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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-4319

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES
SELECT REVENUE
SOCIAL SECURITY
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JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE

May 18, 2022

Mike Sommers
President & CEO
American Petroleum Institute
200 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20001-5571

Dear Mr. Sommers:

The American Petroleum Institute (API), under your direction, has been vital in promoting American energy production — and has helped foster the implementation of policies that strengthen our energy security and competitiveness. However, I write to share my grave concern over the carbon tax proposal that has been considered by an internal climate committee at API, as recently reported by the Wall Street Journal.

While I understand that API has not adopted the proposal as part of its advocacy platform, it is still alarming to hear of such ideas being considered by some of your members, especially at a time when Americans are witnessing a global energy crisis, feeling skyrocketing prices at the pump, and watching Russia's unjust and unprovoked war on Ukraine and threats to Europe — where oil and gas sits at the center of the conflict.

As you might imagine, a carbon tax, especially at this time, would be a gut-punch to American families — as well as our independent producers — who are responsible for producing more than 83 percent of America's oil and 90 percent of its gas. You are well aware, too, of the Biden Administration's whole-of-government assault on American energy production, and its FY23 proposal to levy \$45 billion in new taxes on the industry, which would be an economic and natural security disaster. Meanwhile, working families struggle with runaway inflation and out-of-control costs for their everyday energy needs. This European-style idea will leave us, and the world, more dependent on petro-tyrants, like Russia and other rogue nations.

Oil and gas companies in West Texas, and across the nation, firmly believe that regressive and anti-growth proposals have no place in American energy policy discussions and are wholly inconsistent with API's mission "...to influence public policy in support of a strong, viable U.S. oil and natural gas industry." While I understand there are diverse viewpoints within the organization, API must reject ideas that are not in the best interest of the energy producers whose primary investment and production activity is in the United States, as well as proposals that will only benefit foreign-based multinationals, at the expense of the American people and American energy production.

I am grateful for our partnership in promoting policies that allow the U.S. oil and gas industry to provide affordable and reliable energy to the American people and our allies around the globe. I look forward to your response and our continued work together.

Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress