

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2022

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The world is in peril and we would like to work in a bipartisan manner to meet the challenges of our time. In the area of energy independence, we have lost ground. Opening up American oil and gas deposits, and in particular approving the Keystone XL Pipeline, would benefit our allies suffering under Russian tyranny and American consumers facing steadily increasing prices at the pump.

In the last decade, domestic oil production has doubled, putting the United States in a preferred energy position by making us less dependent on foreign sources of oil. However, our position has recently deteriorated due to several actions you took:

On January 20, 2021, you signed an Executive Order (E.O.) revoking the 2019 permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline. The E.O. stated the Keystone XL Pipeline would not serve U.S. national interests and the significance of the proposed pipeline for our energy security and economy is limited. As a result of this action, American energy independence has been curtailed and the U.S. market is deprived of 830,000 barrels of oil per day flowing from a stable North American ally.

On January 27, 2021, you issued another E.O. directing the Secretary of the Interior to pause new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and offshore waters. This leasing pause coupled with other factors has resulted in the United States purchasing on average 670,000 barrels of Russian oil per day to meet our domestic needs.

Through smart energy production, we can fulfill our energy needs while simultaneously exporting oil and gas to our allies. Low carbon technologies are worth investing in; however, the reality of the moment is that America is increasingly reliant on imports of foreign oil. The spike in oil price is a result of Russia's incursion into Ukraine, which benefits the Putin regime and hurts American consumers.

We urge you to lead the world in sanctioning Russia's oil and gas sector, which makes up almost 40% of their revenue. We must reverse course and hit Russia's energy sector for Putin's outrage against Ukraine and other atrocities. Further, we encourage you to reconsider the Keystone Pipeline and work with energy producers to responsibly increase oil and gas production at home. These actions will lessen the impact of increasing energy costs on American consumers and strike a blow against Putin.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator