

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

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

In light of recent meetings between climate czar John Podesta and Chinese negotiators, we write to ensure that any resulting agreements do not surrender American energy leadership and empower foreign adversaries in pursuit of your climate agenda.

Your administration's approach to curbing greenhouse gas emissions through heavy-handed mandates and radical Green New Deal policies has undermined American energy production and exacerbated our reliance on foreign nations for critical energy resources. Regulatory overreach, massive subsidies for politically-favored green energy sources, and permitting moratoriums on significant energy projects have led to soaring energy prices and created dependencies on adversaries like China for a variety of energy components. These policies harm American families and threaten national security by limiting access to reliable and affordable energy product – all the while enriching and empowering our adversaries.

It is especially perplexing that the administration would provide such windfalls to China under the auspices of “climate action” given China’s environmental record. China has clearly stated it will not commit to the same sustainability initiatives being pushed domestically.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. is the global leader in reducing emissions, while China is the world’s leading emitter of carbon, emitting more than all developed nations combined.<sup>2</sup> In fact, China’s emissions rose 10 percent in 2023 over 2019 pre-pandemic levels.<sup>3</sup> China is permitting new coal plants at record pace while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalizes regulations that seek to shutter our own coal- and gas-fired power plants. Despite these realities, past climate agreements have committed America to ambitious targets while largely giving China a free pass.

Therefore, we are concerned that last week’s meetings between John Podesta and Chinese counterparts will further leverage American energy security for empty promises from China’s government. We are particularly troubled that Mr. Podesta, who is engaging in climate and energy policymaking and diplomacy without having been confirmed by the Senate, reportedly had significant influence in your decision to ban liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports. This decision is punitive to our allies in Europe, directly benefits Russia, and dealt a significant blow to American leadership in global markets.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/commentary/china-abandons-paris-agreement-making-us-efforts-painful-and-pointless#:~:text=Key%20Takeaways,no%20reduction%20in%20global%20emissions>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57018837>

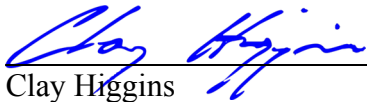
<sup>3</sup> <https://theconversation.com/china-is-pumping-out-carbon-emissions-as-if-covid-never-happened-thats-bad-news-for-the-climate-crisis-207933>

Accordingly, to understand whether any actions or agreements resulting from these meetings further devastate American energy leadership, we request answers to the following questions by August 1, 2024:

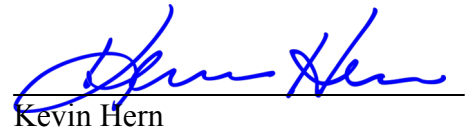
1. What did Mr. Podesta and Chinese negotiators discuss and commit to?
2. What is your administration doing to unlock and utilize domestic mineral resources to curb dependence from China? Did Mr. Podesta discuss China's record of human rights abuses with respect to its mineral supply chains?
3. How will you enforce any potential cooperative agreements and dialogue between your administration and Chinese negotiators given Chinese President Xi's insistence that China's climate policies "will never be influenced by others"?
4. Will you commit to soliciting and considering input from Congress before committing to any new bilateral climate agreements with China?

We must promote policies encouraging abundant and affordable domestic energy production, which will ensure our continued global competitiveness and economic prosperity. China should have no say in the direction of America's energy policy. We must not trade away our energy independence or further burden American families with a misguided climate agenda. We look forward to your response to these questions.

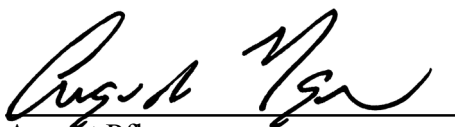
Respectfully,



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

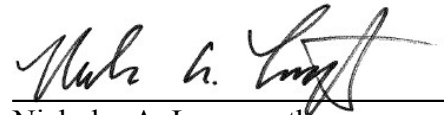


Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



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Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



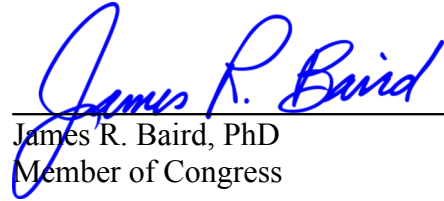
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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



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Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



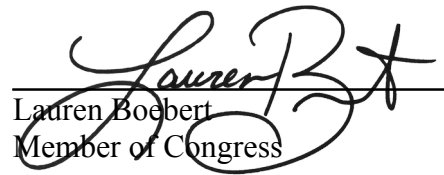
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James R. Baird, PhD  
Member of Congress



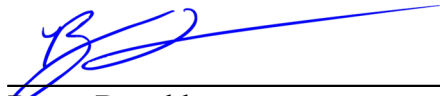
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



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Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress