

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor of Wisconsin
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Robin Vos
Wisconsin House of
Representatives
217 West, State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

The Honorable Chris Kapenga
Wisconsin State Senate
220 South, State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Evers, Speaker Vos and Senate President Kapenga:

Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) would like to encourage you to join the chorus of voices calling for the immediate ramp up of domestic oil and natural gas production to ensure Americans have access to reliable and affordable energy resources necessary to survive. We can save families and small business across Wisconsin and the entire nation from the uncertainty of imported energy while accelerating innovation in traditional and renewable energy sources alike.

Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA) is the largest third-party organization representing the voice of the energy consumer. With more than 550,000 members nationwide, CEA's mission is to help ensure stable prices, advances in environmental performance, national energy security, and energy reliability for households and businesses across the country. CEA's members include families, farmers, small businesses, distributors, producers, organized labor, and manufacturers all coming together as a broad organization to support America's environmentally sustainable energy future. Since 2006, CEA has worked to encourage people across the nation to seek sensible, realistic, affordable, and environmentally responsible solutions to meet our daily energy needs.

CEA is focused on a realistic energy policy strategy that advances our shared environmental goals while maintaining affordable and reliable energy, and recognizing that we will need "all-of-the-above" solutions to meeting our national and individual energy needs. CEA promotes environmentally sound policies to utilize all of our natural resources responsibly. This includes all traditional and alternative resources as well as energy-efficient technologies to move our economy and power the lives of our communities and neighbors – many of whom are struggling to make ends meet.

As he entered office, President Biden said that he would be antagonistic toward oil and natural gas. True to his word, during President Biden's first month in office, he paused oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters. He denied approved leasing plans in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A) and imposed sweeping regulatory measures across several federal agencies designed to frustrate energy production and its related infrastructure development. From Inauguration Day 2021 to the week preceding the invasion of Ukraine, the average retail price for U.S. gasoline already increased more than \$1.10 per gallon. While the Russian invasion has further increased gasoline prices, it is clear that we already had a problem with our energy policy.

While the U.S. has placed stringent regulatory burdens on domestic energy development, Russia has become the third largest producer of oil in the world. Current U.S. production is almost 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) below peak levels from November 2019, when oil averaged \$63.21 per barrel. Over the past year, the U.S. has increased its imports of Russian oil substantially, reaching a high of 870,000

bpd in May 2021. While the President has announced a ban on future imports from Russia, we are currently still importing more than 500,000 per day. At current oil prices, this equates to approximately \$67 million per day.

Oil and gas production on federal and Tribal lands as well as offshore areas generated \$8.78 billion in Fiscal Year 2021. These funds enable states and Tribes to pursue local conservation projects.

A paradoxical trend has emerged across Europe and Asia as nations have punitively regulated natural gas and must now rely on higher emitting resources to balance intermittent energy sources. Natural gas production and transportation must not be encumbered by regulations that do not consider economic or environmental impacts.

Natural gas and propane are essential to Wisconsin. We rely on natural gas for much of our utility-scale generation and over 77 percent of households rely on natural gas or propane for winter heating. Policies that decommission reliable and affordable energy resources will only exacerbate high consumer costs. We have already seen some federal proposals that would cost consumers nationwide \$258 billion for requirements to switch water heaters, stoves, furnaces and dryers.

CEA urges your continued support for policies to increase domestic energy production of all forms. This will be achieved by ending the pause on oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters and expediting the permitting and deployment of domestic energy resources. We must focus on the shared goal of affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible energy for all American families and small businesses. We ask that you encourage your fellow state leaders to reach out to the Biden Administration and let them know to support American energy for all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,



Chris Ventura
Executive Director
Consumer Energy Alliance, Midwest