

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, and Members of Congress:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned write to express our **opposition to [H.R.7176](#), the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2024**, and any related measures that would accelerate the expansion of liquefied methane gas (otherwise known as liquefied natural gas, or LNG) exports. At the same time, we commend the Biden Administration's January 26, 2024, decision to pause all pending and future authorizations of new LNG export projects until the Department of Energy (DOE) updates its approach to reviewing these projects.

H.R. 7176 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. These impacts must be taken into account when DOE decides whether to approve future LNG export projects. H.R. 7176, however, would remove DOE's legal obligation to assess such factors and their impact on everyday Americans and the U.S. economy.

Rather than passing vital legislation to fund the government to avoid a catastrophic shutdown, the House Majority is instead using valuable floor time to consider giveaways to the fossil fuel industry. Thanks to the unprecedented growth in LNG exports in recent years, the fossil fuel industry is already raking in record profits at the expense of consumers and future generations, yet their allies in Congress are putting forward legislation to lock us into ever-increasing gas extraction, higher and more volatile energy prices, and devastating environmental, health, safety, and climate impacts – particularly for frontline communities.

The Biden Administration, on the other hand, is taking swift action to ensure that LNG exports are only approved if DOE determines they are in the public interest. The pause on pending and future LNG export applications, as well as the reevaluation of the criteria used to consider proposed export projects, will allow DOE to update its outdated and deficient approach to reviewing LNG export applications. DOE undertook a similar process for determining whether LNG *imports* were in the public interest in 1984, and now, four decades later, the Department is initiating a long-overdue process of clarifying how it considers the impacts of exports.

H.R. 7176 would take us in the exact opposite direction, revoking DOE's ability to ensure that new LNG exports do not raise costs to U.S. consumers, accelerate the climate crisis, or jeopardize the health and safety of communities living alongside fossil fuel infrastructure. The legislation is a dangerous handout to the oil and gas industry that would expedite the approval of LNG exports by removing the first three sections of the Natural Gas Act, which require a public

interest determination for LNG exports to countries with whom the United States does not have an existing free trade agreement. Instead of requiring a rigorous review process consistent with good governance practices, H.R. 7176 directs the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to deem gas exports in the public interest without requiring *any* consideration of impacts on the American public.

Among other considerations, it is critical that LNG export decisions take lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions into account. There are eight existing LNG export facilities and over 20 proposed additional projects, the full buildout of which would be equivalent to the annual climate pollution from 681 coal plants or 548 million cars. Expanding domestic fossil fuel production to supply LNG exports directly impedes the U.S.'s ability to meet its own greenhouse gas and methane targets, jeopardizes the commitments of countries where the gas is exported, and undermines our ability to lead by example in global efforts to wind down fossil fuel production and avert catastrophic climate impacts. The proposed legislation would undermine the federal government's ability to even consider such impacts when deciding whether an LNG export project should be approved.

The expansion of LNG exports is also a glaring environmental injustice. Sited primarily in low-income communities and communities of color along the Gulf Coast, existing and proposed LNG export facilities harm communities that are already overburdened by industrial pollution from the fossil fuel industry, as well as the effects of extreme weather driven by climate change. It is critical that the federal government retains the authority to make public interest determinations for LNG exports in line with its environmental justice policies.

Finally, consumers across the U.S. are suffering from rising energy costs exacerbated by LNG exports. Skyrocketing energy costs can be traced to increases in LNG exports, as can increases in prices of consumer goods. These cost increases disproportionately burden people of color and low-income or otherwise disadvantaged communities and households. It is imperative that federal agencies retain the authority to consider domestic consumer impacts when determining whether additional exports are in the public interest.

We write to express our concern with any efforts to weaken laws and regulations that protect Americans from the negative impacts of LNG exports. We hope that you will join us in opposing this piece of harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

Action for the Climate Emergency
Alaska Wilderness League
Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Water
Black Millennials 4 Flint
Bold Alliance
Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Chesapeake Climate Action Network AF

Chispa Texas
Clean Water Action
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Code Blue
Climate Conversation Brazoria County
Climate Equity Policy Center
Climate Hawks Vote
Commission Shift
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Earth Action Inc
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Environmental Protection Network
Evergreen Action
Food and Water Watch
For a Better Bayou
Friends of the Earth
Green America
GreenLatinos
Healthy Gulf
Hip Hop Caucus
Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association
Interfaith Power & Light
Justice Is Global
League of Conservation Voters
Louisiana Bucket Brigade
Maine Conservation Voters
Make Polluters Pay
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Energy Economy
North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Oil Change International
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oxfam America
Physicians for Social Responsibility National
Port Arthur Community Action Network (PACAN)
Property Rights and Pipeline Center
Public Citizen
Rise to Thrive
Save RGV
Science and Environmental Health Network
Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund
Sierra Club

Southern Environmental Law Center
SouthWings
Sunrise New Orleans
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Third Act
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Union of Concerned Scientists
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Vessel Project of Louisiana
Waterkeeper Alliance
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Zero Hour