

April 19th, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Cc:

White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy  
Special Climate Envoy John Kerry  
Secretary Antony Blinken, Department of State  
Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Department of Transportation  
Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm, Department of Energy  
Administrator Michael Regan, Environmental Protection Agency  
Chair Brenda Mallory, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Ambassador Katherine C. Tai, U.S. Trade Representative

Dear President Biden,

The climate crisis, caused overwhelmingly by fossil fuels, poses an existential threat to every aspect of society. The harms from fossil fuel extraction, exports and climate disruption fall first and worst on Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other Communities of Color, as well as low-wealth and other frontline communities. In order to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and advance environmental justice, the United States must not only stop producing and burning fossil fuels at home but also stop exporting them to be burned elsewhere. Accordingly, we ask that you use your executive authority as President to reinstate the ban on crude oil exports, ban gas exports, end coal exports, and reject proposed fossil fuel export infrastructure.

In [one of your first acts of climate leadership](#) as President, you directed the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to “take steps, consistent with applicable law, to ensure that Federal infrastructure investment reduces climate pollution, and to require that Federal permitting decisions consider the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.”

Accordingly, the undersigned organizations representing millions of supporters and members call on you to take action immediately as follows:

1. **Reinstate the ban on crude oil exports.** Declare a Climate Emergency under the National Emergencies Act to reinstate the crude oil export ban on an annual basis.
2. **Ban gas exports to the fullest extent possible.** Direct the Department of Energy to find that natural gas exports are not in the public interest due to their climate harms and stop approving new applications, at a minimum, to all countries without a free trade agreement as enumerated under the Natural Gas Act.
3. **Reject fossil fuel export infrastructure.** Direct federal agencies to deny all permits and approvals for oil, gas, coal, and petrochemical export facilities except in the exceptionally rare circumstances where the applicable statute(s) may prohibit denial.

Oil and gas exports are on the rise, driven by the fracking boom and enabled by Congress' reversal of the 40-year-old crude oil export ban in 2015. A [2020 report](#) found that oil exports

have increased by 750% since 2015, peaking at approximately 3.4 million barrels per day in 2019. As of October 2019, 24% of all crude extracted in the United States was exported. Gas exports are on a similar trajectory. In the first half of 2019, US liquid gas exports averaged 4.1 billion Bcf/d, more than double the daily average for 2018.

The surge of oil and gas exports is driven by a massive expansion of fracking, which has created booms and busts across the U.S. in the 17 years since the Energy Policy Act of 2005 was signed by President George W. Bush. Fracked oil and gas wells decline faster than conventional wells, leaving behind a scarred landscape and tremendous [risk of closure liabilities](#) to be borne by taxpayers.

The latest, most dangerous oil and gas boom is in the Permian Basin. Situated over approximately 6,000 square miles in west Texas and Southeast New Mexico, the Permian is effectively the largest carbon bomb on the planet. Burning all the oil, gas, and gas liquids projected to be produced in the Permian Basin between 2021 and 2050 [would emit](#) 42 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to the annual emissions of 400 typical U.S. coal plants over the 31-year period — or roughly 10% of the world's remaining carbon budget under a 1.5° scenario. This does not include emissions from methane releases, meaning the actual climate impact is likely magnitudes higher. Because US refiners cannot process more Permian crude, effectively every new barrel of oil produced is exported —causing substantial, unnecessary harm to communities and the climate along the way. If the dozens of proposed oil and LNG export projects under federal jurisdiction are built, Gulf Coast communities will suffer acute, significant impacts of added pollution, and then take a double hit when climate disasters strike. The urgency of changing course is all-too-real for Gulf Coast communities that were hit by 2020's record-breaking hurricane season and 2021's infrastructure-crippling deep freeze.

The 2015 legislation lifting the crude oil export ban [allows](#) the President to reinstate the ban on a year-by-year basis through declaring a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act, the law that codifies the emergency powers of the President. Since it was passed in 1976, every President has declared multiple national emergencies under this law. In April 2016, 350 organizations [petitioned](#) President Obama to reinstate the crude oil export ban, setting forth the climate rationale. Since that time, the case for reinstating the ban has only grown stronger and more urgent. In January, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer [called on you](#) to declare a national climate emergency, alongside a growing chorus of Members of Congress advancing the [National Climate Emergency Act of 2021](#) and [nearly 750 organizations](#) nationwide.

As President, you can also immediately ban at least a subset of gas exports. Parties seeking to export gas must file an application with the Department of Energy pursuant to the Natural Gas Act. While the Act mandates a finding of public interest for export to countries with existing free trade agreements, for exports to all other countries, you may clearly direct the Department of Energy on the criteria for the public interest finding. You have both the [legal authority](#) and the moral, scientific, and political imperative to find that gas exports are not in the public interest due to their climate harms and prohibit exports to countries to the fullest extent allowed under the Natural Gas Act.

In addition, we call on you to do everything within your power as President to end coal exports. The U.S. is a net exporter of coal, one of the dirtiest fossil fuels. In 2020 the United States exported about [69 MMst of coal](#)—equal to about 13% of U.S. coal production. We also ask you

to end overseas finance for fossil fuel exports and infrastructure, consistent with a [letter](#) signed by over 400 organizations worldwide.

The United States must be a global leader in advancing climate, racial and economic justice, end the era of fossil fuel exports and build back fossil free, delivering jobs, justice, and opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

1. Carrizo-Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
2. Center for Biological Diversity
3. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
4. Delaware Riverkeeper Network
5. Earthworks
6. Food and Water Watch
7. Friends of the Earth US
8. Global Witness
9. Greenpeace USA
10. Indigenous Environmental Network
11. Indigenous People of the Coastal Bend
12. Oil Change International
13. Rogue Climate
14. Sierra Club
15. San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
16. Society of Native Nations
17. Texas Campaign for the Environment
18. Turtle Island Restoration Network
19. 198 methods
20. 2degrees Northampton MA
21. 350 Chicago
22. 350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
23. 350 Eugene
24. 350 Everett, WA
25. 350 Mass Metro North Node
26. 350 New Orleans
27. 350 Silicon Valley
28. 350 Tacoma
29. 350 Triangle
30. 350 Ventura County Climate Hub
31. 350.org
32. 350Hawaii
33. 350Kishwaukee (Illinois)
34. 350PDX
35. Action Center on Race and the Economy
36. Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
37. Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
38. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
39. Animas Valley Institute

40. Another Gulf Is Possible
41. Anthropocene Alliance
42. Anything Solar Inc
43. Athens County Future Action Network
44. Be The Change - Colorado
45. Ben & Jerry's Homemade, Inc.
46. Benton County Oregon Green party
47. Berks Gas Truth
48. Better Path Coalition
49. Beyond Extreme Energy
50. Bold Alliance
51. Businesses for a Livable Climate
52. California Businesses for a Livable Climate
53. Call to Action Colorado
54. Cascadia Climate Action Now
55. Cascadia Wildlands
56. Catholic Divestment Network
57. CatholicNetwork US
58. Center for a Competitive Waste Industry
59. Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)
60. Central Bergen Circle of GreenFaith
61. CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
62. Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump
63. Cheyenne River Grassroots Collective
64. Christians For The Mountain
65. Church Women United in New York State
66. Citizen Power, Inc.
67. Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Freeport Texas
68. Citizens for Renewables, Inc.
69. Citizens' Climate Lobby - Ventura Chapter
70. Citizens' Environmental Coalition
71. Clean Economy Coalition
72. Clean Energy Action
73. Clean Energy Action - Colorado
74. Clean Energy Now Texas
75. Climable, Inc.
76. Climate Action Now Western Mass
77. Climate Hawks Vote
78. Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
79. Coalition Against Pipelines
80. Coalition to Protect New York
81. Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
82. Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
83. Columbus Community Bill of Rights
84. Columbus Community Rights Coalition
85. Common Ground Rising
86. Concerned Health Professionals of New York
87. Concerned Ohio River Residents

