

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to you following the recent decision of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and 10 other oil-exporting nations, known collectively as OPEC+, to ignore your request for an increase in production of their oil – and your Administration’s continued conversations with OPEC+ regarding this request¹ – in light of rising gasoline prices for Americans. Instead of continuing to call for increased prosperity for OPEC+ affiliated nations that seek to harm the United States, we should meet American needs with American-produced energy. Accordingly, we urge you to reverse course and embrace an American solution by rescinding Executive Orders and other policies designed by your Administration to reduce access to our country’s oil and natural gas resources, which reduces the global competitiveness of American companies and workers.

Your assessment that increasing oil supply is necessary to reduce prices at the pump is valid, and we agree with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan who said that rising gasoline costs will “risk harming the ongoing global recovery.”² However, we disagree with your Administration’s efforts to decrease access to American energy resources while soliciting OPEC+ nations to increase production of their resources. As you are aware, OPEC+ includes nations that are known American adversaries, such as Russia, Iran, and Venezuela. It is not in America’s interest to rely on these nations for energy. Instead, eliminating barriers to American-produced oil and natural gas and its infrastructure will increase American economic and job growth, enhance national and energy security, and lower energy prices for American families. It will also result in reduced global emissions as the United States produces energy with an environmental responsibility that exceeds those of other nations upon which you wish for America to rely.

Unfortunately, your recent request of OPEC+ is consistent with a number of anti-American energy policies that your Administration and congressional Democrats are pushing, including: cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline; proposing to ban domestic fracking; declaring a moratorium on oil and natural gas leases on Federal lands and waters; and changing tax law to harm domestic production. In addition, your Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers affirms this anti-American

¹ Bose, Nadita, “White House speaking with OPEC about oil prices”, Reuters, https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/white-house-speaking-with-opec-about-oil-prices-2021-09-28/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF_0Io1QBLDCoo-utLvlLcb6ERl2eMyWFRysqUqM5hhV-2Hs7ODkhA4gshbTpBwbedYmpqyp_LRoDux8oP9TWwSWB5qTZHGZYxZ3-MXoji2YjpS

² Sullivan, Jake, “Statement by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on the Need for Reliable and Stable Global Energy Markets”, The White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/11/statement-by-national-security-advisor-jake-sullivan-on-the-need-for-reliable-and-stable-global-energy-markets/>

energy approach.³ One of three “key objectives” in the USACE budget request is “not funding work” that “lowers the cost of production” or “lowers the cost of consumption” of fossil fuels.³ In other words, a key objective of your Administration is to prohibit American energy resources from being used to lower energy costs for American consumers. Further, your Administration and congressional Democrats are advocating for budget reconciliation legislation that will ensure increased gas prices and already out-of-control inflation for American families. In effect, these various actions will result in dependence on OPEC+ nations to meet our, and the world’s, energy needs.

While you have sought to kneecap American energy infrastructure, you have hypocritically supported foreign fossil fuel production and its infrastructure. Your recent action to green-light the new Russian Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will transport Russian-produced natural gas to our European allies, is particularly egregious. This is a gift to Vladimir Putin that will not only put American natural gas at a global competitive disadvantage, but it will also harm our national security interests and result in increased global emissions. According to a study by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory, Russian natural gas exported to Europe has a lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions profile 41 percent higher than U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exported to Europe.

Support for a Russian pipeline is not the only example of leaving the United States or our allies dependent upon others for energy. The liberal reconciliation bill that your Administration is supporting would dramatically increase our reliance on China for rare earth and critical minerals to meet your climate agenda and rejects any reforms that would open up access to domestic mining of these minerals. This is another example in which your Administration puts foreign resources first. There is simply no rational economic, national security, or environmental (climate or otherwise) justification for your Administration’s efforts to stifle domestic energy infrastructure to the point of forcing Americans to rely on our competitors and adversaries to meet American energy needs.

Currently, your Administration’s reputation with regard to clean, affordable energy is headed in a similar direction as the Afghanistan debacle — a strategic failure where situational reality was set aside in favor of political expediency. Unlike Afghanistan, there is an opportunity to fix this mess before it turns into a permanent crisis. If your Administration is truly concerned about energy prices for American families and believes an increase in global oil production is necessary to meet that goal, the best place to start is right here at home. The United States has a robust supply of resources, infrastructure, and skilled labor, and we should work together to maintain our energy independence and increase our global competitiveness. Under President Trump, America became a net exporter of energy for the first time in a generation,⁴ and for the first time in 35 years, the United States imported zero crude oil from Saudi Arabia.⁵

We ask that you work with us to preserve America’s energy security and reverse your Administration’s disastrous energy policies that will make us dependent on countries like China and Russia. Instead of making unilateral decisions that ultimately harm our nation’s energy supply and security, work with Congress – including House Republicans – who share the view that lowering energy costs for Americans

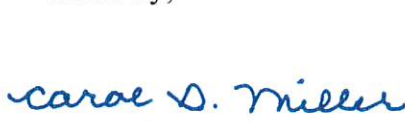
³ Office of Management and Budget, “Appendix Budget of the United States Fiscal Year 2022, Corps of Engineers—Civil Works”, https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/coe_fy22.pdf.

⁴ Meyer, Gregory, “US is net exporter of oil for first time in decades”, Financial Times, <https://www.ft.com/content/9cbba7b0-12dd-11ea-a7e6-62bf4f9e548a>

⁵ Tobben, Sheela and Lee, Julian, “U.S. Imports No Saudi Crude for First Time in 35 Years”, Bloomberg, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-06/saudi-oil-exports-to-u-s-at-zero-for-first-time-in-35-years>

and increasing American competitiveness is of critical importance. We urge you to help American energy producers and workers ensure that Americans and our allies have access to our abundant, affordable resources. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Americans, and our allies around the globe, have access to affordable American energy that will reduce, not increase, global emissions.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Steve Scalise
House Republican Whip



Garret Graves
Republican Leader
House Select Committee
on Climate Crisis



Bruce Westerman
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Natural Resources



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Energy and Commerce

Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Chair
Republican Conference

Frank D. Lucas
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Science, Space, and
Technology

Virginia Foxx
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Education and Labor

Gary Palmer
Chairman
Republican Policy
Committee

Patrick McHenry
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Financial Services

Jason Smith
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Budget

Devin Nunes
Republican Leader
House Permanent
Select Committee on
Intelligence

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Ways and Means

Jim Jordan
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Judiciary

James Comer
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Oversight and Reform

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Transportation and
Infrastructure

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Republican Leader
House Committee on
Agriculture

Rodney Davis
Republican Leader
House Committee on
House Administration

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Dan Meuser
Member of Congress

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
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Chuck Fleischmann
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Claudia Tenney
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William Timmons
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Dusty Johnson
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Jefferson Van Drew
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Doug LaMalfa
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Fred Keller
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Ben Cline
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Mike Kelly
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Chris Jacobs
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Van Taylor
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J. French Hill
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Jack Bergman
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Randy Feenstra
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Jody Hice
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Mike Gallagher
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Tom Reed
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Julia Letlow
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress