

## Scientists to Biden: Stop CP2, No LNG Letter

December 19, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President Biden,

We are scientists who write to you with ever increasing urgency as our climate continues to deteriorate to implore you to stop the dash to increase exports of liquified natural gas (LNG). Specifically, we urge you to determine that the proposed CP2 LNG export terminal in Louisiana is not in the public interest and to reject it and other pending LNG facilities.

For years, the science has been overwhelmingly clear that we must stop expanding fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure and rapidly transition to renewable energy. We have simply no runway left and little margin for error. In fact, we are rapidly passing tipping points that are further escalating the climate crisis. Altogether, the science to date shows that spiraling emissions of the climate super-pollutant methane are a major contributor to the ongoing failure to meet agreed-upon global emissions targets and stabilize the climate. The science also shows that LNG facilities are inherently leaky operations and prodigious emitters of methane.

Yet the magnitude of the proposed buildout of LNG over the next several years is staggering. Taken together, if all U.S. projects in the permitting pipeline are approved, they could lead to 3.9 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, which is larger than the entire annual emissions of the European Union. A forthcoming [study](#) by Cornell University climate scientist Robert Howarth shows that, even in the best-case scenarios, LNG is at least 24 percent worse for the climate than coal. Increasing LNG exports will mean increased extraction of fossil fuels and climate pollution and directs us away from a renewable energy future.

All by itself, the CP2 facility would release 20 times more heat-trapping gases than the Willow drilling project in Alaska --the equivalent of 42 million gas-powered cars every year. These climate-wrecking emissions are on top of prodigious amounts of toxic air pollutants, including carcinogenic benzene, released into local environments both from the LNG facilities themselves and the upstream drilling and fracking operations that feed them. LNG plants and their associated infrastructure pose serious health harms to surrounding communities and worsen environmental injustice. These facilities are disproportionately located in communities of color and low-income communities on the Gulf Coast already overburdened with pollution.

You have often said that your policies will be guided by listening to the science. As scientists we are telling you in clear and unambiguous terms that approving CP2 and other LNG projects will undermine your stated goals of meaningfully addressing the climate crisis and put us on a continued path toward escalating climate chaos. We implore you to turn back from this course, reject CP2 and other fossil fuel export projects, and put us on a rapid and just trajectory off fossil fuels.

Sincerely,

*Scientists joining this letter do so in their individual capacities and not on behalf of the institutions with which they are affiliated. Titles for identification purposes only.*

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