



April 1, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your strong support for American manufacturing and your energy dominance agenda. Under your watch, we are now the world's leading producer of crude oil and refined products. This sector supports millions of jobs in states including Texas, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio.

Our organizations represent American oil producers and refiners, who, like many sectors of the economy, are hurting as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant decline in demand for our products. Imposing supply constraints, such as quotas, tariffs, or bans on foreign crude oil would exacerbate this already difficult situation, jeopardize the short and long-term competitiveness of our refining sector world-wide, and could jeopardize the benefits Americans experience as a result of our increasing energy dominance.

Many refineries have announced reductions in output of 25 percent or more as demand for many products is substantially lower with decreased need for gasoline due to the widespread social distancing guidance and heavy travel restrictions in place around the world. Long-term, we know the U.S. refining sector is strong and will remain the most competitive in the world, but right now our sectors are facing headwinds that should not be made worse. Ultimately, it is demand recovery that will help the upstream, midstream, and downstream American oil industry.

Our refineries are the most advanced in the world, allowing us to produce more value out of a barrel of oil more efficiently than our global competitors. Our global dominance was achieved, in large part, through global market access. Our manufacturers predominantly use American produced crude oil as a feedstock, but a key advantage for our refineries is being able to source crude oil feedstocks from around the world, including those from the middle east and elsewhere that are

more difficult to turn into finished products and are typically lower cost. We export finished products around the world, helping America's trade deficit. As one example, we import \$12 billion of crude oil from Mexico and export \$25 billion in finished refined products to Mexico. We are helping our trade deficit with Mexico and many other countries who buy our refined products. Restricting access to feedstocks puts these exports at risk.

American families have benefited mightily from American energy dominance in the form of plentiful oil supply and affordability. Taking steps to restrict that supply could jeopardize these gains.

Thank you for your leadership in confronting this pandemic and for your support for American manufacturing and energy dominance. Please do not take any measures that would harm American refineries. We welcome an opportunity to discuss this with you at any time.

Respectfully,



Chet Thompson  
President and CEO  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
1800 M Street, NW, Suite 900 North  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-457-0480  
[cthompson@afpm.org](mailto:cthompson@afpm.org)



Mike Sommers  
President and CEO  
American Petroleum Institute  
200 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-682-8500  
[sommersm@api.org](mailto:sommersm@api.org)