

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

November 19, 2021

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

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

President Biden and Secretary Granholm:

As your Administration considers tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to help slow rising gas prices, we write to express our concern and opposition to this proposed plan of action. Gas prices have and will continue to rise due to production restrictions on federal lands, cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline, and heightened environmental regulations, including those on methane emissions. In addition, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) recently rejected President Biden's request for more crude exports to the U.S. We should not extract oil from the SPR to address a self-inflicted crisis caused by this administration. We must continue to reserve the world's largest supply of emergency crude for national emergencies that cannot otherwise be prevented.

The SPR was created in 1975 in response to the oil embargo created by OPEC. America had become increasingly dependent on foreign oil and was left in economic turmoil before President Nixon and President Ford worked to create an energy strategy to boost domestic production and reduce our country's vulnerability to oil imports and fuel shortages. This led to the creation of the SPR, which has since protected our country from oil shortages after natural and economic disasters.

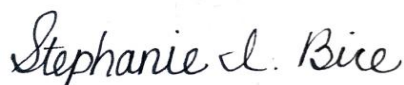
During the winter storms that descended upon Texas and Oklahoma this past winter, oil reserves were used due to the incapacity of pipeline operations. In other emergencies, the SPR released 1.5 million barrels of crude oil to aid Louisianans after Hurricane Ida and 11 million in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. At times when our country could not produce enough for domestic demand, we could rely on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to protect our economy and our people.

There is no reason to use our country's safety net to bail out President Biden's failed policies and poor planning. Rather, it would be in our best interest to reopen oil and gas production on federal lands, which would equate to a 20% increase in our domestic oil production. If we were to

withdraw reserves from the SPR that are currently priced at \$29/per barrel and forced to replace them at a cost of over \$80/per barrel (and growing), we would be creating another economic nightmare for taxpayers.

Higher gas prices hurt the American public. Encouraging domestic oil and gas production helps to create American jobs, energy independence from Russia and the Middle East, and cheaper visits to the pump. Resorting to withdrawals from the SPR only postpones reality and creates larger economic concerns for the future. At a time when we will undoubtedly have harsh winter storms and hurricanes, along with an uncertain global geopolitical environment, future withdrawals from the SPR may be urgently needed. We must ensure the SPR is fully stocked and able to protect Americans the way it was intended to.

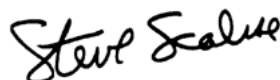
Sincerely,



Stephanie I. Bice
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
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