

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2021

Bundeskanzleramt  
Bundeskanzlerin  
Angela Merkel  
Willy-Brandt-Straße 1  
10557 Berlin

Dear Chancellor Merkel,

Thank you for your continued leadership and friendship. As Members of the United States Congress, we are seeking to raise awareness of the strong and growing capability of American energy to power our allies across the world, including Germany, and help diversify their energy reliance away from authoritarian human right's abusers, such as Russia.

As Republican and Democrat members of the U.S. government have expressed numerous times in the past, along with many of your European colleagues who recently passed a resolution in the European Parliament, there is mounting concern about the continued construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. We strongly believe that Europe's continued reliance on Russian energy is not in the national security interests of the United States, Germany, or our mutual allies and partners throughout Europe. We believe that increasing imports of American energy, especially natural gas, will make Europe safer, more environmentally friendly, and economically stronger.

The recent news that Russia has arrested opposition leader Alexei Navalny upon his return to the country after being treated in Germany for poisoning at the hands of the Russian Government, according to mounting evidence from our European allies, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and independent investigators, is extremely concerning.<sup>1</sup> The time is now to stop funding Russian exports that fuel the Kremlin's destabilizing and authoritarian actions. Although this is not the first time that Russia has arrested, imprisoned, or assassinated critics to Vladimir Putin or the Russian oligarchy, it is one of the most high-profile cases and cannot be ignored. We must show Russia that such actions will trigger a strong, unified Western response. Halting the construction of Nord Stream 2 will foil Russia's efforts to make Europe increasingly reliant on Russian energy and provide the opportunity for America and Europe to strengthen our opposition to Vladimir Putin and his regime.

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<sup>1</sup> Hartog, Emma, "Russian opposition leader Navalny arrested upon arrival in Moscow," *Politico*, (January 2021) <https://www.politico.eu/article/russian-opposition-leader-alexei-navalny-arrested-upon-arrival-in-moscow/>

With over 45 percent of the European Union’s natural gas imported from Russia, we believe it would be beneficial to Germany to lead on this issue.<sup>2</sup> Russia is not a dependable source of energy for Europe. This became especially apparent in January 2009, when our partner Ukraine was cut off from Russian gas for 13 days, causing many countries in the region grave harm and greater concern about the power of Russia to unilaterally control and weaponize its energy supply to bend Europe to its will.<sup>3</sup> The United States Congress has recognized the risks of Nord Stream 2 since its inception and has instituted mandatory sanctions on a bipartisan basis. If Russia was to increase its gas deliveries and market share across Europe, as it is set to do with Nord Stream 2, an increasingly assertive Russia will have even greater leverage over Germany and the rest of Europe.

The United States stands ready to help Europe diversify its energy portfolio away from Russia, by supporting multi-lateral programs such as the Three Seas Initiative, along with increasing American exports. We know that the United States is better prepared to deliver high quality, low emission liquified natural gas (LNG) to Germany and the EU than ever before. In 2019, U.S. exports of LNG doubled over 2018. These exports doubled again by the end 2020, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. energy industry remains strong and continues to grow, proving the ability for our country to help power your region and the world.

We know that under your leadership, Germany has aggressively targeted lowering your greenhouse gas emissions and seeks to lead in this area. Thankfully, American LNG exported globally has among the lowest lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions profile of any in the global market and is significantly cleaner than natural gas that is exported from Russia. According to the United States Department of Energy National Laboratories, Russian natural gas exported to Europe has a lifecycle emission profile over 40 percent higher than U.S. LNG exported to Europe. For example, if Europe switched its current supply of Russian natural gas to U.S. LNG, it would avoid over 70 million tons of emissions every year. We urge you to consider and review this prospect, especially in light of Germany and other EU countries’ 2050 carbon emissions targets, as we believe U.S. LNG can play a part in helping reach those goals.

The United States is blessed with abundant natural resources, and we have worked diligently to make them available to our allies across the world. The U.S. stands ready to supply the energy that Germany and Europe need to power their continued growth and strengthen their security by diversifying away from Russian energy and influence. Further, this is an opportunity for Germany and America to deepen our alliance, recognize our shared goals of security and peace in Europe, and continue tackling the global climate challenge.

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<sup>2</sup> Eurostat, “EU Imports of Energy Products – Recent Developments” (October 2020).  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU\\_imports\\_of\\_energy\\_products\\_-\\_recent\\_developments](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_imports_of_energy_products_-_recent_developments)

<sup>3</sup> Pirani, Simon. Stern, Johnathan, Yafimava, Katja, “The Russo-Ukrainian gas dispute of January 2009: a comprehensive assessment,” Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (February 2009).  
<https://www.oxfordenergy.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/NG27-TheRussoUkrainianGasDisputeofJanuary2009AComprehensiveAssessment-JonathanSternSimonPiraniKatjaYafimava-2009.pdf>

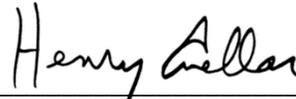
<sup>4</sup> United States Department of Energy, “U.S. LNG Exports Continue Record Growth.”  
<https://www.energy.gov/maps/map-us-natural-gas-exports-continue-record-growth>

While we absolutely understand the German people's need for affordable and reliable energy, we do not believe that Russia is the best source to fulfill either of those needs, especially when security, environmental, and human rights concerns are considered. We are prepared to work with your government to achieve these common objectives, and we welcome the opportunity for further dialogue. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



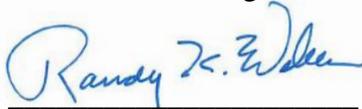
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John Rutherford  
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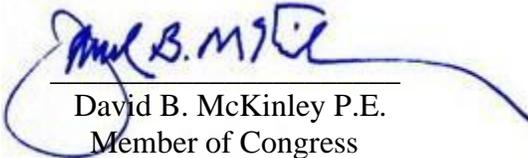
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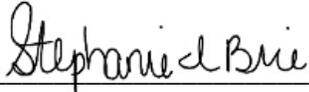
Eric A. 'Rick' Crawford  
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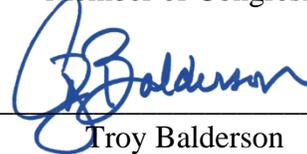
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Stephanie Bice  
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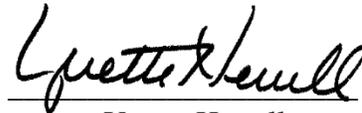
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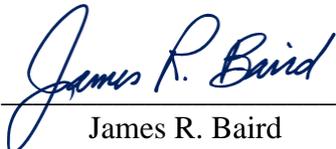
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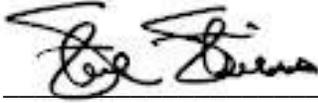
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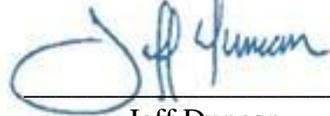
Tom Rice  
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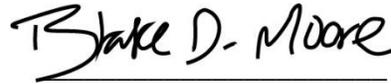
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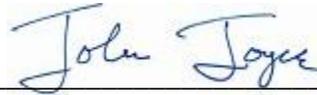
Roger Williams  
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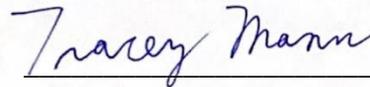
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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



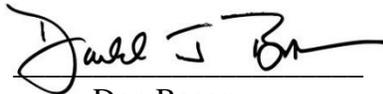
Tracy Mann  
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Mario Diaz-Balart  
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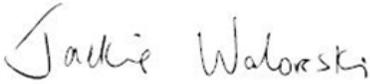
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