



November 30, 2021

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator, Massachusetts
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

Our respective member companies are responsible for nearly 40 percent of [U.S. natural gas production](#), and each of the tens-of-thousands of Americans our members employ take great pride in safely and responsibly developing the energy essential to modern life. Your recent attempts to use the U.S. energy industry as a scapegoat for rising energy prices is a deeply misguided, headline-grabbing ploy.

Serious solutions to lasting energy affordability, reliability, and security come from policies that encourage responsible domestic natural gas development, pipeline infrastructure modernization, and export growth. “Ban[ing] fracking – everywhere” as you called for in a 2019 [tweet](#), is an absolute devastating policy that would cause massive energy price spikes, erode grid reliability and likely trigger a global economic depression.

Natural gas, just like any commodity, experiences price swings influenced by a variety of factors, including political and regulatory environments. In fact, we’re seeing the markets work as [S&P Platts](#) reports on Nov. 29 that “gas production from the Marcellus and Utica shales has surged,” bringing inventory levels near the five-year average and “cool[ing]” forward pricing.

While energy costs have risen as of late, the U.S. shale revolution is the primary driver of the affordable, reliable and abundant natural gas enjoyed by homeowners, small businesses, and manufacturers for the past dozen years.

In Pennsylvania, natural gas prices today are less than half compared to the early 2000s, according to [state data](#), with wholesale natural gas prices down anywhere from 50-75 percent since 2008. Ohio consumers realized nearly [\\$40 billion in savings](#) between 2008-2018 thanks to affordable natural gas. And these savings have also been felt nationwide, as a [White House Council of Economic Advisors](#) (CEA) report estimates shale-driven improvements in energy productivity reduced domestic natural gas prices 63 percent between 2007-2019.

Despite the recent uptick in prices, the facts are that Americans [saved a bundle](#) on home energy, all while the U.S. became not only energy secure, but a net energy exporter for the first time since the Eisenhower administration – a feat long-sought by Democrat and Republican administrations alike.

The U.S. is blessed with energy abundance and natural gas production tops 93 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d), according to the [EIA](#), more than can be consumed domestically. Increasing LNG export capacity creates a new market for U.S. gas where America can be a global energy supplier, enhancing our geopolitical position and helping countries achieve clean air and climate goals with economic growth, all while meeting our needs at home.

Yet the extreme [Keep it in the Ground-styled policies](#) for which you advocate absolutely crush hard-working families, small businesses and run counter to the administration’s highly sought environmental gains.



Even though our three states sit atop the nation's most prolific natural gas formation, anti-industry and anti-consumer activists have blocked critically needed energy infrastructure expansion to connect key markets, particularly in New England and the Southeast, to this abundant, clean resource.

Six of the last seven planned [interstate pipeline projects](#) that would've provided much-needed natural gas to New England and Southeastern markets have been cancelled or put on hold. It's astonishing that New England has been forced to import [Russian-produced natural gas](#) in winter months because misguided politics get in the way of Americans having access to domestic energy produced just a few hundred miles away.

These natural gas constraints in New York and across New England cost consumers an estimated \$1.8 billion over just one month in 2014, according to a [Carnegie Mellon University study](#).

Make no mistake, supporting increased domestic energy exports encourages production growth, strengthens U.S. energy security, and provides a path towards reducing energy poverty in the world's most impoverished regions. Importantly, the energy we produce here and export globally is a primary factor in [reducing](#) greenhouse gas emissions domestically and abroad. Politicians looking to place blame for short-term rising prices only need to look at the unrealistic energy and environment policies recently pursued and negative propaganda conveyed regarding our own domestic energy resources.

The U.S. is blessed with an energy abundance that can sustainably fuel modern society for generations to come. In finding ways to address consumer energy cost increases at home, political leaders should look to us – rather than grovel to OPEC and Russia – for long-term energy solutions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dave Callahan in black ink.

Dave Callahan, President
Marcellus Shale Coalition

Handwritten signature of Charlie Burd in black ink.

Charlie Burd, Executive Director
Gas & Oil Association
of West Virginia

Handwritten signature of Matt Hammond in black ink.

Matt Hammond, President
Ohio Oil & Gas Association