

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

The Administration's war with Iran resulted in the immediate reactive closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travels, as well as damage to energy infrastructure in the Middle East. This has cascading impacts across every industry and supply chain dependent on oil and gas, not to mention increased domestic energy prices for the average American family. Given this, we write to urge you to reverse the closure of the Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources (Bureau) and immediately reinstate the Bureau staff and subject matter experts that were terminated at the request of the Department of Government Efficiency.¹

We need energy expertise to lessen damage from this poorly thought through war and to help navigate its effects on the global energy supply chain. Congress and then President George W. Bush recognized that energy diplomacy and security was integral to the State Department's mission when it established a Coordinator for International Energy Affairs within the Office of the Secretary of State back in 2007.² Building off that Congressional recognition and need for a designated entity within the Department of State, the Bureau was established in 2011. Since its establishment, the Bureau has provided geopolitical energy expertise to both Republican and Democratic Administrations, engaged in robust interagency coordination efforts, and acted as a liaison for foreign governments with the goal of solidifying U.S. leadership in global energy initiatives. Without the staff expertise this Bureau provides, the U.S. will continue to stumble like a bull in a china shop in geopolitical energy conversations as the situation evolves in the Middle East and the Strait of Hormuz. Reinstating the Bureau and its experts is the best course forward for mitigating damage and helping prevent further market shocks that poor planning has done thus far.³

Americans continue to feel the easily anticipated consequences of the President's actions in Iran that this Bureau might have helped prevent.⁴ We are still learning the longstanding impacts that this war will have on the energy supply chain and the pocketbook of the American taxpayer. American families should not have to weather these high energy prices and global energy shocks that this war is causing. We should be looking for solutions that prevent widespread fear,

¹ [It's shocking how poorly prepared the administration is: DOGE gutted major energy personnel who warn the US has lost key insights amid Iran war](#)

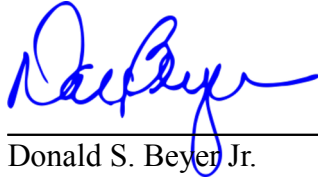
² uscode.house.gov/statviewer.htm?volume=121&page=1739

³ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-war-gas-oil-prices-brent-west-texas-intermediate/>

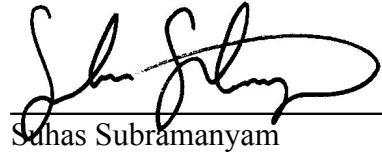
⁴ <https://www.investopedia.com/more-than-half-of-states-now-have-gas-prices-at-4-or-higher-despite-easing-oil-prices-11945564>

confusion, and strains on household budgets.⁵ Therefore, it is time to reopen the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources and reinstate the geopolitical energy experts that were terminated last summer.

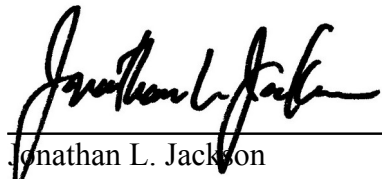
Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



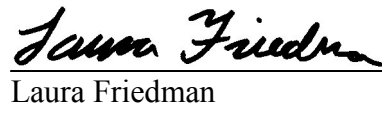
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



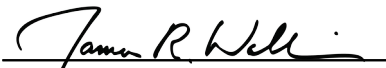
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



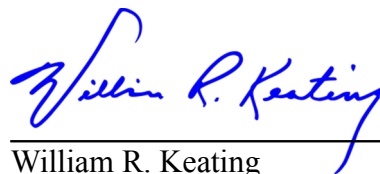
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

⁵ <https://www.wsj.com/finance/commodities-futures/us-gas-prices-charts-bfe10437>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress




Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress