

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:
MAKE AMERICA ENERGY INDEPENDENT AGAIN.**

BACKGROUND. The Biden Regime has thoroughly reversed our energy independence and reliability, leading to gas pump price spikes and energy shortages. Biden blocked pipelines from being built and stopped U.S. energy production on energy-rich federal lands in the vast, remote West. He delayed a Trump Administration 5-year program for offshore energy leasing in the Gulf of Mexico. The Biden Regime increased our daily reliance on Russian oil by 34% before blocking it. This cataclysm impairs our economy and our national security. Biden appears totally oblivious to his ruinations upon the American people. Instead of perpetuating the solid energy independence and abundance under the Trump Administration, he splurges millions in taxpayer subsidies on unreliable and expensive solar and wind energy. Finally, disgusted conservative congressmen have co-sponsored a bill to rectify this ongoing desperate situation.

THE BILL. Conservative Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA.) sponsored [HR 6858](#), the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. It is currently in the House Energy Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, awaiting a



vote to advance it to the full House for debate. The bill would require the President to submit to Congress an energy plan within 30 days of bill passage to evaluate U.S. crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas imports from country of origin and exports, then assess the energy security risks of such imports. The legislation would require strategies to encourage increased domestic production of crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas to offset such imports from Russia. It removes all restrictions on liquified natural gas (LNG) exports to our allies and substitutes for Russian gas in the needy European market. The bill gives the Federal Energy Regulatory Comm. authority to approve or deny applications for facilities to export natural gas from the U.S. to foreign nations or import such from foreign countries. [HR 6858](#) would mandate approval for the construction and operation of the Keystone XL Pipeline that can deliver an additional 830,000 barrels per day of crude oil to U.S. refineries. The President and federal agencies must obtain congressional approval before prohibiting or delaying specific new energy mineral leases or permits on federal lands or withdrawing specific federal lands from mineral and geothermal leasing activities. The Dept. of Interior must resume issuing oil and gas leases on federal lands and offshore in the Outer Continental Shelf. Requires the Secretary of Energy to develop a plan to replace oil taken from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. A limit on the withdrawal of petroleum from this reserve until the Dept. of Energy develops a plan to increase the percentage of federal lands leased for oil and gas production. Said McMorris Rodgers, “America’s energy dominance is our strongest weapon against Putin. Putin and Russia’s economy are dependent upon dominating energy production and exporting to other nations. He gains power by doing so, and it’s what funds his military and aggressive behavior. America must shut down Putin’s war chest and stop bloodshed in Ukraine, and this legislation is a vital step in achieving those goals. To counter Putin, our bill flips the switch to promote American energy jobs, production, and exports.” After Biden assumed office, imports of Russian oil rose 28%, according to [Politifact](#), Russia becoming the second-largest exporter to the U.S.

SOCIALISTS BLOCK BILL. 221 Socialist Dems in the House have blocked consideration of this bill several times, unconscionable in these critical energy times. The Biden Regime and Dems instead appeal to our enemies Venezuela and Iran to pump more oil for us. Dems wrongly accuse U.S. oil companies of hoarding oil leases, when in reality Biden has stopped leases. The Regime in its budget bill included a \$45 billion tax hike on U.S. energy producers. He released oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve with no concrete plan to refill it.¹ Democrats in the House would rather help fund Putin’s aggression than restore American energy dominance and use our energy resources to help Ukraine and Europe fight back. Dems would rather peddle their Green New Deal ideology while lining the pockets of the tyrants in the Kremlin, Iran, and Venezuela. Meanwhile, American consumers pay these tyrants at the pump. If Democrats seriously were interested in cutting Putin’s leverage, they would focus on increasing our natural gas exports to Europe, as 40% of European nation energy supplies come from Russia.

TAXPAYER REASONING. This bill will unleash U.S. energy production and drive down all energy prices, especially those at the gas pump and in our utility bills. We must unleash our natural resources and produce our own clean, efficient energy here at home to ensure low energy prices and promote American jobs in our communities. Many who live on fixed incomes greatly concerned about the rising cost of fuel in every area, including transportation and home heating. Socialist Dems care not to solve our horrid energy crisis. They want only to end fossil fuel use in favor of Green New Deal energy sources that are more expensive, unreliable, and costly to consumers. The U.S. has an abundance of fossil

¹ Jacob Bliss, Breitbart News. [House Democrats Block Consideration for American Energy Independence from Russia Act for the 4th Time](#), March 1, 2022.

fuel, mineral and renewable energy resources, and many uranium reserves. We can power our nation with all of these, create high-paid jobs, and reinforce our national security. To remain strong and free, we must become energy independent. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the price of oil rose to over \$115 per barrel for the first time since 2014. Had Biden maintained the American energy independence President Trump achieved, we would have crushed Russian oil blackmail and ended their ability to wage war against Ukraine. Instead, Russia was providing 8% of our oil imports. If America produced more energy for our allies, we would have the ability to deprive Putin of a major revenue stream and blunt the global fuel market shock.



TAKE ACTION NOW. In a world with growing crises overseas and economic instability at home, it is crucially important to achieve and maintain energy independence. We must guarantee reasonable, low costs for gas at the pump, utility use, and all other energy consumption for consumers and industry, particularly to cool inflation. Our national security and that of our allies overseas depends on energy security. Using the information above, lobby your congressman today to pass **HR 6858** quickly. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for congressional contact information and join our NTF *Congress Watch Project*.

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