

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, Members of the Committee,

If you remember one fact from today's hearing, I hope it's this: the province of Alberta is the largest source of US energy imports, by far.

US energy security depends on Alberta.

And Alberta can be a huge part of the solution to the problem of American energy inflation and the cost of living crisis.

Senators, last year over 60% of US oil and gas imports came from Alberta.

The US Energy Information Administration reports that in 2021 the United States imported 2.2 billion barrels of crude oil.

1.4 billion barrels of that, or 62%, came from Canada, almost all of which was Alberta oil.

Let's put that in perspective.

Last year, 13% of US oil imports came from all OPEC countries, combined.

And only 6% came from Saudi Arabia.

So Alberta supplies the US with ten times more oil than Saudi Arabia, and five times more than all of OPEC.

The same is true for natural gas.

Last year my province shipped 4.8 billion cubic feet of gas per day to the US. That's 63% of your gas imports.

I am proud to say that Alberta is home to the world's third largest proven and probable oil reserves, about 180 billion barrels; and one of the world's largest reserves of natural gas.

The Province of Alberta owns those resources, and has the exclusive constitutional power to regulate their production.

After the United States has spent hundreds of billions of dollars securing Persian Gulf energy over the last fifty years, it turns out that the solution to the challenge of energy security is your closest friend and ally!

Vladimir Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine has proven the danger of allowing dictators to dominate global energy markets and weaponize oil wealth, using it to spread violence, instability, and terrorism around the world.

That's why we were so taken aback when President Biden vetoed the Keystone XL Pipeline.

It would have safely delivered 830,000 barrels a day of responsibly produced Canadian energy to the United States, more than displacing the 670,000 barrels a day that you bought from Putin's Russia last year.

We were also perplexed when the Administration's response to sky high gas prices was to plead with OPEC to produce and sell more oil, while working to lift sanctions on Iranian and Venezuelan exports.

White House officials have reportedly discussed a Presidential visit to Saudi Arabia to press for more production of their oil, and exports to the US.

Oil that is used to buy cluster bombs dropped on Yemeni civilians.

Senators, Calgary is a lot closer to Washington than Riyadh.

And you don't need the US Navy's Fifth Fleet to patrol the Great Lakes.

To quote former Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, "we don't have to send the National Guard into Alberta."

Chairman Manchin, we truly appreciated your recent visit to Alberta, to see first hand the amazing progress that is being made to reduce emissions and the environmental footprint of Canada's oilsands, the deep partnerships between our energy industry and indigenous people, and to discuss the development of a North American energy strategy.

We invite other members of this committee to visit Alberta. See for yourself, and draw your own conclusions about whether we are a preferable source of energy to OPEC.

Between current unused capacity in the North American pipeline system, the prospect of pipeline optimization, and the scheduled completion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion to Canada's Pacific Coast in 2023, Alberta will be able to increase our crude exports to the US by several hundred thousand barrels a day over the next couple of years, helping to reduce prices at the pump.

But with political will from Washington, we could also get another major pipeline built that would forever allow the United States to free itself from imports coming from hostile regimes.

Mr. Chairman, where there is a will, there is a way. The Government of Alberta is keen to work with friends in the United States to get another major pipeline built, and to achieve the dream of North American energy independence.

At the same time, we must work together to maintain the current supply. I call on the United States government to join Canada in demanding that the Governor of Michigan respect the 1977 Canada-US Pipeline Treaty by abandoning her efforts to decommission the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline that has safely delivered over half a million barrels of Canadian energy to the US for over six decades. Her plan to do so would only worsen the energy and cost of living crisis at the worst possible time.

And we must work on both sides of the border to remove regulatory barriers to the production and shipment of energy.

Senators, replacing conflict oil imports with Canadian energy is not a threat to the environment. We take seriously the need to cut emissions to address climate change.

Alberta's oil and gas producers and pipeline companies have some of the world's highest ESG rankings.

- Alberta was the first place in North American to implement carbon pricing;
- Through massive investments in green technology, we have reduced the carbon footprint of an average barrel of Alberta oil by 36% since 2000 to below the global average for heavy oil;

- Our oilsands producers are committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in their operations by 2050, in part through major expansion of our world leading carbon capture utilization and storage infrastructure;
- We are on track to reduce methane emissions by 45%;
- We are leading Canada in new renewable energy investments;
- And we're set to become a global hub in the production of net zero and low emitting hydrogen.

Thank-you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to your questions, and ongoing collaboration on developing a North American energy strategy that serves the security and economic interests of both the American and Canadian people.