

June 24, 2025

Governor Jared Polis, Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

Mayor David Holt, Chair
United States Conference of Mayors
1620 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Re: REQUEST TO GOVERNORS AND MAYORS TO TAKE URGENT ACTION ON EXTREME HEAT

Dear Governor Polis of the National Governors Association and Mayor Holt of the United States Conference of Mayors:

We, the undersigned 156 organizations — including utility justice, civil rights, labor, energy democracy and justice, conservation, faith, health advocate, and consumer advocate organizations — write with deep concern about the 2025 extreme heat season, which has just begun and which scientists predict will be record-breaking again this year. But, yet again, the United States is ill-prepared. The Trump Administration has dismantled federal agencies and made disastrous cuts to life-saving programs like LIHEAP that play a sizable role in helping communities survive extreme heat. At the same time, mega-polluters and utility corporations are profiting off expanding dangerous fossil fuels and jacking up electricity prices at the expense of public safety and people's pocketbooks.

We respectfully urge all governors, mayors, and other local and Tribal governments to take urgent action to protect our communities from extreme heat, the largest weather-related killer in the United States. Every day of extreme heat [claims](#) about 154 lives. In fact, extreme heat is the deadliest disaster, killing [more](#) people than hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods combined. These common sense strategies **will save lives, lower energy costs, and build a more resilient and safe future for all:**

- **Deliver emergency relief to help protect at-risk populations from rising temperatures and secure access to life-saving utilities.** States should fund resilient and affordable energy solutions like rooftop and community solar with battery storage, microgrids, and energy efficiency to keep homes, schools, and workplaces cool during the summer, as well as establish accessible cooling centers and expand drinking water refill stations or public drinking water fountains for at-risk populations. Moreover, states must implement moratoria on electricity, water, and broadband shutoffs during months of extreme heat, and mandate that utilities reinstate disconnected services, waive late-payment fees, and forgive all utility debt for low-wealth households. Lastly, states should pass an occupational heat standard to protect indoor and outdoor workers from extreme heat, and provide clear steps for employer compliance and training for workers to

**LETTER FROM 155+ ORGANIZATIONS
URGING STATE ACTION ON EXTREME HEAT**

improve health and safety on the job.

- **Request a disaster declaration from President Trump for extreme heat to unlock federal funding.** Last year FEMA recognized that extreme heat qualifies as a major disaster under the Stafford Act and eligible for federal funding support. State and local governments should request that President Trump declare extreme heat disasters this summer to unlock critical funding to help at-risk populations survive extreme temperatures. President Trump invited and granted such emergency relief during his first term for COVID-19.
- **Tax polluters to fund extreme heat relief measures.** Polluters are [profiting](#) from recklessly expanding fossil fuels, which are aggravating disasters like extreme heat that claim lives. States should tax these corporations; Vermont and New York have already passed such polluter superfund bills, while California, Maryland, and Connecticut are also considering similar legislation. These funds can be used to finance the relief measures described above.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.¹

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNERS

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¹ For any questions, please contact Jean Su at jsu@biologicaldiversity.org.

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