

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

July 20, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

We are continuing oversight of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) depletion of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).¹ According to DOE, a recent sale of oil from the SPR transferred 900,000 barrels of oil to Unipec America, a subsidiary of Sinopec, a company owned by the Chinese Communist Party, and most troubling, a recipient of billions of dollars of investment by one of Hunter Biden's equity funds, BHR Partners (BHR).² The decision to sell to Unipec raises questions about why the Biden Administration is selling oil from the SPR to China, especially when the sale may enrich Hunter Biden, the President's son. This transaction is even more troubling given that evidence continues to mount showing the Biden family peddled access to the highest levels of government to enrich themselves.³ In order to ensure the American people that DOE and the Biden Administration are properly managing the sale of critical assets from the SPR and not further enriching the Biden family, we request a briefing and documents related to this matter.

DOE records show that in April 2022 the Department sold almost \$100 million worth of oil to Unipec a subsidiary of Sinopec, a Chinese oil company.⁴ According to documents reviewed by Committee Republicans and supported by media reports, one of Hunter Biden's

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al, H. Comm. On Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Energy (May 26, 2022).

² U.S. Dept. Of Energy, FY22 Emergency Drawdown No. 2 Apparently Successful Offers Report, *available at* <https://www.spr.doe.gov/doeec/OilSaleArchivalReports/OilSaleArchive.htm>.

³ Letter from Hon. James Comer, Ranking Member, H. Comm. On Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Janet Yellen, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Treasury (July 14, 2022).

⁴ U.S. Dept. of Energy, Press Release, DOE Announces Sales From Strategic Petroleum Reserve to Combat Putin's Price Hike, Apr. 21, 2022, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-sales-strategic-petroleum-reserve-combat-putins-price-hike>.

private equity firms, BHR, invested \$1.7 billion in Sinopec in 2015.⁵ It appears that Hunter Biden still maintains a financial interest in BHR, raising serious questions about the motivation behind selling oil from the SPR to Sinopec and whether DOE was aware of Hunter Biden's financial stake.

The SPR was created so the U.S. would have a stockpile of crude oil supply to be used in the case of an emergency.⁶ It was never intended to provide oil to adversaries such as China. The American people deserve to know more about the DOE's recent sales activity and whether the President's son benefited financially. On May 26, 2022, Committee Republicans requested a staff-level briefing on DOE's decision to deplete the SPR.⁷ You have failed to provide this briefing. We reiterate our prior request and ask that you immediately schedule this briefing no later than July 27, 2022, so that we can better understand how DOE decided to sell oil to a Chinese company with connections to the President's son.⁸ In addition, we request the following items no later than August 3, 2022:

1. All documents and communications, from January 20, 2021 to present, referring or relating to the sale of oil from the SPR to Unipec.
2. All documents and communications, from January 20, 2021 to present, referring or relating to Hunter Biden and/or BHR Partners.

To ask any follow-up related questions, or to schedule the briefing, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,


James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform


Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations

⁵ Tristan Justice, *Biden Sold Oil From Emergency Reserves to Chinese Gas Giant Tied to His Scandal-Plague Son*, the Federalist, July 8, 2022.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al, H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform, to Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Energy (May 26, 2022).

⁸ *Id.*



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



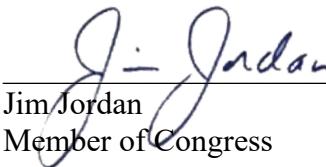
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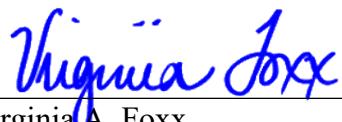
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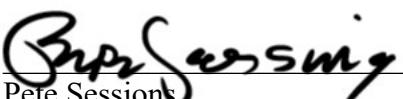
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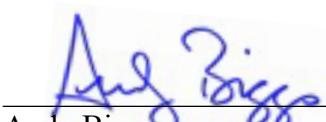
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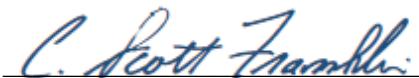
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Yvette Herrell
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Mike Flood
Member of Congress

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