

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone,

In advance of the House Energy and Commerce committee's markup of its budget reconciliation bill and on behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned write to express our **opposition to the provisions in the bill that would expedite and automatically approve the expansion of liquefied methane gas (otherwise known as LNG) exports, expedite the permitting process for and require approval of gas infrastructure, and restrict judicial review for fossil fuel projects.** At a time when the House Majority is proposing massive cuts to critical programs, including Medicaid, that protect the health and safety of communities, this bill would allow corporate polluters to pay their way out of complying with the environmental laws that were put in place to protect our public health. By expediting the permitting of gas pipelines and LNG infrastructure while both limiting judicial review and the ability for state and local governments to protect their natural resources, this legislation would give wealthy polluters more power than ever before.

Rather than passing legislation that invests in a clean economy, reduces energy costs for families and businesses, and ensures approved energy projects are in Americans' public interest, this bill would allow fossil fuel companies to pay \$1 million to the federal government to deem their LNG exports automatically in the public interest. This would strip away the federal government's ability and responsibility to examine the full impacts of LNG expansion on the economy, consumer energy costs, the climate, and local communities. LNG exports negatively impact Americans by exacerbating climate change, perpetuating environmental injustices, and raising energy prices for households, small businesses, and manufacturers. There are eight operating LNG export facilities and over 30 additional projects proposed or under construction, the full buildout of which would be equivalent to the annual climate pollution from 920 coal plants or 814 million gasoline-powered cars. In every scenario modeled by the DOE in its 2024 studies, additional LNG exports would increase global greenhouse gas pollution and LNG exports displace more renewables than coal globally. This would jeopardize the climate commitments of countries receiving imports of LNG, and would lock in decades of highly polluting fossil fuels when cleaner, cheaper alternatives exist. The proposed language would allow \$1 million to undermine the federal government's ability to even consider these consequences when deciding whether a project should be approved. DOE also found that additional LNG exports would increase domestic wholesale natural gas prices by more than 30 percent, raising consumer prices as a result. These cost increases already disproportionately burden people of color and low-income or otherwise disadvantaged

communities and households. It is critical that DOE retain its authority to conduct this public interest determination rather than allow corporate billionaires to “pay to pollute” with no consideration for the harms caused to the American people as a result of additional LNG exports.

Additionally, the legislation would allow gas infrastructure developers to receive an expedited permitting process from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Natural Gas Act ending in an automatic approval if the applicant pays \$10 million or 1 percent of the project's projected cost. This not only includes federal permits, but would also expedite and require approval of the federal permits that the states administer under the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. These provisions would bring more polluting and unnecessary gas infrastructure to our communities at a time when the House Majority has insisted on repealing and rescinding funding for critical EPA programs like the environmental and climate justice block grants that provide financial and technical assistance to support community efforts to reduce pollution.

This budget reconciliation bill is an unacceptable proposal to give handouts to huge polluters while their constituents pay the price of dirty air and water, gutted health programs, and higher energy bills. **We urge you to oppose any provisions that would expedite fossil fuel buildout, harm public health, and erode judicial review and agency authorities.**

Sincerely,

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Air Alliance Houston
Beyond Extreme Energy
Bold Alliance
Clean Water Action
Climate + Energy Project
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Democracy Initiative
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Justice Alliance
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Endangered Species Coalition
Extinction Rebellion Houston
Food & Water Watch
For a Better Bayou
Friends of the Earth U.S.
GreenFaith
Habitat Recovery Project
Hip Hop Caucus
League of Conservation Voters
Micah Six Eight Mission
Mossville Environmental Action Now
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oilfield Witness

Our Revolution
Oxfam America
Progress Texas
Public Citizen
Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
Third Act Texas
Turtle Island Restoration Network
U.S. Climate Action Network
Union of Concerned Scientists