

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

March 25, 2022

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to request urgent action to uphold the United States' longstanding policy of supporting and strengthening our alliances in the Western Hemisphere. Specifically, for your administration to support energy projects within the Western Hemisphere. As we work together to address the immediate challenge of confronting Putin's aggressive authoritarianism and decreasing our dependence on his energy reserves, it is important that we do so in a way that strengthens our alliances with other democracies.

Recent reports indicate that last October, your administration's representatives to the Inter-American Development Bank opposed a \$180 million loan to expand infrastructure necessary to support Guyana's budding energy industry. Specifically, that project included expanding port and shore facilities to accommodate larger ships, constructing a waste management facility. This project also included \$10 million that would be used to build out solar power. In its efforts to secure international financing, the project's owner, Guyana Shore Base Incorporated, undertook an environmental assessment to ensure the project would minimize its impact on Guyana's coastline. This project would not only support the growth of Guyana's overall economy, it would also help to address rising energy prices here in the United States by supporting an expansion of Guyana's capacity to produce and export more oil. Instead of supporting common sense projects that would strengthen our relationship with our allies and help the energy crisis at home, your administration is working behind closed doors to lift sanctions on the fossil fuel industries controlled by the Maduro regime in Venezuela and the Ayatollahs in Iran. Both of these regimes actively oppose our interests and values at every step, from financing international terrorism, to oppressing their own people.

I urge you, before seeking to convince bloodthirsty dictators to enter into misguided deals, to explore supporting projects in democratic countries that actually want to work closer with us. Doing so will require no moral compromise on our part, while still reaping benefits for the American people. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator