

# United States Senate

November 2, 2021

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G St., NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro,

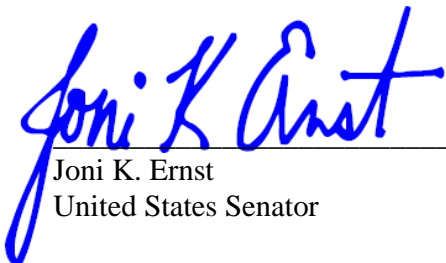
On November 1<sup>st</sup>, President Biden, along with 13 of his cabinet members and high-ranking Administration officials, are traveling to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP26).<sup>1</sup> One of the primary focuses of COP26 is identifying opportunities to reduce carbon emissions. We write to you today requesting that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) collect and provide information to Congress on the total amount of carbon emissions required to transport President Biden, the 13 U.S. political appointees, and any and all Administration support staff who attend this conference.

In one of the first official acts of his presidency, President Biden released a slew of Executive Orders (EO) targeting the fossil fuel industry. Specifically, he issued EOs revoking the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline and halting the sale of oil and gas leases on federal lands.<sup>2</sup> In direct contrast to his attacks on American energy independence, President Biden later terminated sanctions on Russia allowing them to complete Nord Stream 2, a pipeline that would transport natural gas from Russia to Germany. The result of this policy is that we are now more dependent on foreign adversaries for the energy to run America.


While President Biden continues to target American energy with harmful policies, he and his staff continue to rely on fossil-fuel transportation. In the interest of transparency, we would like an answer to understand the total amount of emissions linked to the transportation to and from COP26 for Biden Administration officials.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. (2021, October 14). *Statement by Press Secretary Jen Psaki on the President's Travel to Italy, Vatican City, and the United Kingdom.*

<sup>2</sup> Executive Order 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle Climate Change.