

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

May 12, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chair
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Committee Chairs, and Ranking Members,

We write to request a full investigation into the May 7th cyber-attack on Colonial Pipeline which caused the company to halt all pipeline operations over the weekend, and to urge you to prioritize policies that could prevent similar events from happening in the future.

This critical U.S. pipeline delivers approximately 45% of all fuel consumed on the East Coast, including a significant portion of the transportation fuels consumed in the State of North Carolina. The indefinite shutdown of the Colonial Pipeline and national reporting on this cyber-attack have prompted fear of rising gas prices that has resulted in panic-buying of gasoline and diesel fuels across our home state.

On Monday, May 10th, Governor Roy Cooper signed an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency in North Carolina and temporarily suspending motor vehicle fuel regulations to ensure that adequate fuel supplies can be transported throughout the state. Yesterday, Governor Cooper

spoke with Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and other Department of Energy officials about the impacts of the cyber-attack. While we are encouraged by Secretary Granholm's assurance that federal officials are working to quickly resume normal operations on the Colonial Pipeline, the disastrous effects of this attack remain evident throughout our state.

As a result of panic-buying, it has been reported that more than 1,000 gas stations in the Southeast have run out of fuel, including nearly two-thirds of North Carolina's nearly 5,400 stations. As of 11:45 am this morning, 72% of all gas stations in Raleigh, one of the largest municipalities in our state, had run out of fuel. We have heard reports from constituents across our districts of lines as long as a mile and wait times longer than 30 minutes to purchase fuel. Many of our constituents, such as those who work for delivery services, rely on access to motor fuels for their livelihoods. Because the Colonial Pipeline also transports jet fuel, American Airlines has already rerouted two flights from Charlotte, North Carolina, due to potential shortages of jet fuel supply.

It is clear that the United States cannot afford to sustain similar attacks on our critical energy infrastructure in the future. As you consider policies to include in an upcoming infrastructure package, it is imperative to consider mandatory cybersecurity standards for our energy systems, including and especially for the millions of miles of pipelines which currently lack stringent mandatory security standards.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests, and we stand ready to work with you and other partners at the federal level to ensure that we can avoid disasters like this in the future.

Very truly yours,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Phd.
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