88. Conejo Climate Coalition
89. Cooperative Energy Futures
90. Courage California
91. CURE
92. Deep Green Resistance
93. Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
94. Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
95. Earth Action, Inc.
96. EARTHDAY.ORG
97. Eco-Eating
98. Eco-Justice Collaborative
99. ecoAmerica
100. EcoEquity
101. Elmirans & Friends Against Fracking
102. Empower our Future
103. Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
104. FCCPR Climate Change Task Force
105. First United Methodist Church, Environmental Care Team
106. For Love of Water (FLOW)
107. Fossil Free California
108. Frac Sand Sentinel: Project Outreach
109. FracTracker Alliance
110. Franciscan Action Network
111. FreshWater Accountability Project
112. Fridays for Future USA
113. Fuerza Mundial
114. Future Coalition
115. George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
116. Georgia Conservation Voters
117. Geos Institute
118. Global Exchange
119. Golden Egg Permaculture
120. Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
121. Greater Brunswick PeaceWorks
122. Greater Highland Area Concerned Citizens
123. Green America
124. Green New Deal Virginia
125. Green The Church
126. GreenFaith
127. GreenLatinos
128. GreenRoots
129. Hands Across the Sand
130. Harvard Solar Gardens
131. HEAL Utah
132. High Country Conservation Advocates
133. Hilton Head for Peace
134. Indivisible
135. Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association

136. Inland Ocean Coalition
137. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
138. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
139. Interfaith Earthkeepers of Eugene, OR
140. Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
141. John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
142. Jolt Action
143. Kickapoo Peace Circle
144. KyotoUSA
145. Labor Network for Sustainability
146. LaPlaca and Associates LLC
147. Linn-Benton Pacific Green Party
148. Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
149. Marcellus Outreach Butler
150. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
151. Maryland Ornithological Society
152. Massachusetts Forest Watch
153. Mazaska Talks
154. Milwaukee Riverkeeper
155. Mission Blue / Sylvia Earle Alliance
156. Mothers Out Front
157. Mountain Progressives
158. Native Movement
159. New York Communities for Change
160. NMEAC
161. No Methanol 360
162. No Sharon Gas Pipeline | Clean Energy Now!
163. Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
164. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
165. North Carolina Council of Churches
166. North Range Concerned Citizens
167. Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council
168. NY4WHALES
169. NYC H2O
170. NYCD16 Indivisible
171. O.U.R.S. (Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies)
172. Oceanic Preservation Society
173. Our Climate Education Fund
174. Our Santa Fe River, Inc.
175. Pacific Green Party of Oregon, Linn-Benton Chapter
176. Patagonia
177. People for a Healthy Environment
178. People's Party
179. Plastic Pollution Coalition
180. PNM Shareholders for a Responsible Future
181. President- Seeds for the Sol
182. Progressive Democrats of America
183. Property Rights and Pipeline Center

184. Public Lands Project
185. Quantum Whale
186. Rachel Carson Council
187. Rainforest Action Network
188. RapidShift Network
189. RATT Pack
190. Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
191. Resource Renewal Institute
192. Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens
193. River Guardian Foundation
194. RootsAction.org
195. Salt Lake Indivisible
196. SanDiego350
197. Save Our Illinois Land
198. Save RGV
199. SAVE THE FROGS!
200. Seeding Sovereignty
201. Seventh Generation
202. Sisters of Charity Federation
203. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
204. SoCal 350 Climate Action
205. Social Eco Education (SEE-LA)
206. South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
207. Spottswoode Winery, Inc.
208. Stand.earth
209. Sunflower Alliance
210. Sunrise Corvallis
211. Sunrise Marin Hub
212. Sustainable Arizona
213. Synerjy
214. Syracuse Cultural Workers
215. The Borneo Project
216. The Climate Center
217. The Climate Mobilization
218. The Democracy Collaborative
219. The Last Plastic Straw
220. The Lilies Project
221. The People's Justice Council
222. The Wei LLC
223. Tucson Climate Action Network
224. Unite North Metro Denver
225. United for Action
226. Upper Valley Affinity Group (Vermont)
227. Utah Citizens Advocating Renewable Energy
228. Utah Clean Infrastructure Coalition
229. Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
230. Utah Tar Sands Resistance
231. UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary

- 232. Vote Climate
- 233. Wall of Women
- 234. Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
- 235. WATCH, INC
- 236. Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc.
- 237. Western Environmental Law Center
- 238. WildEarth Guardians
- 239. Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)
- 240. [www.SafeEnergyAnalyst.org](http://www.SafeEnergyAnalyst.org)
- 241. Zero Hour