

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 21, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President,

We write in support of your actions to increase American energy production and exports in the face of the global energy crisis perpetuated by Russia's illegal war on Ukraine and COVID-19. Your administration has demonstrated an understanding that the United States and our allies are more than ever in need of reliable, responsibly produced oil and natural gas from America's natural resources. You wisely partnered with our European allies to ensure that they get the resources they need and even took the step to make more oil available to the global market through the largest Strategic Petroleum Reserve release in history<sup>1</sup>.

It is important to remember the positive role that American oil and natural gas have previously played, and will continue to play, in the responsible development of our global energy resources. We must continue to assure world markets that American oil and natural gas will be available to all countries that participate in good faith with the global economy.

America's energy abundance is one of the many tools in the geopolitical toolkit of our great nation. We must also recognize that America's energy abundance benefits Americans across the country. Access to the global market for America's oil producers is a key factor that tells our producers that the market needs their products, ensuring continued abundant supply and helping keep prices comparatively lower for Americans at the gas pump.

We urge you and your administration to reject any well-intentioned but misguided calls to curtail American crude oil and/or petroleum exports in reaction to the high gasoline and diesel prices currently seen at the pump. As you know, domestic gasoline prices are set by an international benchmark (Brent), and restricting US crude exports would lower global supply and increase costs here at home.

United States refiners are also working around the clock to produce fuel for consumers. Nationally, and even with some regions undergoing planned facility maintenance, American refiners are running at 94.2% capacity. Along the Gulf Coast, utilization is 96.5%, and on the East Coast, 99.2%<sup>2</sup>. Such an action would have the opposite of the intended effect, creating market inefficiencies as American crude oil and American refineries would no longer have the flexibility

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/21/fact-sheet-biden-administration-responds-to-putins-price-hike-by-awarding-first-barrels-from-historic-strategic-petroleum-reserve-release-deploying-affordable-clean-energy/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/supply/weekly/pdf/wpsrall.pdf>

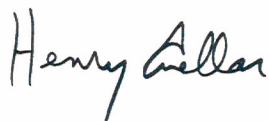
needed to optimize output. Inefficiencies for industry translate to higher prices at the pump. This would be a misguided policy now, and it would be a misguided policy in the future.

Thank you for your continued consideration of these important factors as you lead our country through this energy crisis. American energy production and exports will continue to help meet this geopolitical moment, and it must remain a key piece of our domestic and global policy for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicente Gonzalez'.

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Cuellar'.

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Luis Correa'.

J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lizzie Fletcher'.

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia R. Garcia'.

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ryan'.

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy  
The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce