

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson
Chair
Subcommittee on Environment,
Manufacturing, and Critical Materials
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment,
Manufacturing, and Critical Materials
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate,
and Grid Security
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate,
and Grid Security
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Rodgers, Johnson, and Duncan, and Ranking Members Pallone, Tonko,
and DeGette:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the **XX** undersigned organizations write to oppose the following pieces of legislation that will be considered in the upcoming Energy and Commerce Committee legislative hearing on Tuesday, February 7th. This proposed legislation would exacerbate the climate crisis, perpetuate environmental injustices, and undermine US economic and national security by prolonging reliance on risky and volatile energy sources.

These bills would encourage new fossil fuel production and infrastructure, despite the scientific consensus that there is no room for investment in new fossil fuel production if we are to reach net zero by 2050, keeping the world on a 1.5°C compatible pathway. The bills would also undermine bedrock environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by short-circuiting permitting processes and limiting public input. NEPA is a critical environmental law and an important tool for frontline and environmental justice communities to influence federal infrastructure projects that will impact them the most.

In addition, by promoting the expansion of fossil fuel production and exports, these bills would delay the transition to a clean, secure, and affordable energy grid that would bring true energy independence and security. The fossil fuel industry is already raking in record profits at the expense of consumers and future generations, yet their supporters in Congress are putting

forward these bills to lock us into increased extraction, high and volatile energy prices, and environmental degradation in exchange for even higher profits for oil and gas companies.

We urge opposition to the following bills:

- **H.R. 150, the [Protecting American Energy Production Act](#): OPPOSE**
 - Prohibits the President from issuing a moratorium on fracking unless authorized by Congress. Fracking releases massive amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that has more than 80 times the power of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, driving approximately one quarter of the warming our planet has experienced to date. Fracking also harms local communities and ecosystems by releasing air pollutants and contaminating water sources.
- **H.R. 484, the [Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act](#): OPPOSE**
 - Repeals the Methane Emissions Reduction Program created by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This critical program supports efforts to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, improve methane monitoring, fund environmental restoration, and help communities reduce the health impacts of pollution.
- **H.R. __, the [Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act](#): OPPOSE**
 - Requires FERC to approve gas pipelines to Canada or Mexico within 30 days, significantly limits requirement for certificates of crossing for modifications to existing pipelines, and limits environmental review and public input. Decreasing scrutiny for cross-border pipelines would lead to increased emissions and deny affected communities sufficient input opportunities.
- **H.Con.Res. __, [Expressing disapproval of the revocation by President Biden of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline](#): OPPOSE**
 - Resolution of disapproval of President Biden revoking the Presidential Permit for Keystone XL pipeline. If built, Keystone XL would have carried 830,000 gallons per day of the dirtiest oil on the planet, threatening our climate, farmland, critical water resources, and wildlife habitat along the pipeline's path.
- **H.R. __, the [Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act](#): OPPOSE**
 - This bill would undercut public transparency and input from communities by limiting the time for environmental reviews. The bill alters the approval process for gas pipelines by requiring all other federal and state agencies to defer to FERC.
- **H.R. 647, the [Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2023](#): OPPOSE**
 - This bill would strip away the federal government's responsibility to examine the full impacts of LNG expansion on US energy markets, the environment, and local communities. It would make it easier to approve LNG exports by removing the first 3 sections of the Natural Gas Act, which require a public interest

determination for LNG exports to non-FTA countries. LNG exports negatively impact Americans by exacerbating climate change, raising domestic energy prices, and perpetuating environmental injustices, and these factors need to be taken into account when deciding whether to approve additional LNG export terminals.

- **H.Con.Res. __, Expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not impose any restrictions on the export of crude oil or other petroleum products: OPPOSE**
 - This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not restrict the export of crude oil or other petroleum products. Increased oil drilling and exports have enormous climate repercussions and pollute communities and ecosystems. The Federal Government must ensure that these exports do not compromise US climate and environmental justice goals or undermine our global climate leadership.

Sincerely,
Sierra Club