

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation have embarked upon economic warfare against the United States. We choose that term carefully and understand the full weight of its meaning.

During this time of pandemic and global economic crisis, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has chosen to settle scores in the oil market. Riyadh's motivation may be multi-faceted – to punish the Russians, to capture near-term market share, to destabilize long-term investment in American energy – but the end result is the same. Our nation's energy dominance, which President Trump has carefully nurtured over the past three years, is now under direct threat from a country that professes to be our ally.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must change course. The American people grow weary of providing for the defense of Saudi Arabia – with military financing and weapons sales, logistics and intelligence-sharing, and the deployment of our men and women in uniform. This relationship will be difficult to preserve if turmoil and hardship continue to be intentionally inflicted on the small- and medium-sized American companies that are the heart of our nation's energy abundance. By taking advantage of a confusing situation and desperate time, the Kingdom risks its bilateral relationship with the United States.

An alternative path to a brighter future remains open, if only the Saudis will take it. The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries is a relic of a cartelized past, one that burdens the Kingdom with free-riders and forces it to shoulder the lion's share of every production decision. Instead of investing in Russian energy projects – which may only deepen Russia's ties to China and provide it with leverage over American allies in Europe – the Kingdom should partner with the United States on strategic energy infrastructure projects across the Indo-Pacific region and in the Americas. Riyadh should leave the antique OPEC cartel immediately and join the United States on the global stage as a free market energy powerhouse.

If the Kingdom foregoes this path, the United States retains enormously powerful tools at our disposal. In addition to the various types of aid and assistance we already provide – none of which should ever be offered perpetually and unconditionally – we are reminded of the levers of statecraft the Administration is empowered to exercise. From tariffs and other trade restrictions to investigations, safeguard actions, sanctions, and much else, the American people are not without recourse.

In addition, following the enactment of S. 2040, the *Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act*, Congress is also willing to contemplate revisiting any relevant antitrust authorities and support for the war in Yemen.

We encourage you, as the nation's chief diplomat, to make this case to the Saudis, and to encourage both Riyadh and Moscow to stop wreaking havoc in global markets—particularly as our nation seeks to address a growing pandemic and avert an economic crisis.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



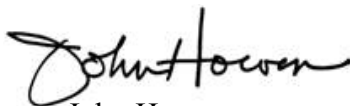
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



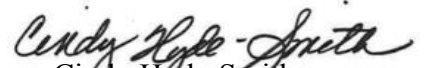
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator