

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Governor Newsom,

We have grave concerns with your energy policies and their implications for our national security should your administration continue down this path of shortsighted energy management, we can expect the state's military installations – as well as other first lines of defense – to be entirely dependent upon foreign fuels by the mid-century. It is because of deliberate actions taken by your administration to hamstringing California's production of reliable energy that we urge you to consider this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

California's crude oil refining capacity is lower than ever, with only nine remaining refineries for the transportation fuels California military bases need to function properly. If more refineries shut down in California, there could be significant disruptions to the effectiveness of our military bases in the state of California.

On April 23, 2021, your media office issued a press release titled, "*Governor Newsom Takes Action to Phase Out Oil Extraction in California.*" The press release announced your goal, which is to end all oil production in California by the year 2045, regardless of whether Californians continue to consume 1.8 million barrels of crude oil a day. This energy policy sends a clear message to oil producers, refiners, and investors in our state that there is a pending shutdown of essential oil and gas in California.

Your call to prematurely end the fossil fuel industry in our state not only has serious consequences for the military infrastructure in California, but it is a potential catastrophe for the future lack of affordability and availability of transportation fuels. Californians deserve affordable and consistently available gasoline and diesel fuel. Shutting down the state's entire oil production industry and forcing remaining refineries to rely entirely on imported crude oil is fiscally and environmentally irresponsible.

California is home to numerous critical military installations and bases that span all branches of the U.S. military. There are more than 25 active military installations in California including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and California National Guard bases. With refining capacity diminishing, and foreign crude imports increasing, there is a clear threat to our national security on the West Coast.

It is our responsibility to ensure our military in California, and our constituents, have the transportation fuels they need to function properly from day to day. The policies you are implementing make our state and our country more dependent on foreign oil, creating the threat of greater price volatility, and directly threatening military readiness.

While we are aware of the administration's desire to transition to electricity, there must be a balance that ensures the infrastructure and technological upgrades are in place to meet the demand. Vastly reducing California's energy production without a stable electrical grid in place will significantly impact small businesses, our military, and our low-income residents the most.

When we depend on foreign oil, we are all too vulnerable to global supply disruptions and price spikes, which significantly impacts our economy and our ability to maintain a strong military presence. By increasing our domestic energy production and reducing our reliance on foreign oil, we can protect ourselves against these risks and ensure that we have a stable and reliable energy source. We request answers to the following questions regarding the state’s proposed transition away from oil and gas by September 1st, 2024.

1. What strategies are in place to ensure a reliable supply chain for energy resources critical to military installations during the transition period away from oil and gas?
2. How is your administration planning to transition the nearly 55,000 oil and gas industry jobs in California?
3. How is your administration justifying the GHG “leakage” that the California Air Resources Board is required to avoid per The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)?
4. What is your administration doing to protect vulnerable middle and lower income families from price spikes at the gas pump as you transition California into a state that is 100 percent dependent upon more expensive foreign oil?

We urge you to reconsider these policies and work towards a more balanced approach that prioritizes the needs of our state and nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



John Duarte
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Vince Fong
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