

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

1615 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062
(202) 463-5310

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Cuellar, Fletcher, Gonzalez, and Veasey:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce thanks you for your leadership in standing up for the economic and security benefits that come from energy production on federal lands. Millions of families rely on the oil and gas industry for rewarding careers. Much as it did during the Great Recession, this industry is poised to catalyze economic growth and job creation as our economy recovers from the pandemic. Your recent letter to President Biden makes clear that his decision to indefinitely ban energy leasing on federal waters and lands is harmful.

Federal lands and waters account for 22% of total U.S. oil production and 12% of natural gas production. President Biden's action has already produced a chilling effect on job growth in the offshore and onshore industry at a point when over 10 million more Americans are jobless than this time last year.

Halting production on federal lands and waters in any form will do nothing to diminish increasing energy demand as the global economy recovers and will invariably result in an increase in imported oil. As imports increase, so will greenhouse gas emissions as the crude will be transported via higher emitting modes of transportation. A ban on oil and natural gas production on federal waters and lands is bad policy at any time, but especially as we focus on economic recovery.

We applaud your leadership in drawing attention to this misguided and counterproductive policy and we hope the President will listen to your input and reconsider his decision. We look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley