

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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

August 24, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans are examining the false claims made by the Biden Administration about the impact of electric vehicles (EVs) on American jobs. Ford Motor Co.'s (Ford) recent announcement it will cut up to 8,000 mostly American jobs to fund its EV investment is a stark contrast to the economic benefits promised by the Administration.¹ Ford's decision to reach an agreement with a Chinese company to supply batteries for its EVs indicates it is the Chinese—not Americans—who stand to benefit from the Biden Administration's policy to shift to EVs.² As the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and an advocate for Americans' widespread adoption of EVs, your agency is in a position to explain how Ford's actions help American workers and the economy.

According to media reports, Ford will begin cutting jobs this summer “to boost profits to fund its push into the electric-vehicle market[.]”³ Most of the 8,000 jobs will be salaried workers in the United States, representing as much as 25 percent of Ford's American salaried workers.⁴ Though the cuts are meant to “finance Ford's electric ambitions,” Ford is focusing on eliminating employees from its gas-fueled vehicle line.⁵ Ford has also announced it will acquire EV batteries from the Chinese company Contemporary Amperex Technology Company Limited (CATL), which according to the *New York Times*, “underscores the dominant position of Chinese companies in the supply chain for electric vehicles[.]”⁶ CATL alone “holds one-third of the global electric-car-battery market.”⁷ This raises concerns about whether the push for EVs over

¹ Keith Naughton and Edward Ludlow, *Ford Plans Up to 8,000 Job Cuts to Help Fund EV Investment*, BLOOMBERG (Jul. 20, 2022).

² Neal E. Boudette, *Ford increases its battery supply to meet its electric-vehicle goals*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 21, 2022).

³ *Supra*, n. 1.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Supra*, n. 2.

⁷ Keith Bradsher and Michael Forsythe, *Why a Chinese Company Dominates Electric Car Batteries*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 22, 2021).

gas-fueled vehicles will make America even more reliant on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) instead of American energy resources.

The American transportation industry's reliance on CATL—a company “now worth more than General Motors and Ford combined” is particularly troubling.⁸ CATL is influential in the Chinese government—being able to independently draft government safety regulations while completely dominating the EV battery market with support from the Chinese government.⁹ CATL is considering two factories in Mexico to produce batteries for Ford and other vehicle manufacturers.¹⁰ It is troubling that the Administration-endorsed EV future is already eliminating American jobs while benefiting China.

President Biden continues to provide mixed messages about America's energy policy that is split between blaming energy companies for both producing too much oil and not enough.¹¹ You are a vocal supporter of a shift towards EVs and encourage Americans to make the change. In testimony before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, you stated the rise of domestic clean energy production is “creating a lot of jobs.”¹² However, the actions taken by Ford confirm the opposite is true, and the people benefiting most from the Biden Administration's push for EVs are not Americans but our foreign adversaries.

Committee Republicans are concerned DOT and the Biden Administration in general are pushing EVs to the detriment of American workers and American interests. We request that you provide the Republican staff of the Committee a briefing to address the loss of American jobs and industry to China and other nations. Please make arrangements to schedule this briefing by August 31, 2022.

To schedule the briefing or to ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5704.

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.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Steven Loveday, *CATL Looks To Mexico For Battery Factories To Supply Tesla And Ford*, INSIDEEVs.COM (Jul. 18, 2022).

¹¹ *Compare* “Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” White House Briefing Room (Jan. 27, 2021) with President Biden (@POTUS), TWITTER (July 2, 2022, 12:00 PM), <https://twitter.com/potus/status/1543263229006254080> (“Bring down the price you are charging at the pump to reflect the cost you're paying for the product. And do it now.”).

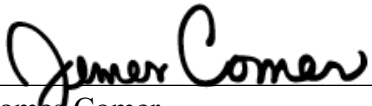
¹² *Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, Before the H. Comm. on Transportation & Infrastructure, 117th Cong. (2022) (testimony of Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Dep't of Transp.), *available at* <https://www.c-span.org/video/?521730-1/transportation-secretary-testifies-infrastructure-law>.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

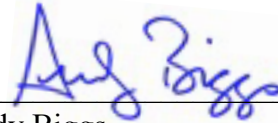
August 24, 2022

Page 3

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



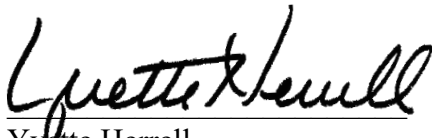
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



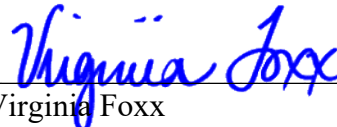
Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



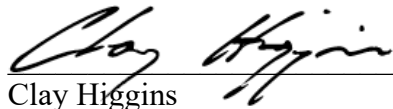
Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



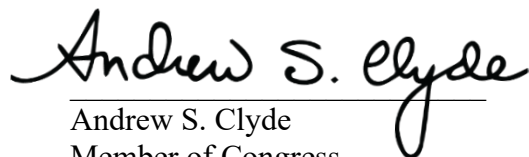
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress

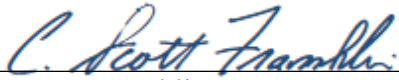


Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

August 24, 2022

Page 4



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Mike Flood
Member of Congress

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

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