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 request[1] – 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-utLvlLcb6ER12eMyWFRysqUqM5hhV-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
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Ted Budd
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress

Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

William Timmons
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

John R. Curtis
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress

Brian Mast
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

August Pfluger
Member of Congress

Bob Good
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

Billy Long
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

Greg Pence
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Michael Guest
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

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

Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress

Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

Barry Moore
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

Van Taylor
Member of Congress

Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress

J. French Hill
Member of Congress

Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

Greg F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

Kat Cammack
Member of Congress

Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson, IV
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

Paul A Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress

Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Julia Letlow
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress