

House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Oversight hearing titled “Assessing Domestic Offshore Energy Reserves & Ensuring U.S. Energy Dominance”
Statement for the Record
Congressman Steve Scalise
March 20, 2024

Thank you to Chairman Stauber for hosting this important hearing and to our witnesses for taking the time to share their testimony.

America’s offshore resources – including the nearly 15% of America’s domestically-produced oil and natural gas that comes from the Gulf of Mexico – are critical to our nation’s energy, economic and national security. My district is home to Port Fourchon, which services over 90% of the energy exploration and development activity in the deepwater of the Gulf, and the valuable energy and maritime industries that call Southeast Louisiana home.

The Biden Administration has waged a war on American energy, and my constituents are situated at Ground Zero in this battle. And families and small businesses across the country are feeling the pain from the failure of this Administration to understand that their radical “Green New Deal” agenda has real-world, devastating impacts on hard-working taxpayers. This Administration’s failed energy policies are not only killing American jobs and shipping them overseas, but are also jeopardizing the energy and national security of our country and leading to higher costs on everything from gasoline to groceries.

Whether it’s delaying the 5-year offshore lease plan, attempting to illegally cancel lease sales or issuing radical regulations from myriad agencies that make developing American energy costlier, this Administration seems intent on shutting down American energy exploration and development at every turn. Look no further than President Biden’s own comments in the past – he said during his campaign in 2020: *“No more drilling on federal lands. No more drilling, including offshore. No ability for the oil and gas industry to continue to drill. Period. It ends.”*

That’s all we need to know about what this Administration is trying to accomplish. And to be clear: Joe Biden’s radical policies are killing American jobs, increasing costs on families and small businesses, and emboldening our enemies abroad.

I applaud the Committee for holding this hearing to examine the vast potential of our nation’s offshore resources – and what that means America’s economic, energy and national security – and for the important work that the Committee continues to do to hold this Administration accountable for their devastating policies.