

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

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GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

March 15, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

Montanans are paying 50 percent more at the pump today than they were a year ago. The cost of fuel oil Americans use to heat their homes is up nearly 44 percent from a year ago. These two costly trends predate Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. To reduce the prices Montanans pay to heat their homes and fill up their trucks and cars, I write today to urgently request you take all available action to make the United States energy independent, because ultimately American energy independence makes America more secure.

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made clear, the United States has become too reliant on other nations for our energy. In fact, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the United States imported 24 percent more crude oil and petroleum products from Russia in 2021 than it did in 2020.

A few years ago, however, we were not in as precarious a position. In 2019, the United States was a net exporter of energy for the first time since 1952. The United States was energy independent and more energy secure than it is today.

Unfortunately, your administration has undermined our nation's energy independence. On your first day in office, you terminated the Keystone XL Pipeline. In your first week in office, you issued a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on federal land. In June 2021, your administration suspended all oil and gas leases for portions of the non-wilderness Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), which were issued pursuant to the 2017 *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*. In February 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) added more burdensome layers that will cause unnecessary delays in delivering reliable, affordable energy. Also last month, your administration announced it will suspend or delay new oil and gas leasing on federal land after a federal court blocked how administration officials were calculating the costs of climate change.

Given the vicious Putin-led attack on Ukraine and the posture of our nation's adversaries, I ask you to act immediately to make America energy independent and secure. Steps you could, and should, take today include rescinding your termination of the Keystone XL Pipeline, revoking your suspension of oil and gas leases for portions of ANWR, allowing new oil and gas leasing on federal land to move forward, and encouraging FERC to reverse its new onerous guidelines to streamline the delivery of American energy resources.

Changing course to achieve energy independence and security is not new. Recognizing his nation's dependence on Russian natural gas imports, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told lawmakers about two weeks ago, "We must change course to overcome our dependence on imports from individual energy suppliers." As a result, Germany is building two liquefied natural gas terminals, and is considering extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants and running its coal-fired power plants longer than expected.

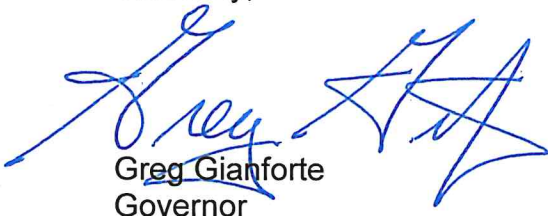
In short, Germany recognizes its overreliance on Russian natural gas, and is taking necessary steps to become more energy independent. The United States should also take proactive measures to make our country more energy secure and independent.

The American people simply cannot afford to rely on Russia, Iran, Venezuela, or any adversary for our energy needs.

Our nation has abundant natural resources we can develop responsibly, and in Montana, we have folks eager and willing to get to work to achieve American energy independence.

Mr. President, it is imperative that our country becomes energy secure and independent. Our nation's adversaries are the only beneficiaries when we aren't.

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor