

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2022

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden,

The American agriculture sector is among the most productive in the world and as such, it requires diesel fuel to maintain output. As diesel fuel prices rise, so does the cost of food and all other consumer goods and services. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all food increased by 11.2% between September 2021 and September 2022.¹

Inflation is destroying American families. The high cost of diesel fuel is a primary inflationary factor, and your energy policies are driving the diesel crisis. On October 21, 2022, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced that primary distillate inventories (jet fuel, diesel, and heating oil) are at their lowest levels since May 2008.² As of November 4, 2022, the United States' primary distillate stocks held 106,263,000 barrels of fuel, and the current average cost of diesel fuel is \$5.35 per gallon.³ As of November 9, 2022, the U.S. diesel fuel inventory contained only a 26-day supply.⁴

This is deeply concerning. Should unforeseen circumstances arise such as a winter storm or prolonged cold weather, America will face even lower supplies and higher prices. On November 4, 2022, the American Farm Bureau Federation transmitted a letter to your administration outlining the significant impact that high diesel prices have had on farmers and ranchers, "causing increased costs to consumers, and adding to food insecurity". Any further external crisis could deplete fuel supplies completely and put farmers and consumers in an extremely dire situation. The entire American commerce sector runs on diesel fuel.

Revoking permits for the Keystone XL pipeline, enacting a drilling moratorium on federal lands and waters, increasing offshore royalty rates, weaponizing the federal regulatory process against the American energy industry, and rescinding Trump-era permitting improvements have all injured American oil and gas production. Your administration's policies have caused hesitation among domestic energy producers to invest capital in refinery projects. These projects are incredibly costly and can take decades to materialize, and meanwhile, you have used your executive authority to raid our Strategic Petroleum Reserves, leaving America with essentially no readily accessible emergency supply of crude oil. Without further investment

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/>

² <https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=WDISTUS1&f=W>

³ <https://gasprices.aaa.com/>

⁴ https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=W_EPD0_VSD_NUS_DAYS&f=W

in domestic production, the cost of fossil fuel energy will most certainly increase and continue to hurt American businesses, farmers, and commerce.

Mr. President, we cannot allow the prices of food and all consumer goods and services to continue to rise. We cannot allow our nation's commerce to grind to a halt due to the scarcity and expense of fuel. As of the date of this letter, diesel fuel suppliers are having difficulty filling orders to retail distributors. Prices for diesel are rising daily and your administration is responsible. We strongly encourage you to use your executive authority to reform your administration's restrictive policies on domestic energy before the situation further deteriorates.

As a means of relief on the refined fuel supply chain, as the price of diesel fuel continues to rise, and as Americans struggle to cover the additional costs, *we request that you direct your administration to immediately remove any unnecessary barriers to domestic energy production.* In addition, *we request that your administration issue a uniform and cohesive policy that promotes the production of fossil fuels and prevents this crisis from ever happening again.*

Doing so will allow American commerce and the U.S. agriculture industry to continue production, will lower the cost of food, and offer some modicum of relief to Americans that are struggling to feed their families. The refined fuel and diesel shortage is a crisis. We must act now to ensure supplies and prevent disastrous interruptions to American commerce.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



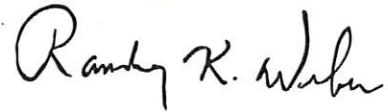
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



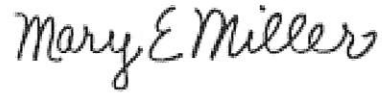
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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Andy Biggs
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Randy K. Weber
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Mary E. Miller
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Mayra Flores
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



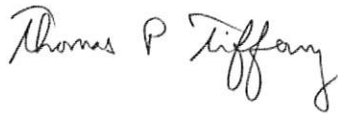
Tom Emmer
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Robert B. Aderholt
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Thomas Tiffany
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Jeff Duncan
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Bob Good
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Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency