



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

April 8, 2020

Vice President Mike Pence
The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Pence,

Sir, we write to share the concerns of offshore oil and gas workers from Louisiana regarding COVID-19 testing. As you know, oil and gas workers in the Gulf of Mexico and other locations work in close proximity in highly dangerous environments. Despite significant efforts to social distance, limit unnecessary contact, and follow other recommendations of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), these essential workers live together for weeks at a time and are highly vulnerable to infectious diseases like COVID-19.

Support service companies like PharmaSafe and RemoteMD are contracted to provide healthcare screenings and services to these workers and are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of entire crews. Their development of HIPAA compliant screening databases to monitor spread and identify hotspots has greatly assisted in the diagnoses and prevention of COVID-19, but additional measures are necessary to keep Gulf rigs fully operational. Specifically, the oil and gas sector is requesting access to state of the art COVID-19 testing units, such as the ones being produce by Abbott Laboratories and Mesa Biotech, to ensure the health and safety of our nation's offshore workers.

At a time when Russia, Saudi Arabia, and OPEC are deliberately tanking the oil economy, our energy sector cannot withstand the impact of a highly communicable and dangerous virus such as this. The disruption of this industry is a direct threat to the energy independence and national security of the United States of America. Therefore, we respectfully request your support in making available valuable COVID-19 testing units for all vulnerable oil and gas workers.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this serious matter. The health and well-being of these hard-working Americans is essential to our nation's independence and security.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Clay Higgins in blue ink.

Clay Higgins
United States Congressman

Handwritten signature of Ralph Abraham in blue ink.

Ralph Abraham
United States Congressman

CC: Secretary Dan Brouillette
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

CC: Secretary Wilbur Ross
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230