

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1803**

March 1, 2021

Governor John Bel Edwards  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Governor Edwards,

Sir, thank you for your February 19, 2021 letter to President Biden highlighting the importance of oil and gas revenues to the state's coastal restoration efforts and the initiatives that private industry in Louisiana has taken to operate more efficiently while reducing emissions. For an oil and gas state like Louisiana, it is dependent upon our leaders to prioritize the stability and potential for growth of the industry on both the federal and state level.

I commend you for respectfully standing against the Biden administration's day-one decision to enact broadscale, anti-job, anti-industry executive orders during a time when our nation is faced with hardship and uncertainty. In my considered opinion, more can be done, including at the state level.

While Louisiana's Congressional delegation is committed to working with you to counter President Biden's policies that unnecessarily restrict industry, we need to ensure that Louisiana is in the best possible position to benefit from pro-oil and gas policies at the federal level. That means state laws... which, arguably, for decades have pushed industry and jobs out of Louisiana... should be changed. This includes:

- Ending Legacy Lawsuits
- Enacting true Tort Reform
- And lowering Louisiana's severance taxes, which are three times higher than our neighboring states.

As our state executive, you can support these measures helping to make Louisiana more business-friendly, more competitive with other states such as Texas.

Again, thank you for your courageous stance against the Biden administration's executive orders targeting the oil and gas industry. While I will continue to be a voice for the 250,000 Louisiana oil and gas and petrochemical workers in Washington, I am at your avail to help push reasonable, positive, and business-friendly state-level reforms.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress