

June 23, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

cc:

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary, Department of Energy
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation
The Honorable Tristan Brown, Deputy Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
The Honorable Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor
The Honorable John F. Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
The Honorable Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
The Honorable Richard Glick, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
The Honorable Reta Jo Lewis, President and Chair, Export-Import Bank of the United States

Dear President Biden,

We write to you in response to the June 8th Freeport LNG export facility explosion to express our continued concern with liquefied natural gas (LNG) production and exports. The explosion serves as a reminder of the growing adverse public health impacts and economic instability resulting from liquefied natural gas (LNG) production and exports and their burdens on frontline and environmental justice communities. If not curtailed, building new and expanded LNG infrastructure and export terminals will only further raise domestic energy prices, exacerbate the most severe climate impacts, and perpetuate injustices the fossil fuel industry has inflicted on low-income communities and communities of color.

We call on the Biden Administration to do the following:

- Immediately halt the approval of the Freeport LNG Train 4 expansion until inspections are completed, and risks are evaluated following the explosion. Additionally, we ask that all other LNG export facility projects be paused until safety precautions to prevent similar disasters are implemented for other terminals.
- Direct DOE to find gas exports not in the public interest due to their climate and safety repercussions and to stop approving new applications.
- Work with state and local authorities to ensure the community surrounding the Freeport LNG facility receives transparency about the environmental and health impacts of the explosion with the community and businesses surrounding the facility. This should culminate in a bi-lingual community meeting that should be held within 45 days to inform them of the cause of the explosion and potential health risks from the blast.

Freeport LNG is the [fourth largest export](#) facility in the country, accounting for approximately 16 percent of total US export capacity. Freeport LNG is planning to add a fourth train to the facility, which would increase the facility's overall capacity by [one third](#) – but the company has not yet taken a final investment decision to move forward with the expansion. In the wake of the explosion, the facility is not expected to be fully operational until late 2022, upending the already delicate and volatile global gas market. Immediately following news of the explosion at Freeport LNG, gas prices fell domestically by [16 percent](#), highlighting the direct connection between gas exports and high home heating and electricity costs. The volatile LNG export market leads the US fossil fuel industry to reap enormous profits while American families are left struggling to afford daily energy needs.

Proposed plans to expand LNG export terminals in the next few years are a massive step in the wrong direction for climate and would also perpetuate the racially and economically disproportionate cumulative impacts of pollution and the associated health burdens for residents, especially in the Gulf Coast region. Gas facilities and infrastructure sited in these communities emit highly potent climate-polluting methane and other dangerous air pollution, such as volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and benzene. In addition, studies show communities living in proximity to oil and gas facilities are affected by an array of adverse health impacts, including asthma, lung and cardiovascular disease, cancer, preterm births, and premature deaths.

Freeport LNG is a prime example of a facility that negatively impacts surrounding communities. It has a [documented history](#) of safety violations compounded by a lack of adequate emergency planning for the facility. For example, in a [letter](#) from August 2021, after investigating a fire that occurred at the same facility in October 2020, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) states that Freeport LNG did not have an adequate emergency response plan.

We are ready to work with you to ensure actions are taken to give community members answers about the recent explosion at Freeport LNG and ensure the health and safety of community members and the surrounding ecosystem are protected from future disasters. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn L Jones, Freeport Community Member
Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Brazoria County
Citizens for Clean Air/Water in Freeport
Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend
Carrizo/ Comecrudo Tribal Nation of Texas
Port Arthur Community Action Network (PACAN)
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Healthy Gulf
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Chispa TX
Chispa LCV
Louisiana Bucket Brigade

SouthWings
Clean Energy Now Texas
Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative
Coalition Against Death Alley
South Texas Environmental Justice Network
Concerned Citizens of St. John
Louisiana League of Conscious Voters
Inclusive Louisiana
Fenceline Watch
Air Alliance Houston
Karankawa Kadla
RESTORE

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
198 Methods
350.org
350 Bay Area Action
350 Deschutes
350 Hawaii
350 Seattle
350 Silicon Valley
350 Triangle
350 Ventura County Climate Hub
A Community Voice
Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc
Anthropocene Alliance
Association of Young Americans (AYA)
Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Beyond Extreme Energy
Bold Alliance
Bronx Climate Justice North
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US
CDP - Energy and Environmental Initiative
Center for Biological Diversity
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Change the Chamber*Lobby for Climate
Citizen's Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood
Clean Energy Action
Clean Water for North Carolina
Climate Hawks Vote

Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Community for Sustainable Energy
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Don't Waste Arizona
Earth Action, Inc.
Earthworks
Empower Our Future
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Justice Team, Cedar Lane UU Church
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Fridays for Future U.S.
Friends of the Earth
Global Witness
Greater N.O. Climate Reality Project
Greater N.O. Interfaith Climate Coalition
Green House Collaboration Center
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
HoCo Climate Action, Howard County MD
Honor the Earth
Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Climate Action Campaign
Indigenous Environmental Network
Indivisible Ambassadors
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety & Environment
League of Conservation Voters
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
Methane Action
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association
Morningside Gardens Green Committee for Environmental Sustainability
MoveOn.org Hoboken
N.O. Musicians Clinic & Assistance Foundation
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
North Bronx Racial Justice
North Range Concerned Citizens
Northeast Action Collective
Oil Change International
Our Revolution Ocean county, NJ
Peak Plastic Foundation
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania

Progressive Democrats of America
ProgressNow New Mexico
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR)
Public Citizen, Inc.
Pueblo Action Alliance
Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
RapidShift Network
Resist the Pipeline
Resource Renewal Institute
Rogue Climate
Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition
Save EPA
Save the Pine Bush
Seeding Sovereignty
Seventh Generation
Sierra Club
Small Business Alliance
Society of Native Nations
Southwest Organization for Sustainability
Spirit of the Sun
Stand.earth
System Change Not Climate Change
Terra Advocati
Unite North Metro Denver
University of Montana
Via Senti, a California Nonprofit Corporation
Vote Climate
Wall of Women
Waterway Advocates
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
Wilwerding Consulting
Womxn from the Mountain
Working for Racial Equity
Yolpaki co
Zero Hour