

May ##, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol H-305  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol H-305  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

On January 27, President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which states that the “Secretary of the Interior shall pause new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or in offshore waters pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices in light of . . . potential climate and other impacts associated with oil and gas activities.”<sup>1</sup>

Given President Biden’s bold action and that policymakers<sup>2</sup> must take unprecedented action to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels<sup>3</sup> *we ask that the FY2022 budget reflect this pause and that you eliminate funding in the Interior appropriations bill that would fund new leasing or permitting during this time for oil, gas, and coal production and extraction on public lands and offshore waters.*

We request that you zero out all funding for new fossil fuel leasing in FY2022 for both the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. This transition will ensure our public lands and oceans provide clean air and water, wildlife protection, and outdoor recreational activities for current and future generations. Specifically, we request the following for FY2022:

**Bureau of Land Management - Oil and Gas Management (\$0 million)**

We recommend zeroing out funding for new oil and gas management. Since FY2016, the appropriated amount for oil and gas management has increased over 50% from \$59.7 million<sup>4</sup> to \$90.9 million in FY2021.<sup>5</sup> This has resulted in large swaths of our public lands being put up for oil and gas leasing. Based on the climate science, we must immediately stop new fossil fuel leasing on public lands to help mitigate any further environmental harm to our environment.

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<sup>1</sup> 86 Fed. Reg. 7,619 (Jan. 27, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> *Global Warming of 1.5°C, Summary for Policymakers*, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2018), [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15\\_SPM\\_version\\_stand\\_alone\\_LR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/SR15_SPM_version_stand_alone_LR.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Emissions Gap Report 2019*, United Nations Environment Program at xviii (2019), <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30797/EGR2019.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> 114th Cong. Rec., Vol. 161, No. 184—Book III at H10226 (Dec. 17, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> 116th Cong. Rec., Vol. 166, No. 218—Book IV at H8558 (Dec. 21, 2020).

**Bureau of Land Management - Coal Management (\$0 million)**

We recommend zeroing out funding for new coal leases, expansions and permits. Coal already under federal lease is estimated to last over 20 years through 2041.<sup>6</sup> Thus there is no rational justification to continue with any future coal leasing or permitting under any scenario.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Conventional Energy (\$0 million)**

We recommend zeroing out funding for conventional oil and gas energy leasing, exploration, development, and production. Since FY2015, the appropriated amount for oil and gas management has increased over 20% from \$49.6 million<sup>7</sup> to \$60.5 million in FY2021.<sup>8</sup> Based on the climate science, we must immediately stop new fossil fuel leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to help mitigate any further environmental harm to our environment.

The Biden administration's bold action to tackle our climate crisis and protect our public lands should be a wake-up call to Congress that business as usual must end. Leadership is needed now, or it will be simply impossible to limit warming to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and ensure a livable planet for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[GROUPS]

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<sup>6</sup> *Over-Leased: How Production Horizons of Already Leased Federal Fossil Fuels Outlast Global Carbon Budgets*, EcoShift Consulting, prepared for the Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth at 1, (July 2016), [https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/keep\\_it\\_in\\_the\\_ground/pdfs/Over-leased-Report-EcoShift.pdf](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/keep_it_in_the_ground/pdfs/Over-leased-Report-EcoShift.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> 114th Cong. Rec., Vol. 161, No. 184—Book III at H10242 (Dec. 17, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> 116th Cong. Rec., Vol. 166, No. 218—Book IV at H8575 (Dec. 21, 2020).