



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Republican Whip
2049 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker, Republican Leader McCarthy, Leader Hoyer, and Republican Whip Scalise:

Hard-working American families and communities throughout our states are facing extraordinary economic challenges due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and further compounded by the recent destabilization of the global energy markets.


While the survival of these communities depends on an energy industry that is most at risk, they are still among those on whom the nation is leaning during these challenging times. Despite the health risks and ongoing market uncertainty, they are still powering our country's firehouses, police stations, hospitals; and providing the fuel needed to ensure our supply chains are running and our grocery stores are stocked. Even after the virus subsides and Americans are able to return to their daily routines these communities could still face staggering employment rates estimated as high as 42% in some areas¹.

As the administration continues to engage a multitude of solutions to address the volatility in energy markets, there are steps that Congress can take now to provide certainty to these communities. We believe one effective strategy is through the Department of Energy's attempt to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. If Congress provides the department the necessary resources to conduct this action, it would help stabilize the global markets while also creating an opportunity to restore the reserve at maximum cost savings to the American taxpayer.

¹ Mark Muro, Robert Maxim, Jacob Whiton, *"The places COVID-19 recession will likely hit the most"*
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/03/17/the-places-a-covid-19-recession-will-likely-hit-hardest/>

We strongly urge for the inclusion of language in a future stimulus package that will provide full support for the Department of Energy's effort to utilize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and bring certainty to these beleaguered communities and American families. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



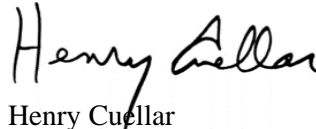
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



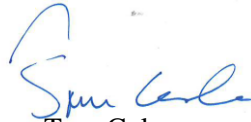
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



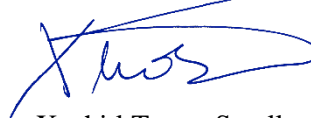
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



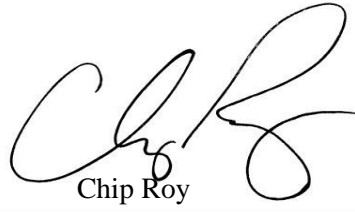
Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress