HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

January 26, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As Members of Congress representing districts with significant energy infrastructure, we write today with great concern regarding your recent actions taken against our nation's energy producers. At your inauguration, you spoke of healing, unity, and a path forward for the United States, but shortly thereafter you made several unilateral orders that will eliminate millions of jobs for working Americans, and leave our national security open to threats from adversaries. These measures will not lead our nation forward but instead undermine our prosperity, innovation, and safety. Therefore, we strongly urge you to reconsider the dangerous and sweeping actions you have taken against an industry that is crucial to our success and prioritize the following policies:

1. **Continue American Energy Independence:** Energy independence is essential to our national security. The more energy the United States produces and exports, the less we and our allies need to rely on unstable totalitarian regimes and great power threats like Russia. Over the last year, we have been reminded of the disastrous security effects of dependence on other countries for critical goods. Therefore, we must continue to strengthen our domestic energy economy and protect our supply chain.
2. **Advance Oil and Natural Gas Exports:** America is in a global race to secure a leadership position in the international energy market. Nations that quickly attract investment and global customers will reap the economic rewards. Additionally, by expanding the exportation of liquified natural gas, we can help the world's largest polluters, like China and India, reduce their carbon footprint. We must modernize our infrastructure and expand comprehensive free trade agreements to strengthen our competitive position in the global market.
3. **End Global Energy Poverty:** Even in the 21st century, more than a billion people worldwide still lack access to electricity. By unleashing the power of American natural gas and oil, we can help communities that are suffering from energy poverty. As the leader of the free world, we have a responsibility to address energy inadequacies where we can and bring about a better quality of life for those struggling for basic infrastructure.
4. **Support Rural Economies and Critical Infrastructure:** In rural America, where employment options are often limited, the energy industry generates high-paying jobs for millions of working families. For example, in 2020, Texas oil and gas employers paid an average salary of $128,861, which is more than double the average pay in other private sectors. Additionally, the industry contributes tremendously to state and local tax coffers, paying billions in state and local taxes and state royalties in fiscal year 2020. This revenue from production, pipelines, and refineries contributes billions of dollars in funding for public education, transportation, first responders, and other critical infrastructure like coastal restoration and flood protection systems.

The oil and gas producers across the country provide millions of high paying jobs and a safe and affordable supply of energy to our nation. In order to accelerate our recovery from the pandemic, foster prosperity for future generations, and secure American interests around the globe, you must reject and counteract extreme policies that are hostile to our critical oil and gas industry before the effects become irreversible.

Sincerely,

Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

Rep. Dan Newhouse

Rep. Liz Cheney

Rep. David Rouzer

Rep. Jody Hice

Rep. Fred Keller

Rep. Kelly Armstrong

Rep. Paul Gosar

Rep. Tim Walberg

Rep. Carol D. Miller

Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

Rep. Pete Sessions

Rep. Greg Pence

Rep. Chip Roy

Rep. Markwayne Mullin

Rep. Jeff Duncan

Rep. August Pfluger

Rep. Brian Babin, D.D.S.

Rep. Louie Gohmert

Rep. Steve Scalise

Rep. Stephanie Bice

Rep. Burgess Owens

Rep. Ron Estes

Rep. Ronny Jackson

Rep. Ben Cline

Rep. Pete Stauber

Rep. Barry Loudermilk

Rep. Don Young

Rep. Gary Palmer

Rep. Lauren Boebert

Rep. Yvette Herrell

Rep. Robert E. Latta

Rep. Robert B. Aderholt

Rep. Jerry Carl

Rep. Rick W. Allen

Rep. Kevin Hern