

August 15, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

As state representatives who represent the Texas Permian Basin, where oil and natural gas are produced cleaner and more efficiently than any other region on earth, we are deeply concerned about the potential re-designation of portions of the Permian Basin for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). We implore you to take necessary action as our nation's chief executive to rein in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and prevent this discretionary action from taking place.

Absent your intervention and leadership, the EPA's proposed final action is scheduled to take place in September. The potential negative impacts of this action cannot be understated.

A non-attainment designation of the Permian Basin is at odds with U.S. economic and national security interests, and, ironically, environmental interests as well. If production slows or declines in the Permian Basin where environmental concerns are top of mind, other energy producing nations that do not share our priorities regarding human rights and the environment will fill that void. This will undoubtedly cause global emissions to rise, U.S. geopolitical power to wane and prices at the pump to soar.

Energy producers in the Permian Basin have voluntarily taken significant measures to reduce their carbon footprint, investing millions of dollars in technologies that are already in the field bringing down emissions – all the way to zero in many instances. For smaller operators in Texas, the New Technology Implementation Grant (NTIG) Program under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) provides grants for the purchase, lease or installation of equipment to reduce flaring emissions and other site emissions. Grant eligibility requirements were amended by legislation in 2021 to allow grants for leased equipment, a change resulting from feedback of operators in the field seeking solutions to do their work as cleanly and efficiently as possible. In the two years before this change went into effect, NTIG provided \$4.6 million in grants. NTIG is only part of what TERP is doing to improve air quality across the state of Texas.

Federal intervention is unnecessary as well as detrimental. Producing oil and natural gas with as little waste as possible is not only environmentally friendly, it is also economically beneficial. Advances in technology and hard-working West Texans have unlocked the energy producing potential of the Permian

Basin – from oil and natural gas to wind and solar and everything in between. True American energy independence – a dream in decades past – is possible in your lifetime.

In closing, we reiterate our position that a re-designation of portions of the Permian Basin for the 2015 NAAQS is unnecessary and ask that you take action to ensure the EPA does not continue down its current path. Additionally, we would like to cordially invite you to take a tour of the Permian Basin, see the technologies that could allow America to be energy independent and carbon neutral, and meet the men and women who work in the energy industry. Their sweat and blood, and that of the generations of roughnecks and pipeline operators before them, paved the way for American dominance for the last century. It is on behalf of these hard-working men and women and their children that we write this letter. Let Texas power America as a global force for good for another 100 years.

God bless Texas,

Rep. Brooks Landgraf (HD 81)

Rep. Tom Craddick (HD 82)

Rep. Andrew Murr (HD 53)

Rep. Dustin Burrows (HD 83)

Rep. Eddie Marales (HD 74)

Rep. Drew Darby (HD 72)

Rep. Ken King (HD 88)

Rep. Stan Lambert (HD 71)

Cc: Administrator Michael Regan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460