

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 31, 2020

Dr. Linda Capuano
Administrator
U.S. Energy Information Administration
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Capuano:

Our nation's independent statistical agencies are never more vital than during times of crisis. American energy dominance is now imperiled on two fronts -- by pandemic, sent by nature, and economic warfare, launched by Saudi Arabia and Russia. Policymakers must have the most accurate and up-to-date energy data as we respond to these threats.

I am growing increasingly concerned about the resilience of the American energy system to the shock of vastly oversupplied crude oil, on the one hand, and the destruction of demand in consuming sectors of the global economy, on the other. This situation cannot persist indefinitely: either supply will decrease, as costs overwhelm producers, or demand will increase, due to the effects of economic stimulus and ultimate recovery from the pandemic. The threat of "shutting in" oil wells is most acute for the small- and medium-sized companies that have fueled American energy dominance over the past decade.

Based on my conversations with energy experts, I believe that we must prioritize the collection and analysis of data related to petroleum storage. Producers will continue to produce, filling up all kinds of tanks and tankers, until capacity is reached. Available petroleum storage can serve as a gauge of the potential for shut-in production, providing us some measure of both imminence and severity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact my Committee staff if we can be of any assistance in ensuring the timely publication of this critical data.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator