

April 15, 2021

Re: Your Position on Fossil Gas

Dear Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry,

We have been encouraged by the seriousness with which you have re-committed the United States to addressing climate change, seeking “[ambition and humility](#).” In January 2021, [your comments](#) at the Davos World Economic Forum recognized the real climate and financial risks of investing in gas; as you put it: “If we build out a huge infrastructure for gas now and continue to use it as the bridge fuel, when we haven’t really exhausted the other possibilities, we’re gonna be stuck with stranded assets in 10 or 20 or 30 years. [...] Gas is primarily methane, and we have a huge methane problem, folks.” In addition, you called for “[ending international financing of fossil fuel projects with public money](#).”

We agree. Fossil gas, especially in certain forms, [could actually be worse for the climate](#) than coal and oil. Gas expansion has no place in a carbon-constrained world given that methane -- the major component of gas is 87 times more potent at global warming than carbon dioxide. Research has shown that no new gas or other fossil fuel power plants [should have been built after 2017](#) in order to have half a chance at preventing dangerous climate change, and global gas production and consumption [must drop by 40% worldwide](#) over the next decade. Moreover, fossil gas will do [very little](#) to improve access to electricity – a major need in many developing countries. In fact, countries are now at risk of stranded assets from gas development in places like [Mozambique](#), and expensive reliance on LNG imports in places like [Ghana](#). Furthermore, [gas is displacing the uptake of renewables](#).

For these reasons, we are gravely disappointed to hear you back-track as you did last week in your conversation with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva when you said that “[gas will be a bridge fuel](#).” At a time when countries like the [UK have ended support for overseas fossil fuel projects](#) and institutions like the [European Investment Bank are phasing out all fossil fuel support by the end of the year](#), your new position on gas is out of step with the world’s climate leaders, and dangerous.

We also find your promotion of “net zero by 2050” pledges to be problematic. As has been [well-documented](#), these corporate pledges only serve to distract from the real need to end fossil fuel emissions, shift responsibility away from corporate actors and Governments’ need to regulate them, and trigger land and resource grabbing from Indigenous Peoples and local communities primarily in the Global South.

You cannot present yourself as a climate leader at next week’s climate summit if you are pro-gas. Therefore, we urge you to unequivocally declare that gas is not part of the solution. Addressing climate change will require comprehensive, transformational changes to our economy and financial system. Relying on delusions of gas serving as a [bridge fuel](#) will not get

us to where we need to be and risks creating additional injustices. We hope you will be a true climate leader and immediately end support [for all fossil fuels internationally](#) and [end U.S. exports of all fossil fuels](#), as science and justice require.

Yours sincerely,

ActionAid USA
Amazon Watch
Athens County's Future Action Network
Bank Information Center
Berks Gas Truth

Better Path Coalition
Bucks Environmental Action (PA)
Businesses for a Livable Climate
California Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado

CatholicNetwork US
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Clean Energy Action
Climate Action Now Western Mass

Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Earth Action
Earth Day Initiative
Empower our Future
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

Food & Water Watch
Fossil Free California
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Gastivists Collective

Gender Action
Global Witness
Healthy Gulf
Mothers Out Front
Movement Rights

Napa Climate NOW!
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

North Range Concerned Citizens (Colorado)
Oil Change International
The Partnership for Responsible Business – Santa Fe

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Progressive Democrats of America
RapidShift Network
Revolving Door Project
Social Eco Education – Los Angeles (SEE-LA)

Spirit of the Sun
Stand.earth
Sunflower Alliance
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Unite North Metro Denver

Wall of Women (CO)
Western Environmental Law Center
Western North Carolina Climate Action Coalition
Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)
2degrees Northampton MA

350 Butte County CA
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley
350 Eugene
350 Hawaii
350 Kishwaukee / Illinois

350 Triangle
350.org