



TO:	Hill Democrats
FROM:	Jared DeWese, Deputy Director for Communications
RE:	Talking Points on Gas Prices and the GOP's False Energy Attacks

Background and Talking Points

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Biden Administration is marshaling an unprecedented global action to punish Putin and squeeze Russia's economy.

As a result, oil and gas prices are rising. Russia has long used fossil fuels as an economic weapon to try to manipulate the West; As President Biden said, this is "Putin's price hike."

That's why there is bipartisan support from Congress and the Administration to ban Russian oil and gas imports, with Republicans and Democrats recognizing that this will bring a short-term cost in the form of higher gas prices. As Americans are watching Ukrainian families flee for their lives, they are beginning to understand this is a necessary step to protect democracy and stand up to an authoritarian bully.

But despite their support for this measure that increases the price of oil, Republicans are peddling hollow solutions and slinging false attacks against Democrats. We've put together some talking points on how Democrats should respond to these attacks and underscore how our country is addressing this crisis while protecting American energy security and independence in the long term.

Republican Claim: Democrats are preventing American companies from producing more oil.

FACT: President Biden approved more permits for oil and gas drilling on public lands in his first year in office than President Trump did during his. Monthly US oil production has grown roughly 20% since Biden's first full month in office. The number of oil rigs in operation in the US has grown 67% in the past year alone.

Instead of blaming Biden, Republicans should simply look at the private sector's response to oil prices. Demand and production spiked under the Obama administration as the economy took off, but the pandemic brought that to a screeching halt. Oil is a boom-and-bust business, so when the COVID bust arrived, companies stopped pumping oil. Now that the Biden Boom has arrived, demand has driven up prices faster than production could rise to meet it.

Republican Claim: President Biden is blocking oil production on federal lands.

FACT: This is malarkey. There are more than 9,000 unused permits for oil and gas

production on federal land that oil and gas companies could be drilling on right now, but *they* have chosen not to. They should step up and act on these leases for the American public and our security.

Republican Claim: President Biden has done nothing to reduce gas prices.

FACT: The Biden Administration has released more than 90 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve since December. This is one of the fastest ways to get more oil in the market and help reduce the price at the pump.

Republican Claim: President Biden's cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline has hamstrung our ability to address this energy crisis and will cause gas prices to rise even more.

FACT: The Keystone XL Pipeline is a complete red herring. Even if it had not been canceled, it would require years of construction and would not be operational during this crisis.

Donald Trump's Department of Energy even said Keystone was [unlikely to have a meaningful effect on domestic fuel prices](#). Republicans are harping on Keystone because they have no solutions of their own. Sound familiar?

Republican Claim: President Biden and Democrats are using this crisis as an opportunity to push their socialist Green New Deal Agenda.

FACT: The Green New Deal was never a set of real policy proposals, and it was never embraced by President Biden or the vast majority of Democrats in Congress. Instead, it has morphed into a lame, absurd, GOP talking point. Democrats are fighting for tax credits and investments that will cut annual household energy bills by an average of \$300 in the coming years and give Americans access to cleaner, reliable, and more affordable American-made power, fuels, and vehicles.