Association

* 3. What type of facilities are in your association?

(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Access Hospitals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities or Long-Term Care Hospitals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Facilities or Nursing Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disproportionate Share Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis Centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Hospital Type (e.g., Rural Referral Centers, Sole Community Hospitals, Medicare-Dependent Hospitals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Health Centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

* 4. Please select all geographic regions where your facilities are located.

(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) | <input type="checkbox"/> West South Central (AR, LA, OK, and TX) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Atlantic (NJ, NY, and PA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, and WI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, and WA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West North Central (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, and SD) | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Atlantic (DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, and WV) | <input type="checkbox"/> Outside of the U.S. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East South Central (AL, KY, MS, and TN) | |

* 5. Please indicate how often climate-related issues are topics for your board-level discussions.

- Standing agenda item
- Occasionally
- Never

* 6. Please describe the topic areas of your board-level discussions on the following climate-related issues. For topics that are not standing agenda items, please explain why not.

(Each response limited to 500 words)

The climate crisis's impact on your members

The impact of your members' organizations on the climate crisis

* 7. Does your association have any established working groups at the executive level assessing the following issues?

(Check all that apply)

- The climate crisis's impact on your members
- The impact of your members' organizations on the climate crisis
- Neither

* 8. Please describe the goals and responsibilities of the executive-level climate working group(s) focused on these climate-related issues for your members.

(Response limited to 750 words)

* 9. Please explain why you do not have any established working groups focused on climate-related issues for your members at the executive level.

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 10. Does your association have dedicated staff in charge of assessing the following in an ongoing capacity:

(Check all that apply)

- The impact of the climate crisis on your members
- The impact of your members' organizations on the climate crisis
- Neither

* 11. Please describe the following for each employee at the executive or board levels dedicated (full- or part-time) to climate-related issues:

- Professional background
- Roles and responsibilities
- Reporting Structure
- When the role was established

* 12. Does your association have formal plans to dedicate new or additional expert staff to ongoing assessment of the following:

(Check all that apply)

- The impact of the climate crisis on your members
- The impact of your members on the climate crisis
- None of the above

Climate Crisis: Request for Information

PART II – Impact of the Climate Crisis on Your Members' Organizations

Impacts of the climate crisis – from the increase in wildfires, to excessive heat and severe drought, to other cataclysmic weather events – have negatively affected many communities and businesses, interrupting operations, saddling organizations with unexpected costs or operational challenges, and otherwise harming mission-critical work. The following questions explore the impact of the climate crisis on your members and your association’s response.

* 13. Please estimate the percentage of your members that have been affected by any disruptive climate-related weather events (e.g., fires, hurricanes, heat waves, etc.) in the last **five** years.

Do Not Track

100



* 14. Please provide specific examples of the top five climate-related weather events affecting your members in the past five years and the support your association provided. If none, please respond "None" in one of the boxes below.

(Each response limited to 500 words)

Event 1	<input type="text"/>
Event 2	<input type="text"/>
Event 3	<input type="text"/>
Event 4	<input type="text"/>
Event 5	<input type="text"/>

15. Please upload any additional information here.

(Single file upload only)

* 16. What are the three biggest concerns your association has (on behalf of your members) about the future impact of climate-related disasters on operations in the coming years?

(Each response limited to 500 words)

1)	<input type="text"/>
2)	<input type="text"/>
3)	<input type="text"/>

* 17. Has your association provided any written guidance to help your members respond to climate-related weather events that disrupt the delivery of care?

Yes

No

* 18. Are these guidelines publicly disclosed?

Yes

No

* 19. Please summarize these guidance documents.

(Response limited to 500 words)

20. Please upload any guidance documents here.

(Single file upload only)

Choose File

PART III – Impact of your Members' Operations on the Climate Crisis

These questions examine the extent to which your members understand their respective impact on the climate and the steps you have taken to aid them in mitigating those effects.

* 21. Has your association produced guidelines on sustainability targets to guide member operations in reducing their carbon footprint?

Yes

No

* 22. When were these guidelines established?

* 23. President Biden has set the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for the U.S. economy by no later than 2050, limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and adapting to the acute and chronic impacts of the climate crisis.

Do your guidelines include this federal goal?

Yes

No

* 24. Beyond these federal standards, does your association stay abreast of standards in the states and/or localities where your members have a presence?

Yes

No

* 25. Do you have state and/or local standards incorporated into any sustainability guidance documents or best practices you provide to your members?

Yes

No

* 26. How often do you update these guidelines to account for changes to federal, state, and/or local standards?

- Monthly
- Biannually
- Annually
- Never updated

* 27. Are these guidelines publicly disclosed?

- Yes
- No

* 28. Please list any specific sustainability targets in the guidelines with the accompanying metrics used for each target (i.e. waste reduction, increasing energy efficiency). If none, please respond "None."

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 29. Please upload these guidance documents here.

(Single file upload only)

Choose File

* 30. Does your association have future plans (within the next two to three years) to adopt new or additional guidelines on sustainability targeted to guide your members' operations?

Yes

No

* 31. Please describe these new or additional sustainability guidelines.

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 32. Please describe why you do not have plans to adopt new or additional sustainability targets for your members, including any specific challenges for your association when creating these guidelines.

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 33. Do you have a central repository to collect and monitor your members' facility- and system-level greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

No

* 34. Does your association publicly disclose information on your members' greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

No

* 35. Please upload your most recent publicly disclosed information regarding your association's work to track your members' greenhouse gas emissions.

(Single file upload only)

Choose File

* 36. Please list the three most significant challenges your members face when considering opportunities to reduce their respective carbon footprints. If none, please respond "None" in one of the boxes below.

(Each response limited to 500 words)

Challenge 1

Challenge 2

Challenge 3

The following questions will examine your association's use of outside tools and resources to assist with your efforts to mitigate your membership's impact on the climate crisis.

* 37. Is your association aware of any programs (public or private) that assist in meeting climate-related goals by offering resources, guidance, or economic incentives to help your members transition to renewable electricity, invest in building and vehicle electrification, or otherwise aid in efforts to reduce their carbon footprint?

* 38. What is your association doing to make your members aware of any of these federal, state, or local assistance programs aimed to reduce their carbon footprint?

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 39. Please list and describe any federal, state, or local assistance programs or incentives your members have used. Please provide a count of type (e.g., tax, grant, technical assistance) and amount (dollar value) at each level (i.e., federal, state, and local). If none, please respond "None."

(Response limited to 750 words)

* 40. Please describe cost savings your members have achieved from using any of these programs or incentives (e.g., lower energy bills, reduced transportation costs). If none or you do not know, please respond "None" or "Do not know."

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 41. Please list the biggest challenges for your association in assisting your members in accessing federal, state, and local assistance programs (e.g., lack of awareness of programs or lack of central repository of information). If none, please respond "None."

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 42. Please list any obstacles your members have reported in accessing federal, state, or local assistance programs aimed to reduce their carbon footprint (e.g., lack of awareness of programs or lack of central repository of information). If none, please respond "None."

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 43. Has your association recommended any verifiable, industry-standard tools or resources (e.g., [The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)'s Energy Star Program](#), [The Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard](#) or [Science-Based Targets](#)) to help your members measure their carbon footprint?

Yes

No

* 44. Please list each tool you have recommended or endorsed.

(Response limited to 500 words)

* 45. If you listed more than one tool or resource, which tool(s) have your members found most useful in helping them achieve their carbon footprint-related goals and why?

(Response limited to 500 words)

Climate Crisis: Request for Information

PART IV – Workforce Impact on Carbon Footprint

These questions address your association's efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of your members' respective workforces.

* 46. Do you work with your members to provide guidance or recommendations to address the carbon footprint of their workforces (e.g., public transportation subsidies or bike share memberships)?

Yes

No

* 47. Please list the guidance or recommendations you have shared with your members to address their workforce carbon footprint.

(Response limited to 500 words)

48. Please upload any additional information here.

Choose File

No file chosen

* 49. What are the three most significant barriers your members report in reducing the carbon footprint of their workforces? If none, please respond "None" in one of the boxes below.

(Each response limited to 500 words)

Barrier 1

Barrier 2

Barrier 3

Climate Crisis: Request for Information

Part V: Cost Impacts of Climate-Related Weather Events

The next set of questions address the relationship between costs of the climate crisis on your members and the ways your association is helping mitigate your members' impact on the climate crisis.

* 50. Has your association compared the cost impacts of weather-related climate incidents on your members' operations relative to the outlays and savings (real or estimated) associated with mitigating your members' impact on the climate crisis?

Yes

No

* 51. Please share any high-level findings from these cost-comparison analyses. If none, please respond "None."

(Response limited to 500 words)

52. Please upload any additional information on these cost comparisons.

(Single file upload only)

Climate Crisis: Request for Information

PART VI: Final Thoughts

These questions will address any other information you may want to provide to the Committee on Ways and Means, including proposed policy solutions to help assist with climate-related issues.

* 53. Please describe any additional federal, state, and/or local policies that would assist your members in responding to and/or mitigating their impacts on the climate crisis.

(Each response limited to 500 words)

Federal

State

Local

* 54. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your association's work to address the climate crisis?

(Response limited to 500 words)

55. Please upload any other information that you would like to share with the Committee related to the climate crisis.

(Single file upload per question, additional upload links below)

Choose File

56. Please upload an additional file, as needed.

Choose File

57. Please upload an additional file, as needed.

Choose File

58. Please upload an additional file, as needed.

Choose File