

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As you are aware, the oil market is in turmoil, reaching record lows, with the front-month West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil contract prices dropping below \$0 for the first time. The plummeting price of oil is in direct correlation with the demand shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and further heightened by the OPEC plus concurrent supply shock. This is causing global shutdowns and leaving American oil producers to face an uncertain future. We cannot stand idly by as the oil markets continue such a sharp decline amid this global recession. In order to mitigate the dire consequences of an energy collapse on the brink, we must take action now.

That said, we urge the Federal government to purchase oil from American producers and store it in our nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR). Crude inventories are rapidly exceeding the 5 and 10-year averages – setting historical precedence unseen before. While also understanding the limited capacity remaining in our SPR's, we additionally support increasing our country's storage availability. If we can achieve this, the United States will have the unique advantage of building up our reserves with inexpensive oil, before the demand inevitably picks up again. This investment will uniquely position us in a healthy state of energy independence as well as help our crippled energy sector in the immediate present.

We must protect this invaluable commodity, which has been an economic foundation for America's global success. Protecting our producers now is critical if we're going to ensure our worldwide leadership in the energy sector for years to come. Failure to address this crisis swiftly will result in thousands of layoffs, an industry-wide collapse, and catastrophic consequences for our economy.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter - alleviating this stress on the oil market will provide our energy producers the help they need, while also investing in America's influential energy future. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that Congress takes the urgent action that this crisis demands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Babin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Babin" clearly distinguishable.

Rep. Brian Babin, D.D.S.

Member of Congress

s/Rep. Randy K. Weber, Sr.

Member of Congress

s/Rep. Lizzie Fletcher

Member of Congress

s/Rep. Clay Higgins

Member of Congress