

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

April 21, 2021

Dear President Biden:

Representing the voices of Pennsylvania's businesses, energy, manufacturing and industrial sectors, along with the skilled building trades and other workers essential to these sectors, we have a deep appreciation for the important role that America's energy abundance plays in advancing our nation's climate progress, expanding the middle-class through quality, good-paying jobs, securing consumer savings and strengthening our national security.

Make no mistake, the United States can continue to be an economic and climate leader by embracing responsible natural gas production, infrastructure, and use. As you gather virtually with world leaders this Earth Day, we encourage your administration to promote policies reflecting the essential role American natural gas plays in this endeavor.

The workers and local small businesses driving the economy and helping to *build America back* are essential to a low-carbon future which cannot be achieved without an affordable and reliable source of clean energy. Natural gas is, and should continue to be, the key to our country's environmental progress.

During your Vice Presidency, American natural gas development underpinned our nation's recovery from the Great Recession. It attracted global business investments, revitalized communities, and created middle-class jobs – many across Appalachia.

At the same time, the U.S. reduced greenhouse gas emissions faster than any other country in the world – an achievement tied to our emergence as the world's top natural gas producer.

Specifically, electric sector-related emissions plummeted as more natural gas met our growing power demands. Carbon dioxide emissions tied to power generation continue to fall, with 2018-2019 emissions down 8.4 percent, according to new Environmental Protection Agency [data](#). Indeed, these [levels](#) are 33 percent lower than 2005, despite a larger, more robust economy when shale gas development began in Appalachia.

Here in Pennsylvania, volatile organic compounds tied to power generation declined 40 percent between 2005-2018 and other pollutants like sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) levels dropped 93 and 81 percent respectively, according to state Department of Environmental Protection [data](#).

This is meaningful, clean air progress that's happened because of natural gas and the private sector led innovation that combined horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing technology. Today, America is the world's top natural gas producer and, thanks to this technology, we're producing more energy with less surface disturbance.

Natural gas has enabled a [decoupling of emissions](#) from economic growth, demonstrating that continued natural gas development is central to sustaining long-term climate *and* economic progress. To this end, increasing U.S. liquefied natural gas exports also helps other nations break free from energy poverty by decoupling emissions and economic growth – creating a healthier, more sustainable environment for all.

The only way to capitalize on our energy abundance, and corresponding environmental progress, is through a robust infrastructure network that supports good-paying jobs in the skilled trades and broader market participation.

New interstate pipelines and pipeline modernization and expansion projects in the Appalachian region are key to delivering energy to markets where it is needed. In addition, proposed export facilities in Philadelphia and New Jersey

represent major redevelopment projects that, once constructed by the local building trades, will open abundant natural gas from Pennsylvania to international markets.

Opportunities like these demonstrate our nation's ability to responsibly use our resources to create a cleaner and better world for us all.

Domestically, a clean, reliable and resilient power grid based on natural gas and renewable energy sources working together is the only technologically feasible way of affordably [meeting your climate goals](#) for a carbon-free electrical grid by 2035 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

Roughly a decade ago, renewables made up about 8 percent of the nation's electricity generation, according to [federal EIA data](#). With natural gas serving as the dominant power generation source, [EIA predicts](#) renewable energy's share will grow to about 21 percent by year's end and 42 percent by 2050. As wind and solar expand their capacity, natural gas will provide the necessary quick and flexible baseload power to balance intermittency of those resources.

As you [said](#) during a 2014 western Pennsylvania visit: *"There's an energy boom that's changed the paradigm of manufacturing. It's cheaper to manufacture in the United States than it is in Europe and/or in Asia."* Natural gas makes the industrial process more efficient and, along with natural gas liquids, is the feedstock that is essential to the development and production of most modern-day items.

That includes, by the way, the wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, and plastics for lightweight electric vehicles, to name a few.

[EIA forecasts](#) that industrial consumption of natural gas will increase 35 percent between now and 2050, making it clear that clean energy goals – combined with a commitment to bring American manufacturing back – will need reliable energy, new infrastructure, and a skilled workforce.

As your administration and Congress work on an infrastructure package and energy and climate policy, we ask that you consider the achievements made thanks to responsible American shale development and acknowledge that together – through *"innovation rather than elimination,"* as U.S. Senator Manchin [has said](#) – we have an incredible opportunity with domestic natural gas development to remain the world's leader in advancing climate and economic progress.

Sincerely,



Gene Barr  
President & CEO  
Pa. Chamber of Business & Industry



David Callahan  
President  
Marcellus Shale Coalition



David N. Taylor  
President & CEO  
Pennsylvania Manufacturers'  
Association



Tom Melcher  
Business Manager  
Pittsburgh Regional Building  
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Co-Chair Pittsburgh Works Together



Morgan O'Brien  
Co-Chair  
Pittsburgh Works Together



cc:

Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor  
Brian Deese, Director National Economic Council  
John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
Sec. Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Secretary of Energy  
Sec. Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior  
Admin. Michael Regan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Pa. Congressional Delegation