



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LAW

40 Capitol Square SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1300

CHRISTOPHER M. CARR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

[www.law.ga.gov](http://www.law.ga.gov)  
(404) 458-3600

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretaries:

I write to urge you and this administration to implement policies designed to increase, incentivize, and prioritize domestic energy production and ultimately provide much-needed relief for American families faced with high gas prices and runaway inflation.

In addition to supplying America's energy needs, a stable and reliable energy infrastructure is required to maintain our nation's leadership as a net-energy exporter – a position that enhances our national security, increases global stability and creates good-paying American jobs. At the moment, these goals seem nearly unattainable given President Biden's staggering reluctance to promote pro-business energy policies, particularly when compared to his rash application of progressive climate metrics and green energy initiatives across all sectors of our economy.

This administration has effectively destabilized our energy security and eliminated quality jobs and investment opportunities, and hardworking families across our country are paying the price. Rather than admit his climate agenda is a disaster for the American people, President Biden would sooner blame Russia, the COVID-19 pandemic and even oil companies for pain at the pump. The truth is that high gas prices and skyrocketing inflation are everyday issues that pre-date Russia's violent and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. While Russia has intensified the problem, today's struggles can be traced back to the first days of the Biden administration.

Mere hours after reciting his oath of office, President Biden purported to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline – critical infrastructure that would have boosted the U.S. economy, created American jobs, safely transported oil without increasing greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately stabilized prices at the pump. This unilateral decision to revoke the Keystone XL permit was nothing more than a political stunt that has since caused real-world damage. Jobs, businesses, investments and once-in-a-generation economic

opportunity are all at risk. I am calling on this administration to commit to reinstating this permit and to fairly reviewing similar projects that were slashed to appease a few at the expense of the majority.

This includes placing much-needed emphasis on the process involving oil and gas leases. Barely within his first week of office, President Biden rushed to issue a ban on oil and gas leasing on federal lands without due consideration as to whether these actions were in compliance with the law or in the public's best interest. A federal judge overruled this ban and yet, slow to admit defeat, this administration has inexplicably dragged its feet with resuming lease sales. To continue to blame these delays on an initial judicial decision that wisely halted the use of the supposed "social cost of carbon" in rulemaking is inexplicable. To the American people, this is just another careless and unnecessary attempt to insert climate change into any and every regulatory matter possible. This administration must commit to moving forward with new oil and gas leases in a manner that meets the demands of our current circumstances and positions our country for future success and stability.

As demonstrated by the crisis in Europe and the jump in gas prices domestically, energy independence is a matter of national security that must be prioritized immediately. The President himself recently emphasized, "... this crisis is a stark reminder: To protect our economy over the long term, we need to become energy independent." In that same speech, during which President Biden announced a ban on Russian coal and oil, he also declared a ban on Russian liquefied natural gas. Yet, at the same time, this administration has proposed a rule to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration that would essentially prohibit the transportation of natural gas by rail in the U.S., effectively leaving us at a standstill. I am calling for this rule to be withdrawn immediately – its proposal at this time is incomprehensible and to present this for possible implementation is irresponsible and unreasonable.

The excess of regulatory burdens imposed since January 2021 has made it nearly impossible for America's energy sector to operate at a level of high demand and sustained efficiency. As the price of gas, food and other goods continues to climb nationwide, the White House has offered little to no permanent solution. Americans should not have to choose between feeding their families and filling up their cars to get to work. Temporary measures will not solve the long-term problems created by President Biden's climate agenda. That is why I am calling on you and this administration to use all tools at your disposal to increase and incentivize responsible domestic energy production and to insulate American consumers from times of volatile gas prices today and beyond.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Carr".

Christopher M. Carr  
Georgia Attorney General