

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2021

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

Dear President Biden,

As you know, on May 7, 2021, the Colonial Pipeline Company was the victim of a cybersecurity attack which forced the 5,500 mile Colonial Pipeline offline. This pipeline transports roughly 45 percent of the East Coast's fuel supply, from the Gulf Coast through the southeast United States to New Jersey. While Colonial Pipeline Company works to rapidly resume pipeline operations, many Americans are faced with scenes reminiscent of the Carter Administration—long lines at the pump and, in some cases, complete lack of supply of gasoline.

The rapid onset of this crisis, caused by a Russian criminal organization, highlights the need to invest in our nation's critical infrastructure. We urge you to reevaluate the regulations and permitting processes that prevent construction of new pipelines to distribute fuel throughout the country and the expansion of domestic refining capacity. During this current crisis your administration has taken action to address the immediate supply shortages. But these are not the permanent reforms we need for the sustainable future of our economy and energy infrastructure.

Instead of ensuring that the reliability and low costs of American energy independence are enjoyed by every family across the country, your early actions as President have only made our nation more fuel insecure and exacerbated cost disparities between different parts of the country. On the first day of your Administration, you announced the revocation of the cross-border permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline and reversed other executive orders aimed at streamlining the federal permitting process for critical infrastructure projects. These actions demonstrate an intent to make needed infrastructure construction more difficult. However, the current crisis created by taking a single pipeline offline shows that while our nation has made great strides towards total energy security, we must ensure that every region in the country can enjoy the same levels of energy reliability.

The Keystone XL Pipeline would have created thousands of jobs and transported oil from Canada, one of our closest allies and among the world's cleanest oil producers, to U.S. refineries. This reliable source of fuel would have further reduced our dependency on other nations that do not share our same ideals. Permitting difficulties have recently terminated other pipeline construction projects throughout the country. The planned Constitution pipeline would have

protracted permitting delays. Countless other pipelines, planned, under construction and in operation, remain in limbo along with the benefits of those pipelines in the form of jobs and affordable energy for U.S. consumers.

These projects demonstrate the failure to create a regulatory regime with transparent and consistent permitting timelines. Without changes, we will be unable to create the robust pipeline and refinery infrastructure our nation needs to insulate itself from cyber attacks like the one against the Colonial Pipeline. As a nation we have made great strides towards energy security over the last several years. But anti-domestic energy policies will subvert American energy dominance, to the benefit of Russia, OPEC and others. It is apparent that we must change our approach to ensure that every area of the country can enjoy the same low costs and level of reliability. Secretary Granholm recently made clear that in these areas of the country, “the pipe is the best way” to get them the resources they need.

As you move forward with proposed infrastructure legislation, it is imperative that we reject Green New Deal inspired approach and focus on true infrastructure and include reforms that actually allow the construction and permitting of new pipelines and refineries. Hardening our grid and pipeline networks against future cyber attacks also needs to be a priority. These investments will ensure our economy can continue to operate, flights remain on schedule, and that average Americans can start their car knowing they’ll have the gas they need to reach their destination. We ask that you work with Congress and direct your Administration to make a more robust and secure energy future possible.

Sincerely,



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
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Guy Reschenthaler
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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
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Member of Congress



Andy Barr
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Ralph Norman
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Tom Cole
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Bob Latta
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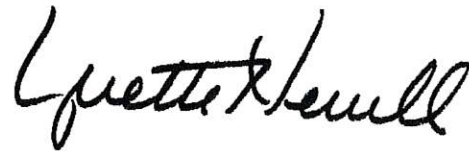
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Yvette Herrell
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Frank Lucas
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