



January 25, 2022

**Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585**

Submitted Electronically via email

Re: Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Meeting January 25, 2022 9am EST

To the U.S. Department of Energy, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board:

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, please accept these comments on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Meeting. The Center for Biological Diversity is a non-profit organization that works through science, law, and advocacy to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters, and climate that species need to survive.

The climate crisis, caused primarily by fossil fuels, poses an existential threat to every aspect of society. Warming temperatures are already causing more destructive wildfires, stronger hurricanes, worsening droughts, floods, and coastal erosion from rising seas. From the spread of disease, to destabilizing food and water security and the unraveling of natural ecosystems, the climate crisis is killing people across the nation and is costing the U.S. economy billions in damages every year. The harms from fossil fuel extraction and climate disruption are not felt equally, but instead fall first and worst on Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other Communities of Color, as well as low-wealth and other frontline communities. The overwhelming scientific consensus has definitively concluded that without deep and rapid emissions reductions, warming will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius and will result in catastrophic damage around the world. Every fraction of additional warming above 1.5 degrees Celsius will worsen these harms, threatening lives, health and safety, livelihoods, the environment, economy, and national security for this and future generations. Global emissions must be reduced by half over the next decade to limit warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Accordingly, it is in the national interest for the United States, based on our cumulative emissions and respective capabilities, to lead the way by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 70 percent by 2030 and to near zero by 2040. We must transform our extractive economy to a regenerative and inclusive one, in a manner that dismantles systemic racism and advances environmental, racial, and economic justice.

We are in the middle of a climate emergency and the future of our planet depends on the actions the Administration takes today to rapidly replace fossil fuel sources with renewable, distributed, and resilient energy, battery storage, smart grid infrastructure, and energy efficiency technologies to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Crucial to this progress is ending the export of crude oil. DOE and the Administration have the authority NOW to reduce and even end the export of gas. Pursuant to the Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. § 717 et seq., the export of gas

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is not in the public interest due to its climate and public health harms, and DOE should immediately cease approving new applications for the export of gas on that basis except to the degree approval is otherwise required by 15 U.S.C. § 717b(c). DOE must also take further action to end the era of fossil fuels by ending all loan and guarantee financing programs for fossil fuels. Now is time to shift investments to long-term energy solutions that are aligned with climate science and advance a just, sustainable, and resilient future.

DOE's investment in carbon capture and storage and other false climate solutions like fracked gas are antithetical to climate science and equity and undermine President Biden's espoused commitment to environmental and racial justice. We are at a pivotal moment to center justice and the climate in all aspects of our investments. To advance environmental justice, build a more resilient electric grid, and comprehensively lower emissions DOE and the Administration must immediately reject fossil fuels and other false solutions, invest in proven renewable technologies, and comprehensively examine the impacts of the agency's energy projects on Indigenous, Black, Brown, and low-wealth communities, who have been disproportionately harmed by our fossil-fueled energy system and who are at the frontlines of the climate emergency.