

# THE ENERGY, CLIMATE, & CONSERVATION TASK FORCE

Member Lead: Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA)

## UNLOCK AMERICAN RESOURCES

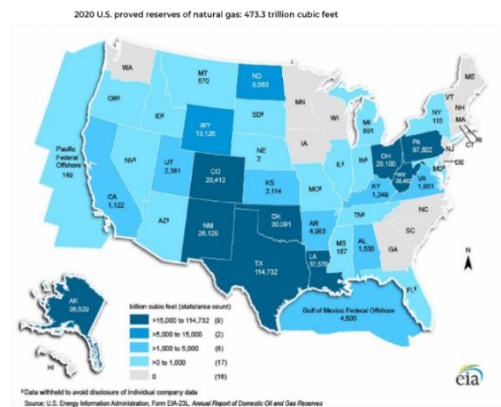
*"We are going to get rid of fossil fuels." - Joe Biden (February 5, 2020)*

*"I am wholeheartedly against fracking and drilling on public lands." - Deb Haaland, current Sec. of the Interior (May 2019)*

Under the Biden administration, we have seen record increases in energy prices coupled with inflation. In 2021, U.S. imports of Russian oil nearly tripled.<sup>1</sup> Despite these facts, President Biden and his administration have consistently opposed American energy development. Rather than restricting domestic energy and mineral production, we need to unlock American resources to provide energy security here at home - and for our allies abroad.

### TOPLINE FACTS:

- Gas prices have risen nearly every single month of Joe Biden's presidency<sup>2</sup> - long before Putin's invasion of Ukraine.
- The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that crude oil prices will remain above \$100/Bbl in the second half of 2022.<sup>3</sup>
- 24% of Americans reduced or went without basic expenses (i.e., food and medicine) so they could pay their energy bill in the last year.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2020, 43% of the European Union's natural gas and 29% of Europe's oil was supplied by Russia.<sup>5</sup>
- When looking at just crude oil imports, in 2020, the U.S. imported an average of 76,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Russia; in 2021, the U.S. imported an average of 198,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Russia - that is a 160% increase in just one year of the Biden administration.<sup>6</sup>
- The U.S. has 473.3 trillion cubic feet of proved reserves of natural gas and 38 billion barrels of proved oil reserves.<sup>7</sup>
- Global demand for minerals is on the rise and production could increase by nearly 500% for graphite, lithium, and cobalt by 2050 to meet the growing demand for clean energy technologies.<sup>8</sup>
- The United States remains 100% dependent on imports for 17 key mineral resources and more than 50 percent dependent on imports for another 29 mineral commodities - most of which are available within the U.S.<sup>9</sup> China is a major import source for 11 critical minerals and Russia is a major import source for 2 of the critical minerals that the U.S. is 100% import reliant on.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2019, 90% of the world's rare earth metals, alloys, and permanent magnets were produced by China and 85% of the world's rare earth oxides were produced in China.<sup>11</sup>
- Only 3% of the nation's 80,000 dams currently generate electricity. Many of these existing dams in the United States could be equipped with turbines and generators to produce up to 12,000 megawatts of clean, renewable, baseload electricity, while providing additional potential benefits such as water supply, recreation, and others.<sup>12</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=MCRIM\\_NUS-NRS\\_2&f=A](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=MCRIM_NUS-NRS_2&f=A)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pct&s=emm\\_epmr\\_pte\\_nus\\_dpg&f=m](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=pct&s=emm_epmr_pte_nus_dpg&f=m)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/outlook/sste/o/#:~:text=We%20expect%20the%20Brent%20price,price%20forecast%20is%20highly%20uncertain,>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.helpadvisor.com/housing/american-s-struggling-to-pay-energy-bills-study>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/infograp/hse/energy/bl oc-2c.html#caro:usel:Control:s?lang=en>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=W\\_EPDC\\_I MO\\_NUS-NRS\\_MBLD&f=W](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=W_EPDC_I MO_NUS-NRS_MBLD&f=W)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/crudeoilreserves/pdf/usreserves.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/961711588875536384/Minerals-for-Climate-Action-The-Mineral-Intensity-of-the-Clean-Energy-Transition.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://china-power.csis.org/china-rare-earth-rtbs/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://pubs.usgs.gov/periodicals/mcs2022/mcs2022.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://china-power.csis.org/china-rare-earth-rtbs/>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2013/12/15/n.pdf\\_report\\_0.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2013/12/15/n.pdf_report_0.pdf)

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## GAS PRICES & ELECTRICITY BILLS SKYROCKETING

President Biden's failed energy policies are costing Americans thousands of dollars more a year in higher gas prices<sup>13</sup> and heating costs were projected to increase by as much as 54% this past winter,<sup>14</sup> but the reality has been much worse when you layer in the highest inflation in 40 years.

## BIDEN'S BLAME GAME ON RISING ENERGY PRICES

To distract from their failed policies, the White House continues to push the misleading claim that there are 9,000 approved but "unused" permits, known as Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs), and leases.

- The Biden administration is currently sitting on over 4,400 pending APDs, which must be approved so American workers can produce more energy here at home to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

## BIDEN INCREASED DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIA & OTHER ADVERSARIES

Biden has blocked the production of abundant American energy – even though it's among the cleanest in the world – while, until recently, increasing our reliance on Russian energy, effectively helping fund Putin's war.

