

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

As the United States Congress works on additional relief legislation to address the public health crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the resulting economic harm, we write to ask you to help address the unique challenges facing the people who work in the U.S. oil and gas sector.

We know from previous economic aid efforts that any COVID-19 relief package must protect all hard-working Americans. The effects of COVID-19 will be felt across the economy. But they will be particularly acute in the energy sector. As you know, Russia and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) dramatically increased production in recent weeks, leading to a collapse in global oil prices. As a result, American oil and gas producers have been forced to decrease domestic production. That decrease has already resulted in layoffs for tens of thousands of hard-working Americans in just the last few weeks, especially in the oilfield services sector. And more layoffs are expected daily.

The dramatic reduction in production coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic leaves these hard-working men and women with an unprecedented challenge. Unable to search for new employment because of federal, state, and local restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, they will face additional challenges in seeking new employment that makes this downturn unlike any we have experienced before.

It is important to understand that scale of this challenge. A 2017 PriceWaterhouseCoopers study showed that the oil and gas industry supported 10.3 million jobs and was responsible for **5.6 percent of total U.S. employment**. This work is critical to ensuring American energy independence and global leadership in responsible energy development. In these uncertain times, those objectives remain critical.

As various sector-specific proposals are considered to address the impacts of COVID-19, this sector and the people who work in it must be taken into account. We stand ready to work with you on behalf of the women and men who work throughout the industry for the benefit of all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress



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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

**Also Signed By:**

Rep. Michael T. McCaul

Rep. Al Green

Rep. Brian Babin

Rep. Kendra S. Horn

Rep. Marc Veasey