

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

November 17, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express concern over rising gasoline prices in the State of Arizona. I request a status update on actions the administration is taking to ensure that Arizonans have access to a reliable and affordable supply of retail gasoline.

As of today, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline in Arizona is \$3.71 per gallon, an amount that is higher than the current national average. Prices are even more expensive in many localities in our state.

Arizonans need relief from elevated gas prices that have persisted throughout 2021. Our state is currently ranked by the American Automobile Association (AAA) as one of the most expensive markets in gas prices. The pain felt at the pump is an economic hardship for those who commute to work and drive their children to school on a daily basis. Costly fuel prices are also affecting our delivery services sector and the motorized outdoor recreation industry.

Arizona normally sees a reduction in price of gasoline around November when a cleaner-burning winter blend of gasoline is sold in our state. In recent years, however, this price difference has not materialized as it has in the past due in part to supply constraints from refineries located in California and Texas, where Arizona receives most of its gasoline via pipeline. These constraints can be sourced to a variety of factors, including delays at marine terminals in California and the effects of extreme winter weather as was the case in Texas this February.

I understand that the Administration is calling for greater global competition in crude oil production as the world returns to pre-pandemic levels. Arizona needs a clear explanation on what the administration is doing domestically to address gasoline prices in our state right now. This includes considering increasing domestic oil and gas production, safeguarding our energy infrastructure from disruptions in the supply chain, preventing cyber-attacks on refineries and pipelines, and preparing for and mitigating the effects of extreme weather events. The

administration must also demonstrate that it is working with state and regional regulators to monitor and investigate potential cases of price gouging and market manipulation.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "K".

Mark Kelly
United States Senator