- The Keystone XL pipeline would have safely transported more than 800,000 barrels of oil per day from our trusted neighbor, and largest energy trading partner, Canada, to U.S. refineries on the Gulf Coast.<sup>15</sup>
- Instead of relying on rogue regimes, we should be utilizing American workers to create American jobs; lower energy prices; improve our energy, economic, and national security; and improve the security of our allies.

## DEMOCRATS SUPPORT POLICIES THAT RELY ON CRITICAL MINERALS MINED OR REFINED FROM CHINA

Advancing policies that increase our demand for critical minerals, including rare earth elements, without significantly expanding our domestic capacity to mine and refine them will result in the U.S. being increasingly dependent on China.

- China dominates control of minerals necessary for electric vehicles and renewable energy and helps manufacture over 95% of global solar panels – much with forced labor.<sup>16</sup>

## HYDROPOWER PROVIDES RELIABLE CLEAN ENERGY

Unlike other forms of clean energy, hydroelectric-producing dams deliver clean water and recreation-related benefits in addition to providing affordable and reliable baseload power to the grid. Some of the main obstacles to current and future hydropower production are environmental opposition and onerous and lengthy licensing and relicensing processes for hydropower projects.

## AMERICAN ENERGY SHOULD MEET RISING GLOBAL DEMAND

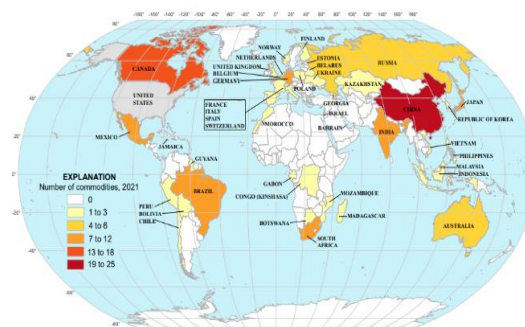
Biden has waged a war on American energy, while ignoring the fact that even his own EIA has said global demand for energy will increase by 50% between now and 2050.<sup>17</sup> Who supplies that demand matters. America must increase energy production and exports to displace dirtier Russian energy in the market and provide our allies with affordable, reliable, and secure energy.

## THE U.S. HAS LED THE WORLD IN REDUCING EMISSIONS

The U.S. has been the world leader in lowering carbon emissions – reducing emissions more than the next 7 emissions reducing countries combined from 2005-2020 – all while increasing production and lowering energy costs for American households during that time.<sup>18</sup>

- For every ton of emissions reduced by the U.S., China increased emissions by nearly 4 tons.

Figure 3.—Major Import Sources of Nonfuel Mineral Commodities for Which the United States was Greater Than 50% Net Import Reliant in 2021



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gas-prices-could-reach-6-a-gallon-by-summer-jmorgan/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=49936>

<sup>15</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-alberta-2fbce48372f5c29c3ae6f6f93907a6d>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.csis.org/analysis/dark-spot-solar-energy-industry-forced-labor-xinjiang>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=49876>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.globalcarbonatlas.org/en/CO2-emissions>

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## REPUBLICAN SOLUTIONS INCLUDE:

[\*\*H.R. 6858\*\*](#) (Rep. McMorris Rodgers/Rep. Westerman), *“American Energy Independence from Russia Act”*  
[Full Congress.gov summary](#)

This comprehensive energy legislation would ensure the production of domestic energy resources. The bill requires the President to submit an energy security plan within 30 days to act to unleash American oil and natural gas production to offset Russian imports. It approves the KeystoneXL Pipeline; streamlines permitting for U.S. LNG import/export facilities; requires congressional approval before (a) prohibiting/delaying certain new energy mineral leases or permits on federal lands, or (b) withdrawing certain federal lands from mineral leasing activities; requires the resumption of oil and natural gas leasing onshore and offshore; and limits the drawdown of petroleum in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until a plan is developed to increase the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and natural gas production.

[\*\*H.R. 543\*\*](#) (Rep. Herrell), *“Protecting Our Wealth of Energy Resources Act or the POWER Act”*  
[Full Congress.gov summary](#)

The legislation prohibits the President or his secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy Departments from blocking energy or mineral leasing and permitting, or from issuing mineral withdrawals on federal lands and waters without congressional approval.

[\*\*H.R. 2604\*\*](#) (Rep. Stauber), *“Accessing America’s Critical Minerals Act”*  
[Full Congress.gov summary](#)

The legislation will ensure the efficient production of U.S. mineral resources by creating a timely, transparent, and reasonable permitting process. The bill directs agencies to: complete permitting process within 30 months or 2.5 years in coordination with stakeholders. It also requires the Department of Interior to develop performance metrics and publish an annual report on performance and it removes duplication of federal agencies performing identical reviews of state agencies.

[\*\*H.R. 1588\*\*](#) (Rep. McMorris Rodgers), *“Hydropower Clean Energy Future Act”*  
[Full Congress.gov summary](#)

This legislation would speed the permitting and deployment of U.S. hydropower. It updates and strengthens the licensing process for renewable hydropower projects; and promotes innovation and next generation hydropower technologies that protect the environment and natural resources. This bill expands provisions related to renewable energy - including hydropower production by defining hydropower as renewable energy, revises and streamlines the hydropower licensing process, and establishes requirements about resolving inconsistent or conflicting license terms, and federal interagency disputes or disputes among federal and state agencies.