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March 9, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to urge you to take concrete steps to shield Americans from rising energy prices caused by your decision to begin a war with Iran. The instability in the global oil and gas markets and the higher prices at the pump we are seeing were easily predictable, and yet it is clear your Administration was unprepared. The slapdash plan to provide insurance and military escorts to foreign oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz is not sufficient and could further increase the costs of the war for hardworking American taxpayers. I urge you to immediately develop a comprehensive strategy to insulate American families from rising energy costs, which will only continue to increase amid this conflict.

As part of this strategy, you should use the power of the bully pulpit to discourage oil companies from engaging in profiteering and from using revenue generated during this crisis to increase dividends, buy back stock, or provide bonuses to top executives. You should also consider releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as well as limiting oil and gas exports unless it is determined they will advance our national security interests. We have already seen indications that a protracted conflict will significantly disrupt the flow of oil and gas supplies from the Middle East. A squeeze on global markets of this magnitude will lead to higher energy costs for American families who are already struggling with affordability in this economy.

According to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the U.S. exports nearly a third of its crude oil production and is on track to continue to increase exports in 2026. Your Administration ramped up liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports by 26% in 2025, leading to a 56% increase in wholesale natural gas prices that EIA confirmed is “primarily due to increased liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports amid flat production growth.” This translates into real costs for households: National Energy Assistance Directors Association found that on average, U.S. households will spend \$100 more on heating costs this winter compared to last winter largely due to rising natural gas costs. Unconstrained exports are hurting American families, and the U.S. should be extremely judicious in allowing the export of domestically produced oil and gas especially amid this conflict.

Reducing U.S. exposure to a volatile global petroleum market will also provide the stability we need to keep energy costs low for American households. This is why we should be promoting domestic renewable energy. To that end, you should immediately end the

Administration's efforts to stop wind and solar projects, which could be saving ratepayers money and improving grid reliability.

In the current moment, your Administration must take significant steps to help insulate American households from price spikes exacerbated by events far from home. This includes using the tools at hand, such as the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and limiting petroleum exports, to reduce financial impacts for Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" and last name "Reed" clearly distinguishable.

Jack Reed
United States Senator