

July 26, 2023

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our communities and organizations, the undersigned organizations urge you to **VOTE YES** on Amendment #992 to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This amendment will ban crude oil exports from the United States to applicable countries. The United States is taking aggressive action to tackle the climate crisis and transition to a clean energy future. But continued fossil fuel exports threaten people's health and safety and stand in the way of global efforts to combat the climate crisis.

Oil and gas export terminals pose a massive risk to already overburdened and polluted frontline communities, including in Texas and Louisiana. The Permian Basin has faced decades of fossil fuel industry pollution and environmental racism leading to major health problems, high rates of cancer and social inequities. Reducing oil exports will reduce production and cut millions of tons of global carbon dioxide emissions, necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Freight ships and oil and gas operations increase air pollutants including carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), and particulate matter (PM). Prolonged exposure to this pollution causes respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disease, lung cancers and premature death. Reducing export of crude oil by very large crude carriers (VLCC) decreases air pollutants along with the risk of devastating oil spills that cause lifelong health problems, harmful algal blooms and damage fragile coastal ecosystems that support fishing and tourism industries critical to the Gulf region.

A recent study found that air pollution from oil and gas activity is responsible for significant health effects, including 7,500 excess deaths, 410,000 asthma attacks, and 2,200 new cases of childhood asthma and was responsible for \$77 billion in annual health costs. Comparatively, this total is three times the estimated climate impact costs of methane emissions from oil and gas operations.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report made it clear we are in a rapidly closing window of opportunity to avoid the most devastating impacts of climate change, and the choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years. We urge the Senator to **VOTE YES** on amendment #992 to the NDAA.

Sincerely,

Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Water

Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas

Center for Oil and Gas Organizing

Chaparral Community Coalition for Health & Environment

Chispa Texas

Climate Hawks Vote

Defend the Gulf

Earth Ethics, Inc.

Earthworks

Greenpeace USA

Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

League of Conservation Voters

Oil Change International

Public Citizen, Inc.

Sierra Club

Society of Native Nations

Sunrise New Orleans

Turtle Island Restoration Network

Vessel Project of Louisiana

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Zero Hour

198 methods