



CALIFORNIA, 32ND DISTRICT

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Stop U.S. Oil Exports During U.S. – Iran War

Dear President Trump,

As part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016* (42 U.S.C. §6212a), Congress provided the President with the authority to impose restrictions on the export of oil from the United States during a national emergency or if the export of crude oil would cause sustained material adverse employment effects in the United States. Current hostilities with Iran have sent oil prices sharply higher, creating significant volatility and placing increasing pressure on American households and businesses. These developments risk triggering a national energy emergency and threaten to impose serious costs on the broader U.S. economy. Accordingly, I write to **urge you to immediately exercise your authority and pause U.S. petroleum exports until cessation of the hostilities with Iran and instead sell directly to Americans at the price dictated by current supply and demand for American consumers.** Additionally, I urge you to use your authority to license small amounts of petroleum exports when the petroleum cannot be effectively refined in the United States and should condition such licenses on a requirement that refined product be brought back to the United States.

Recently, you stated that “when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money.” It is true that some Americans benefit from higher oil prices—namely the largest U.S. oil companies. But, higher oil prices impose significant costs on most American families, workers, and businesses across the country. Rising energy prices drive up the cost of gasoline, transportation, food, manufacturing, and nearly every other sector of the economy. For millions of Americans living paycheck to paycheck, these increases function as an unavoidable tax on daily life.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to immediately exercise your authority to pause the export of U.S.-produced crude oil until hostilities with Iran cease and global energy markets stabilize. Taking this step will help shield American consumers from unnecessary price increases, reduce inflationary pressure, and ensure that America’s energy resources are first and foremost used to benefit the American people.

At a time of uncertainty abroad, the United States should deploy every available tool to protect its citizens and its economy. Temporarily suspending crude oil exports is a lawful, targeted, and necessary step. **Put America first.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress