



March 13, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Big Oil and Gas Exploitation of the Ukraine War

Dear Mr. President,

Like most Americans, I have been watching the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine with growing horror and a steadily growing resolve that we must do everything that we can to help the people of Ukraine fight off this unprovoked war to destroy their democracy and freedom.

However, I am outraged to learn that the oil and gas industry is attempting to use this crisis to lobby for expanded drilling, fossil fuel infrastructure and reduced regulation, all decency and climate change consequences be damned. According to what I am seeing in the news, Ukraine needs weapons systems, not oil and gas. Surface to air missiles that can bring down high altitude bombers like the one that dropped a bomb on that maternity hospital in Mariupol would be nice.

You cannot let the oil and gas industry get away with profiting from this crisis and undermining efforts to transition away from fossil fuels. In fact, given the financial reports that I have seen and the prices we are paying at the pump, we should be considering an excess profits tax. Also, I have heard that they already have ten years' worth of drilling leases and that nearly all of the infrastructure they are proposing would take three to four years to come on line. How is that supposed to help Ukraine with their war effort or us and the world cope with the consequences of the sanctions that we and our allies are imposing on Russia? The answer is that it doesn't.

What would help would be to use the Defense Production Act to accelerate the production of renewable energy technologies and the transition to electrified transportation systems and HVAC systems for buildings. Instead of replacing Russian gas with U.S. gas we must accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels altogether. In fact, Germany has just announced that they plan to do exactly that.

For decades we have gone through crises and wars in which oil and gas were either at the center or a big factor. For far too long, we have looked aside as countries and leaders propped up by fossil fuels have gotten away with terrible things. We must stop using fossil fuels. For the sake of our climate, for the freedom and self-determination of the world's peoples and to free the world of petro-dictators like Putin.

We cannot let the oil and gas industry keep us trapped in this corrupt and exploitive energy system. No to additional leases. No to new oil and gas infrastructure. No to reduced regulation. Yes to an excess profits tax.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____