

## **The American Petroleum Institute Uses Crisis To Push Big Oil's Agenda – Again.**

**The Oil And Gas Industry's Biggest Lobbyist Immediately Used The Russian Invasion Of Ukraine To Attack The Biden Administration's Energy Policies Even As The Industry Sits On Years' Worth Of Unused Permits And Leases.**

### **The American Petroleum Institute Is Using The Russian Invasion Of Ukraine To Fearmonger And Push For More Oil And Gas Extraction.**

The American Petroleum Institute Emphasized "Geopolitical Unrest" And "Global Energy Security" In A Letter To The Biden Administration Complaining About Permitting Delays Following An Injunction On The Administration's Interim Social Cost Of Carbon. "The American Petroleum Institute is writing to request clarification on the Department of the Interior's (DOI) response to the recent court order in *Louisiana v. Biden* (W.D. La., Feb. 11, 2022) regarding the interim estimates for the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (SC-GHG). In response to the recent preliminary injunction, the DOI remarked that "delays are expected in permitting and leasing of oil and gas programs". [...] In a time of tight markets for oil and natural gas and geopolitical unrest, American energy serves as a strategic asset and stabilizing force for global energy security. Unwarranted delays in federal "permitting and leasing" of American energy is exactly the wrong policy for DOI to follow." [API, [02/24/22](#)]

**API Tried To Capitalize On The Russian Invasion As Soon As It Began, Issuing A Statement On The "Role" Of Oil And Gas Producers During The Crisis.** "The American Petroleum Institute (API) President and CEO Mike Sommers issued the following statement today in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "API condemns Russia's invasion into Ukraine, and American natural gas and oil producers have a critical role to play in supporting our European allies with access to a stable supply of reliable and affordable energy."" [API, Press Release, [02/24/22](#)]

### **API Has A History Of Using Crises To Advocate For Big Oil's Agenda.**

*API's CEO Credited 9/11 With Spurring The Oil Industry To Increase Domestic Oil Production*

**API CEO Mike Sommers Used 9/11 To Emphasize The Importance Of Oil And Gas.** "As president and CEO of the nation's largest trade association representing the natural gas and oil industry, I'm reminded that 9-11 really helped galvanize our country's focus on the security of our nation's infrastructure to harden it against any future acts of terrorism, from our airlines to our supply chains to our energy grid. Natural gas and oil keep America running. After 9-11 we innovated and developed technologies to dramatically increase domestic production and become less dependent on foreign oil." [API, [10/24/20](#)]

- **Mike Sommers Used Hypothetical Situations About Natural Security To Highlight The Importance Of American Oil And Gas.** ""U.S. energy leadership offers stability in chaotic times and insulates America from unreliable suppliers of energy," Sommers

said. "We saw this reality in action just a few weeks ago. America's vast energy resources helped stave off economic turmoil and price hikes at the pump when our nation stood on the brink of war with Iran. A few years ago, such stability would be unheard of ... You can thank the shale revolution and the sheer fact that American oil production doubled over the last decade. That surge means we import millions fewer barrels of oil per day from other nations."" [API, [01/23/20](#)]

### *API Stokes Fear About Venezuela And Other "Regimes That Are Hostile"*

**Sommers Has Fearmongered By Claiming Keystone XL Will Allow The U.S. To Take A Stand Against Venezuela.** "A lot of that - because of pipeline constraints and the lack of the Keystone XL Pipeline from being built because of bureaucracy and court challenges - a lot of that will be done by rail. We've been able to take a very firm stand in this country against the oppressive and tyrannical regime in Venezuela. We need to retain and continue to retain that flexibility as we challenge regimes that are treating their people poorly. Canadian heavy crude is an incredible source for the American consumer and we want to make sure that we continue to have access to that market, but the biggest constraint for us right now of course is pipeline infrastructure and that's going to continue to be a key priority for this association going forward." [API, [03/08/19](#)]

**Sommers Frames Debates Around Energy As A Choice Between Using American Oil And Gas Or That From A Hostile Regime While Touting API's Outreach To Policymakers.** "And the question the American people have to answer is whether they want to get that oil and gas from regimes that are hostile to the United States or whether they want to get their energy from American resources. So, we're focused on working with policy-makers to ensure that they understand the huge implications so far of what these moves are going to mean for American energy independence." [API, [01/11/21](#)]

- **Sommers Describes OPEC As A "Cartel" That's Power Will Diminish With More U.S. Energy Production.** "Gone are the days that OPEC can hold the United States hostage because of what they do with their cartel and I think as we continue to expand and find new resources, their power is going to continue to diminish." [YouTube, Yahoo Finance, [05/08/19](#)]

**Leading Up To Biden Taking Office, The Oil And Gas Industry Secured More Drilling Permits Than Any Other Period During The Trump Administration.** "Companies submitted more than 3,000 drilling permit applications in a three-month period that included the election, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Officials approved almost 1,400 drilling applications during that time amidst the pandemic. That's the highest number of approvals during Trump's four-year term, according to AP's analysis." [Associated Press, [01/10/21](#)]

**But The Biden Administration Isn't Standing In The Way Of The Oil And Gas Industry, Approving More Permits In Its First Year Than The Trump Administration...**

**The Biden Administration Approved 900 More Permits To Drill On Public Land In Its First Year Than The Trump Administration During The Same Time Period.** “The Biden Interior Department approved nearly 900 more permits to drill on public land in 2021 than the Trump administration had in its first year in office, according to an analysis from progressive group Center for Biological Diversity.” [*Politico Pro*, [01/21/22](#)]

- **Many Of The Drilling Permits Are In New Mexico, The U.S.’s Second Largest Oil-Producing State As Of 2021.** “Many of the 3,557 permits for oil and gas drilling on public lands the Biden administration approved last year were in New Mexico, according to the count CBD made using Interior data. [...] New Mexico last year became the second largest oil-producing state in the country as much of the exploration and drilling of the prolific Permian Basin oil producing region in West Texas spread northward.” [*Politico Pro*, [01/21/22](#)]

*By November 2021, The Biden Administration Had Already Approved More Oil And Gas Drilling Permits Than The Trump Administration Did Annually For Three Years.*

**The Biden Administration Approved More Oil And Gas Drilling Permits In Ten Months Than The Trump Administration Approved Annually For Three Years.** “The Biden administration has approved more oil and gas drilling permits on public lands per month than the Trump administration did during the first three years of Donald Trump's presidency, according to an analysis shared exclusively with The Climate 202.” [*Washington Post*, [12/06/21](#)]

### **...While Oil Companies Continue To Sick On Years’ Worth Of Stockpiled Permits.**

*Big Oil Corporations Went On A Permit Spree As Trump Was Leaving Office, Anticipating Changes To The Public Lands Leasing Program*

**In The Last Three Months, The Industry Secured More Drilling Permits Than Any Other Period During The Trump Administration.** “Companies submitted more than 3,000 drilling permit applications in a three-month period that included the election, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Officials approved almost 1,400 drilling applications during that time amidst the pandemic. That’s the highest number of approvals during Trump’s four-year term, according to AP’s analysis.” [*Associated Press*, [01/10/21](#)]

**One Company, EOG Resources, Bragged To Investors That It Had Secured 2,500 Permits, Enough To Carry Them Through A Presidential Term.** “Houston-based EOG Resources amassed the most permits this year – 1,024 – including 549 since September, according to AP’s analysis. In total, EOG has about 2,500 federal permits approved or in progress. ‘If he (Biden) tries to impose some regulations on how new federal permits are issued, we certainly already have an inventory, a large inventory, of existing federal permits that will sustain activity for several years,’ company CEO Lloyd Helms told a November investors conference. Oklahoma-based Devon Energy collected the second-highest number this year. As the presidential campaign wore on this summer, Devon executives assured investors that the company was amassing permits. By October, Vice President David Harris said the company

had enough 'federal drilling permits in hand that essentially cover all of our desired activity over the next presidential term.'" [Associated Press, [01/10/21](#)]

*Corporations Intentionally Built A "War Chest" Of Permits, With Companies In Some States Sitting On Decades Of Unused Leases.*

**The Oil And Gas Industry Stocked Up A "War Chest" Of Permits To Drill On Public Lands.** "Meanwhile, if Biden becomes president that may lead to the 'possible cessation of new drilling permits on federal land,' said [CFRA Energy Equity Analyst Stewart] Glickman. Many firms, however, have already built up a 'war chest of such permits," so any such new law 'probably only has real teeth to it by maybe 2024.'" [MarketWatch, [11/04/20](#)]

**Wyoming Has A "Stockpile" Of Leases That Could Support Over 60 More Years Of Drilling.** "Wyoming has a "stockpile" of leases that aren't yet producing that could support more than 60 years of drilling, the report estimates." [E&E News, [08/04/21](#)]

**New Mexico Has A Stockpile Of 11 Years Of Activity From Nonproducing Leases.** "New Mexico, the largest oil producer from federal stores, has roughly 11 years of activity from nonproducing leases." [E&E News, [08/04/21](#)]