



American
Petroleum
Institute

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May 28, 2024

Via Email

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Raskin,

I write in response to your letter of May 13, 2024.

At a time of persistent inflation and geopolitical instability, our nation needs more American energy and less political gamesmanship. As the largest association representing the oil and natural gas industry, API unapologetically has and will continue to advocate for pro-American energy policies with elected officials, policymakers, and candidates from across the political spectrum to ensure the energy needs of tomorrow are met. Indeed, we are engaged with the current administration and Congress on countless issues to help shape policy in ways that protect U.S. workers and consumers. To that end, we have asked for an opportunity to discuss American energy priorities directly with President Biden and are awaiting his response.

The meeting in question with former-President Trump was consistent with meetings that API routinely has with policymakers and candidates across the political spectrum. API and the other industry participants discussed our major policy priorities – all of which have been articulated publicly on API’s website, in speeches, in regulatory filings, in press statements and at events. Mr. Trump highlighted his energy record as president and reiterated his unconditional support for policies that promote American energy independence.

Although API itself does not contribute to candidates at the presidential level, it does support congressional candidates of both political parties who have pro-energy records. It is unremarkable (and should not be controversial) that individuals and groups financially support candidates – be they Democrat, Republican or Independent – who share their policy priorities, or for a candidate to highlight policy alignment when soliciting such support. Any assertion that policy discussions with a candidate are somehow inappropriate because that candidate may also be seeking a group’s electoral support is simply an attempt by political opponents to chill protected First Amendment speech with which they disagree.

Even though API was not obligated to respond to your letter for the reasons articulated in Chairman Comer’s letter to you on May 23, we appreciate this opportunity to address its false premises directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Sommers', is written in a cursive style.

Mike Sommers

CC: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman