

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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April 15, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating the potential for threats against critical infrastructure—especially physical energy infrastructure—as radical ecoterrorist calls to violence are increasingly promoted across the globe, including at American universities. We write to obtain a briefing, to be held in an appropriate setting, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on eco-terrorist threats against physical energy infrastructure in the United States and implications for national security.

Last year, it was reported that the FBI Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate issued a bulletin to federal, state, and local authorities warning that the film adaptation of the book “How to Blow Up a Pipeline” could spark eco-terrorism against U.S. energy infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> The April 6, 2023, bulletin states that “The film has potential to inspire threat actors to target oil and gas infrastructure with explosives or other destructive devices.”<sup>2</sup> In addition to the FBI’s warnings, 23 other government entities, including a Canadian energy regulator, also issued warnings relating to the impacts of the film and the threat it might create in the context of environmental violent extremism.<sup>3</sup>

Recent reporting indicates that the book “How to Blow Up a Pipeline” is now included in the required reading curriculum for courses at multiple universities across the country.<sup>4</sup> This “lyrical manifesto” is also sold on Harvard University’s online bookstore and includes within the description the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Jana Winter, *Law-Enforcement Agencies Have Sent 35 Warnings About This Movie*, ROLLING STONE (April 21, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*; see also Katarina Szulc, *A film called ‘How to Blow Up a Pipeline’ prompts warning from Alberta Energy Regulator*, CBC NEWS (Apr. 26, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Luke Rosiak, *State Universities are Teaching Students to Blow Up Oil Pipelines, Records Show*, THE DAILY WIRE (Feb. 26, 2024).

“We need, he argues, to force fossil fuel extraction to stop—with our actions, with our bodies, and by defusing and destroying its tools. We need, in short, to start blowing up some oil pipelines... Malm argues that the strategic acceptance of property destruction and violence has been the only route for revolutionary change.”<sup>5</sup>

The book also admires violence and terrorist activities beyond ecoterrorist motivations. For example, it refers to and justifies potentially deadly terrorist activities involving sending improvised incendiary devices involving “kites and helium-inflated condoms carrying incendiary materials” into Israel as “mass resistance.”<sup>6</sup> The director, the writer, and the editor of the film adaptation of the book appeared on a podcast justifying ecoterrorism against infrastructure, arguing that destroying energy infrastructure should be construed legally as “self-defense” and that the definition of terrorism doesn’t include acts against infrastructure.<sup>7</sup>

In response to questioning by Rep. Michael Waltz at a March 12, 2024, hearing before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, you referred to this book and its inclusion as required reading in universities as “totally unacceptable,” and committed to continuing to assess any related domestic terrorism threats and funding sources enabling those threats.

With radical environmentalists around the world commonly engaged in the destruction or attempted destruction of art and other property, blocking transit, disrupting private gatherings, and delaying energy infrastructure projects, the Committee seeks to understand the threat that environmental violent extremists also pose to the physical energy infrastructure of the United States and implications for national security. To assist the Committee’s oversight, we request a briefing with relevant FBI subject matter experts, to be held in an appropriate setting, on the threat of eco-terrorism against physical energy infrastructure in the United States as soon as possible, but no later than April 22, 2024.

To schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority Staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee in 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Harvard Book Store, *How to Blow Up a Pipeline* by Andreas Malm, *available at* [https://www.harvard.com/book/how\\_to\\_blow\\_up\\_a\\_pipeline/](https://www.harvard.com/book/how_to_blow_up_a_pipeline/) (last accessed Mar. 12, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> *Supra*, n.4.

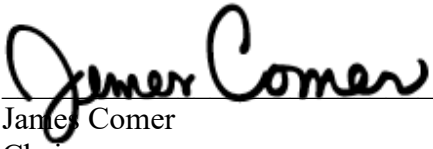
<sup>7</sup> The Kaitie Halper Show, *Karina Gonzalez, Juan C. Davila, Daniel Goldhaber, Jordan Sjol & Daniel Garber* (Apr. 18, 2023), *available at* <https://www.patreon.com/posts/live-at-7pm-est-81715106>.

The Honorable Christopher Wray

April 15, 2024

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Sincerely,



James Comer  
Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Glenn Grothman  
Chairman

Subcommittee on National Security,  
the Border, and Foreign Affairs



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs