



Unleash Energy Abundance to Support U.S. Foreign Policy Goals

American energy abundance strengthens our economy while advancing U.S. security interests. Increased U.S. energy production and exports can fill the gap Russian energy previously provided for European allies, limiting their and our dependence on volatile regions like the Middle East.

THE ISSUE

Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine revealed our European allies' energy security vulnerabilities. Before 2022, the European Union [imported 45%](#) of its natural gas from Russia. Natural gas is an [increasingly vital energy source](#) around the world, especially for heating and electricity. U.S. liquified natural gas (LNG) exports have been a crucial alternative to weaponizable Russian pipeline gas, [helping Europe deny Moscow](#) revenue for its war in Ukraine. Between 2021 and 2023, the U.S. share of Europe's overall natural gas imports [jumped](#) more than three-fold. As Europe displaces Russian gas with LNG, it now imports [nearly half](#) of its LNG from the United States.

U.S. energy producers should be empowered to meet rising energy demand at home and abroad, but the Biden administration is holding our energy sector back from investing in the capacity to do so, hurting our economy and security. In January, President Biden [indefinitely suspended approvals](#) of new LNG export terminals, compounding existing permitting and leasing issues that discourage the investment American consumers and our allies need.

Holding back American energy production at home gives foreign suppliers less friendly to our interests, such as Russia, Venezuela, and Middle Eastern exporters, outsized leverage in the global economy and slows the process of displacing less efficient energy sources that produce more emissions.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

EXPAND U.S. LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS EXPORT CAPACITY U.S. producers cannot meet rising LNG demand abroad unless they are able to invest in the export infrastructure necessary to access world markets.

- President Biden should immediately reverse the ban on new LNG export terminal permitting.
- Congress should consolidate future natural gas export infrastructure approval within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission instead of requiring concurrent Department of Energy approval.

PERMITTING REFORM Cumbersome permitting processes hamper our ability to both extract and process critical minerals domestically, increasing U.S. dependence on China and other countries for resources like copper, nickel, lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements.

- Congress should update and streamline obsolete, burdensome requirements in the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act to reduce critical supply chain logjams..

LEASING CERTAINTY The Biden administration's cancellation of onshore and offshore drilling leases and prevention of new ones undermines our capacity to react to global supply shocks and refill critical assets like our dangerously low Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

- Congress should enact more predictable standards for federal drilling leases and for drawing from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to ensure both are more responsibly managed.