

United States Senate

October 11, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden,

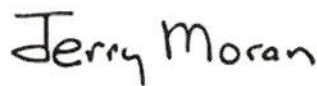
I write to express my concern regarding the continued release of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), now at its lowest point in four decades. Given that the United States consumes nearly twenty million barrels of oil per day, the recent decision to release another ten million barrels from the SPR is not only reckless, but it will have a minimal effect on lowering prices at the pump.ⁱ Draining our emergency supplies is a short-sighted and dangerous choice that imperils our energy security at a critical time of global uncertainty.

Furthermore, the concerning announcement by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce oil production underlines the importance of American energy independence. The OPEC decision should result in your administration working to increase domestic oil and gas production, not continuing to tap the SPR at unsustainable levels or easing sanctions on oppressive governments in countries like Venezuela. The current geopolitical turmoil requires robust exploration and production of oil to boost American energy security.

Rather than support American energy production, the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced it would raise royalty rates for onshore leases and cut acreage available for leasing by 80 percent.ⁱⁱ Even after the emergency oil reserves had been depleted, DOI's proposed five-year offshore oil and gas leasing plan opened the door to allowing zero lease sales through 2028, an unprecedented policy.ⁱⁱⁱ With this program now lapsed, and many other offshore leases canceled, your administration is jeopardizing our nation's ability to use our vast resources for energy independence. In turn, I urge you to replenish the SPR with increased domestic oil production instead of draining our emergency reserves.

The United States can no longer stand by as OPEC continues to consolidate power over the world's energy markets. Now is the time to unleash the domestic oil and gas industry to lower prices, support American jobs, and decrease our persistent reliance on adversaries for our energy.

Sincerely,



United States Senator

JERRY MORAN
KANSAS

521 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1606
P: (202) 224-6521
F: (202) 228-6966
moran.senate.gov

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

ⁱ US Energy Information Agency, "How much oil is consumed in the United States?" (September 19, 2022), available at <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=33&t=6>

ⁱⁱ Department of the Interior Press Release (April 15, 2022), available at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-significantly-reformed-onshore-oil-and-gas-lease-sales>

ⁱⁱⁱ Bureau of Ocean Energy Management *National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program 2023-2028* (July 2022), available at https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/national-program/2023-2028_Proposed%20Program_July2022.pdf

GARDEN CITY OFFICE
1511 EAST FUTON TERRACE
SUITE 1511-2
GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

HAYS OFFICE
1200 MAIN STREET
SUITE 402
HAYS, KS 67601

MANHATTAN OFFICE
1880 KIMBALL AVENUE
SUITE 270
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

OLATHE OFFICE
23600 COLLEGE BOULEVARD
SUITE 201
OLATHE, KS 66061

PITTSBURG OFFICE
306 N. BROADWAY STREET
SUITE 125
PITTSBURG, KS 66762

WICHITA OFFICE
100 N. BROADWAY
SUITE 210
WICHITA, KS 67202