

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