

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 10, 2022

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

Dear President Biden:

We are concerned about your Administration's handling of domestic energy production in the United States and the implications it imposes on national security. Your Administration has crippled domestic energy production, including canceling the Keystone Pipeline, placing a moratorium on oil and gas production on federal land, and proposing taxpayers fund the Green New Deal with billions of dollars. These policies have led to surging gas and heating prices. Meanwhile, you lifted sanctions to allow construction to continue on the Russian-owned Nord Stream 2 pipeline.<sup>1</sup> The decision to reduce American energy production is even more troubling now that U.S. liquefied natural gas companies (LNG) are being asked to increase production because of Russia's threat to invade Ukraine.

On February 7, 2022, Secretary of State Blinken accused Russia of withholding at least one-third of the natural gas that it is capable of sending to Europe.<sup>2</sup> The International Energy Agency has confirmed that Russian exports of natural gas were down by 25 percent the last three months of 2021.<sup>3</sup> As fears rise that Russia is nearing an invasion of Ukraine it only furthers the desperate situation that Europe will face if this invasion causes Russia to shut off natural gas exports.<sup>4</sup> Many experts believe that following an invasion of Ukraine, Russia would then withhold natural gas exports to Europe that travel through Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> This would have a devastating impact on Europe as Russia supplies one third of the continent's natural gas.<sup>6</sup> As European stockpiles of natural gas are already low, this would drastically exacerbate the problem and energy costs would significantly increase.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Gardner & Kate Abnett, EU, US pledge gas cooperation as tensions rise over Ukraine, REUTERS (Feb. 7, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Josh Siegel & Ben Lefebvre, Blinken calls out Russia for cutting natural gas supply to Europe, POLITICO (Feb. 7, 2022).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> David McHugh & Vladimir Isachenkov, EXPLAINER: Europe lacks natural gas. Is it Russia's fault?, AP NEWS (Nov. 17, 2021).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

According to media reports, the Administration has held talks with U.S.-based liquified natural gas companies to encourage them to increase supplies that could then be sent to Europe.<sup>8</sup> It raises serious questions for this Administration to slow down domestic energy production and then subsequently plead with companies to increase supply due to an international conflict.<sup>9</sup> In fact, the U.S. should increase domestic energy production to ensure energy independence and prevent a foreign power from ever obtaining leverage over the U.S. like Russia has over Europe.<sup>10</sup>

Your Administration's efforts to curtail domestic energy production have led the U.S. to rely even more on foreign energy. This is troubling. America is leading the way in clean LNG technologies that are changing the global energy landscape while your Administration has focused on restricting this sector. LNG industries not only supply thousands of good paying jobs, they are lowering global greenhouse gas emissions with cleaner burning American natural gas. The Administration's request to increase production in Europe comes at a time when the American people are already dealing with rising energy costs to heat their homes and operate their cars—all thanks to the Administration's policies aimed at reducing domestic energy production.

To assist Committee Republicans in better understanding the Biden Administration's plan to increase LNG exports to Europe due to Russia's threat to invade Ukraine, please provide the following information as soon as possible but no later than February 24, 2022.

- (1) Has the Administration engaged or sought input from American LNG companies about the additional export opportunities to Europe due to Russia's threat to invade Ukraine?
- (2) What is the Administration's plan to protect U.S. energy markets in the case of disruption in the European market due to Russia's threat to invade Ukraine?
- (3) Does the Administration have a plan to increase domestic energy production generally?
- (4) Will the request for LNG to be sent to Europe impact U.S. LNG exports to other countries?

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Oversight Committee Republican Staff at 202-225-5074. Thank you for your cooperation with this inquiry.

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<sup>8</sup> Timothy Gardner & Kate Abnett, EU, US pledge gas cooperation as tensions rise over Ukraine, REUTERS (Feb. 7, 2022).

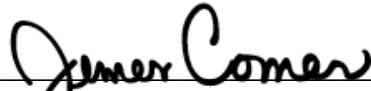
<sup>9</sup> David McHugh & Vladimir Isachenkov, EXPLAINER: Europe lacks natural gas. Is it Russia's fault?, AP NEWS (Nov. 17, 2021).

<sup>10</sup> Josh Siegel & Ben Lefebvre, Blinken calls out Russia for cutting natural gas supply to Europe, POLITICO (Feb. 7, 2022).

Sincerely,



Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice  
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Subcommittee on Government  
Operations



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Subcommittee on National Security



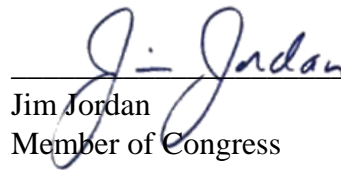
Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and  
Consumer Policy



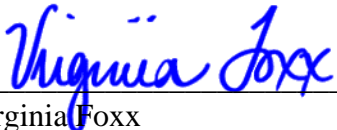
Ralph Norman  
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Subcommittee on Environment



Nancy Mace  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and  
Civil Liberties



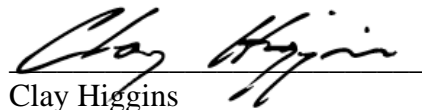
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Member of Congress




Virginia Foxx  
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Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress

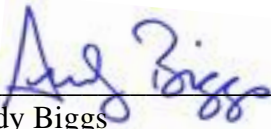


Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

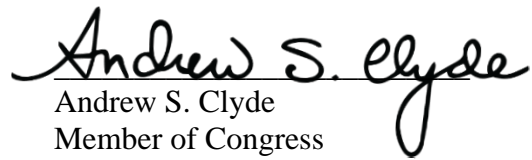
The Honorable Joseph R. Biden

February 10, 2022

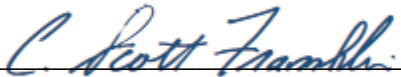
Page 4



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



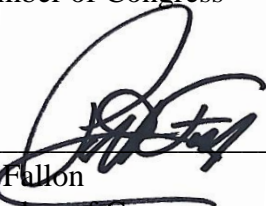
Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



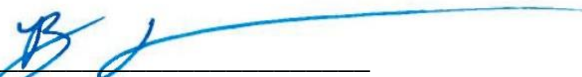
Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties