

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 28, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

We are conducting oversight of the skyrocketing price of fuel, energy, and the projected heating costs for this upcoming winter. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that households could see their heating bills increase by as much as 54 percent in the coming months.<sup>1</sup> Both crude oil and natural gas have hit a seven-year high, while consumers are paying nearly a dollar more for gasoline than they did in 2020.<sup>2</sup> Increased demand, low energy stockpiles, increased foreign energy demand, and rampant government spending have all contributed to benchmark prices<sup>3</sup> that are at odds with your proposals for “a carbon pollution-free electricity sector no later than 2035” and “net-zero emissions, economy-wide, by no later than 2050.”<sup>4</sup> Committee Republicans are concerned that the Biden Administration is not taking this crisis seriously.

America should capitalize on the wealth of domestic natural resources that we possess. As of 2017, fossil fuels accounted for over 80 percent of American energy consumption,<sup>5</sup> with wind and solar together contributing merely 9 percent to national production.<sup>6</sup> A total overhaul of the energy industry catered solely to reduced carbon emissions would not only exact an 11.9 percent toll of the United States’ gross domestic product annually until 2050, it would also cost every American \$11,300 per year.<sup>7</sup> We simply cannot abandon the resources that have allowed for reliable and affordable energy sources for all Americans.

While we support energy solutions that promote sustainability, we do not support policies that will ultimately have little to no impact on the climate<sup>8</sup> while hurting our economy and

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<sup>1</sup> Stan Cho, *Winter heating bills set to jump as inflation hits home*, ABC NEWS, Oct. 13, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Josh Mitchell, *Soaring Energy Prices Raise Concerns About U.S. Inflation, Economy*, WALL ST. J., Oct. 10, 2021.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Exec. Order No. 14,008, 86 C.F.R. (2021).

<sup>5</sup> Cong. Western Caucus, *Western Caucus Forum: Exposing the Green New Deal*, (Feb. 27, 2018) (statement of Myron Ebell, Director, Center for Energy and Environment, Competitive Enterprise Institute).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* (statement of Thomas J. Pyle, President, American Energy Alliance).

<sup>7</sup> Bjorn Lomborg, *Biden’s Climate Ambitions Are Too Costly for Voters*, WALL ST. J., Oct. 14, 2021.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

limiting job opportunities for Americans. We urge you to work with all domestic suppliers—including those who produce fossil fuel-driven, sustainable, and renewable energy—to promote American energy independence in the face of OPEC+ supply manipulation and the impending European energy crisis.<sup>9</sup>

President Biden recently made troubling statements that he has no short-term solution for surging gas prices.<sup>10</sup> It is critical that the Biden Administration adopt an all-of-the-above energy approach as a natural solution to contend with our own, domestic ability to invest in increasingly efficient energy production methods. For example, we must embrace the natural gas boom occurring in communities across our country. Continuing to ignore the realities of energy supply, demand, and production will jeopardize homeland security and threaten economic stability.

To help us better understand the Biden Administration's plan to combat rising energy costs, please make arrangements to schedule a briefing with Republican Committee staff on this matter. Please schedule the briefing no later than November 10, 2021. To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074.

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. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

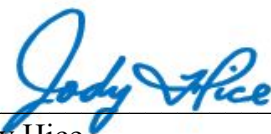
Sincerely,



Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government Operations



Glenn S. Grothman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security

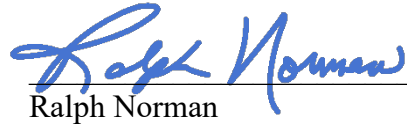
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<sup>9</sup> Walter Russel Mead, *Energy Crisis Hobbles Biden's Green Agenda*, WALL ST. J., Oct. 18, 2021.

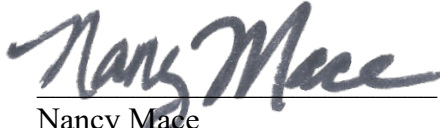
<sup>10</sup> Samuel Chamberlain, *Pain at the Pump: Biden Admits 'I Don't have a near-term answer' for High Gas Prices*, N.Y. POST, Oct. 21, 2021.



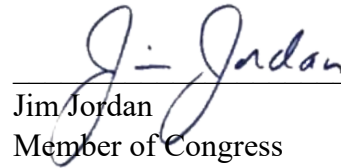
Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and  
Consumer Policy



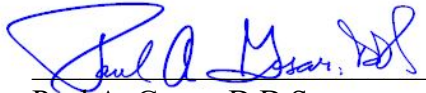
Ralph Norman  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment



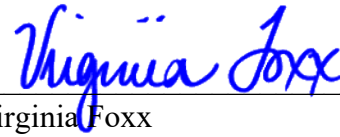
Nancy Mace  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and  
Civil Liberties



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



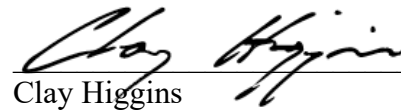
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



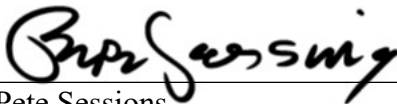
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



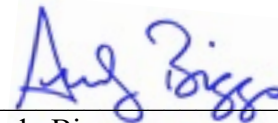
Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



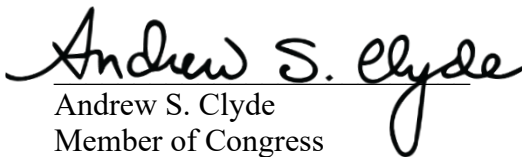
Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



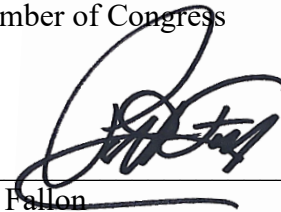
Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



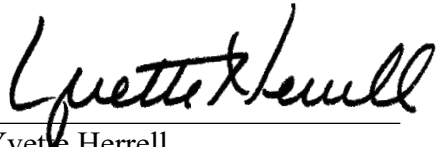
Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

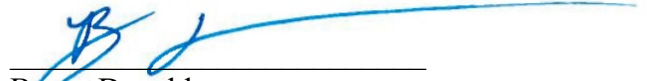


Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



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Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



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Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress

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

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Operations

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

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties