For Immediate Release
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STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY LAUNCH CAMPAIGN URGING CITIES, COUNTIES TO SUPPORT NATIONAL GREEN NEW DEAL

Nationwide Youth Actions, supported by iMatter and Sunrise Movement,
Kick Off This Week in California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New Jersey

Minneapolis, MINN. (February 19, 2019) – Beginning this week, high school and middle school students across the country are meeting with local political leaders to urge national action on the Green New Deal. Supported by iMatter and the Sunrise Movement, students are calling on cities and counties to raise their voices in support of aggressive national action.

Students have already pledged to hold over 60 local student campaigns so far, with more expected in coming weeks. Over the next two weeks, students will appear before City Councils and County Boards in California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, and New Mexico, with actions in more states to follow. Students are asking local leaders to sign a resolution in support of a national Green New Deal.

“We are the last generation with a chance to do anything about it, so it’s not a matter of if we can, but how we will,” said Cindy Chung, high school senior representing the iMatter Bayonne NJ team. “We want to look back and say we were on the winning side of history.”

“We’re thrilled to have high school students organizing for the Green New Deal all across the country,” said Varshini Prakash, Sunrise Movement Executive Director and co-founder. “Our generation has grown up seeing politicians utterly fail us on climate change our entire lives, and we’re coming together to take our future into our own hands.”
These initial presentations are scheduled this week:
Feb. 19, Stillwater, MN
Feb. 19, Concord, MA
Feb. 19, Pleasanton, CA
Feb. 20, Bayonne, NJ

Additional student actions are planned for February and March, including localities in Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, with more to be scheduled.

On February 7, 2019, Senator Ed Markey and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez released a resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal. The resolution is a 10-year plan to mobilize every aspect of American society to 100% net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, while guaranteeing a living-wage job for anybody who needs one, and creating a just transition for both workers and frontline communities. For more information about the High School Green New Deal campaign or to get involved, visit www.imatteryouth.org/green-new-deal.

About iMatter
iMatter is a nonprofit organization founded and designed by youth. iMatter supports youth leaders to inspire political will in their communities for necessary and just climate action. Youth leaders across the U.S. and Canada are showing up in city halls to push their communities to commit to bold environmental policy. The iMatter Program has grown, starting with 5 cities and 10 youth leaders in 2016, to more than 100 youth leaders in over 60 cities last school year. Already in 2019, nearly 200 pre-college youth leaders have been involved with iMatter, spearheading youth-led initiatives in their own communities. For more information, visit https://www.imatteryouth.org/.

About the Sunrise Movement
Sunrise Movement is a youth-led movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. Sunrise put the Green New Deal on the political agenda in November when they occupied Speaker of the House Pelosi’s office with the support of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, making headlines around the nation. This spring, Sunrise will be organizing in every corner of the country to build support to get thousands more organizations and politicians signed onto the Green New Deal. For more information, visit https://www.sunrisemovement.org.