



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

March 23, 2020

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

Governor Edwards,

As you know, the oil and gas industry supports over 260,000 jobs across the state. Due to the nature of this virus, and the ongoing price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia, energy jobs in Louisiana and the nation are in a particularly precarious state.

The federal government has been attempting to incentivize employers across all industries to keep employees on the payroll and to keep critical infrastructure operational. Having the energy industry up and running during this crisis is a critical endeavor for the entire nation.

To alleviate additional strains on the industry, I am asking for your consideration of a temporary decrease or halt to Louisiana's severance tax on the oil and gas industry. By doing this, you will ensure that one of the biggest employers, direct and indirect, of Louisiana citizens is able to continue offering services to our state and nation. This will also allow hundreds of thousands of Louisiana citizens to continue receiving paychecks and benefits which will allow the federal government and state additional leeway to prioritize our resources.

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of all Louisiana citizens. I hope that you will give this request your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress