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September 24, 2026

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

Dear President Trump,

The war you began with Iran on February 28th without consulting Congress and without explanation to the American people has now dragged on for over 200 days with no end in sight. It has cost American lives, depleted military stockpiles, and hurt the American economy. Rather than ending the war and addressing its impacts on average Americans, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) now reports that your Administration plans to provide \$5 billion in taxpayer funding to prop up the oil and gas industry in the Middle East (*U.S. Proposes \$5 Billion to Kickstart Fund to Rebuild Gulf Energy Sites*, Sept. 21, 2026).

As the WSJ notes, “[t]he move is a tacit acknowledgment that the seven-month conflict has roiled the global energy market and destroyed regional pipelines and refineries that will be costly to rebuild.” Yet, unless you end the war and address the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and disruptions of shipments in the Red Sea, American consumers will continue to pay higher and higher prices.

In the seven months since you started the war, U.S. consumers have incurred \$115 billion in additional costs on gasoline and diesel, translating to an extra \$882 per U.S. household, according to Brown University’s Iran War Cost Tracker. According to AAA, the nationwide price of diesel is \$6.51 a gallon, up from \$3.69 a gallon a year ago, impacting nearly every sector of the economy, from transportation to groceries. Based on data from the Department of Energy, the National Energy Assistance Directors Association found that U.S. households are projected to spend an average of \$1,030 to heat their homes this winter, an increase of 8.7 percent, or \$82, over last winter, while households that rely on heating oil face a 31 percent increase, or \$548, due to the Iran war pushing global oil prices higher.

These increased energy costs translate to real hardship for American families. Temperatures are already starting to drop, and families are preparing to spend record amounts heating their homes this winter. While you are proposing to send \$5 billion overseas, here at home, your administration is proposing to eliminate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which currently provides \$4 billion to help low-income families and seniors afford to heat and cool their homes. Your administration has also worked continuously to halt or cancel countless clean energy projects poised to bring more affordable and domestically produced energy onto the grid to directly benefit American consumers.

As I wrote to you back in March, the instability in the global oil and gas markets and the higher prices at the pump we are seeing were easily predictable. It is well past time for you to address the needs of American families who are bearing the brunt of the economic pain of the war.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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

Jack Reed
United States Senator