

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our Subscriber Agreement and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit [www.djreprints.com](http://www.djreprints.com).

<https://www.wsj.com/opinion/biden-Ing-export-ban-house-democrats-russia-ukraine-kamala-harris-df440c32>

OPINION REVIEW & OUTLOOK [Follow](#)

## *Where's Kamala Harris on LNG Exports?*

Biden's moratorium is harming U.S. interests and investment—and worrying Democrats.

By The Editorial Board [Follow](#)

Sept. 18, 2024 5:46 pm ET

One of President Biden's worst decisions is his moratorium on new liquefied natural gas (LNG) export projects, and the damage is growing to U.S. interests. It's also becoming a political liability for Democrats, and no fewer than a dozen House Democrats are urging the Administration to expedite projects to help Ukraine and investment in the U.S.

"Any delays to providing additional supplies of LNG to Ukraine and our Eastern European allies could jeopardize European energy security and market stability in the long-term," the Democrats wrote to the White House last week. The public interest requires considering how "LNG exports promote geopolitical stability and serve our national security interests."

Recall that the Energy Department in January paused permits for new LNG export projects in order supposedly to review whether they are in the "public interest." DOE approval is required for LNG exports to countries with which the U.S. doesn't have free trade agreements, including Europe and Japan.

Biden officials hoped the pause would excite young progressive voters amid a TikTok lobbying campaign on the issue. But it has alienated allies counting on U.S. gas so they can reduce their dependence on Russia, which still accounts for about 15% of Europe's gas supply.

Ukraine struck a major deal in June to buy LNG from Venture Global's Plaquemines and CP2 projects on the Gulf Coast to support "energy security needs for Ukraine and the broader Eastern European region." But CP2 and other projects have been snagged by the Administration's moratorium, which no doubt delights Vladimir Putin.

"Russia's increasingly aggressive actions towards Ukrainian infrastructure, including electricity and gas storage facilities, highlight the urgent need to assist Ukraine in recovering and rebuilding and for Ukraine to diversify and secure its

energy supply,” write the House Democrats, most of whom represent oil and gas producing areas.

They are Donald Davis (N.C.), Texans Marc Veasey, Sylvia Garcia, Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Vicente Gonzalez, Mary Peltola (Alaska), Chrissy Houlahan, Chris Deluzio and Susan Wild of Pennsylvania, Californians Jim Costa and Jose Luis Correa, and Marcy Kaptur (Ohio). Many face tough re-elections contests.

The Administration claims that its pause won’t affect future gas supply for allies. But as the House Democrats write, “typical gas offtake contracts are measured in years, not months, and are underpinned by certainty.” They add: “We should not send mixed signals to our allies who want to eliminate their reliance on Vladimir Putin for good.”

The Administration’s signals are driving investment to U.S. competitors. Consulting firm Rystad Energy projects that some \$63 billion in investment will flow into LNG export projects in Canada and Mexico, which mostly aim to supply Asian markets. Canada’s first large-scale export facility is scheduled to come online next year.

Biden officials tout their subsidized green energy projects, but their policies are chilling investment in projects that don’t require taxpayer funding. Meantime, Kamala Harris is trying to strike a contrast with Donald Trump by promising to support Ukraine and NATO allies. But will she lift the LNG moratorium or leave Ukraine and U.S. workers in the cold?



The Venture Global Plaquemines LNG plant in Port Sulphur, La., May 16. PHOTO: BRYAN TARNOWSKI/BLOOMBERG NEWS

*Appeared in the September 19, 2024, print edition as ‘Where’s Kamala on LNG Exports?’.*

## Videos