

United States Senate

March 2, 2022

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

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

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

Dear Secretaries Haaland, Granholm, and Blinken:

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is increasing turmoil in oil and gas markets and leading to higher gas prices for Americans. As our nation unites to confront President Vladimir Putin's reckless actions, strengthening our energy independence from enemies like Russia must be a priority. I believe it is critically important to immediately use the tools at our disposal to increase domestic energy production to protect American consumers from spiking gasoline prices and isolate President Putin and his oligarchs.

Montanans are facing gas prices that are, on average, a dollar higher than they were a year ago. To help combat these price increases, our nation needs to make bold moves to secure our affordable domestic fuel supply by incentivizing responsible domestic oil and gas production and emphasizing trade with allies like Canada.

In the short run, releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve could help stabilize prices at the pump, and considering temporary royalty relief for producers could incentivize more production. We also need to be thinking long-term about responsible domestic energy production, including making the leasing process transparent and predictable for the public and producers alike. Additionally, we need to continue investing in next-generation storage, transmission, and clean energy generation technologies. We should also be working with oil and gas producers to make sure our domestic sources are actually producing oil when we need it most. Half our leased acres are currently sitting idle, while prices on the market are spiking with uncertain supply. We need to incentivize production on those idle acres where it makes sense.

We also need to think carefully about how we approach international trade of petroleum products. I still support the Keystone XL Pipeline project and believe the State Department's rejection of a permit request was short-sighted. Development of projects built to high safety and environmental standards like the Keystone XL Pipeline would secure reliable petroleum sources from our allies. We should review projects like that one and seek to keep the oil here in

America. We should also evaluate our own petroleum exports, and how we can support a stable market that insulates domestic consumers and those in allied countries from the current crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I stand ready to work with you to secure our energy independence from countries like Russia and protect everyday folks and businesses from spiking fuel prices.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Tester