

Vicente Gonzalez voted to impose an increase on energy costs and block new energy production. This year, gas prices reached an all-time high in Texas.

***NOTE:** At the time of these votes, gas was not at an all-time high. He has voted to block energy development in the Gulf Coast, federal lands and Alaska, not directly in Texas.*

**On five separate occasions, Vicente Gonzalez has voted with House Democrats to block consideration of H.R. 6858, legislation to unleash American energy production that could lower the rising cost of gas, increase our energy independence from Russia, reauthorize the Keystone XL Pipeline, and allow the resumption of oil and gas drilling on federal lands:**

- **Vicente Gonzalez is not a cosponsor of H.R. 6858, “American Energy Independence from Russia Act.”** (H.R. 6858, [Cosponsors](#), Introduced: 2/28/22)
- **The American Energy Independence from Russia Act would unleash American production to lower oil prices and displace Russian imports, reauthorize the Keystone XL Pipeline, and mandate the resumption of leases for oil and gas drilling on federal land.** “Tuesday’s failed legislation sought to counter Russia’s energy influence and Ukrainian aggression by unleashing American production to lower oil prices and displace Russian imports. The bill reauthorized the Keystone XL Pipeline axed by Biden on his first day in office, which transported more than double the oil imported from Russia in December. The legislation also mandated the resumption of leases for oil and gas drilling on federal land. Biden quietly paused leases again last month through a legal maneuver, contesting rules governing the social cost of carbon calculations.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)
- **On March 1, 2022, House Democrats shot down the American Energy Independence from Russia Act, legislation to reclaim energy independence.** “House Democrats shot down legislation to reclaim energy independence on Tuesday hours before President Joe Biden offered a rallying cry for his administration’s climate agenda. The ‘American Energy Independence from Russia Act’ introduced by the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s ranking member Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., was rejected primarily along partisan lines 221 to 202.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)
  - **On March 1, 2022, Gonzalez joined his fellow House Democrats and voted “yea” on ordering the previous question.** (H. Res. 950, On Ordering the Previous Question, [Roll Call #49](#), Passed: 221-202: R 1-202, D 220-0, Gonzalez Voted Yea, 3/1/22)

***Editor’s Note:** In an effort to bring H.R. 6858 to the floor, House Republicans attempted to force consideration of the bill under a procedure vote [called](#) the “previous question” – which Democrats blocked by voting “yea.”*

- **The bill’s failure came less than a week after Russia launched its assault on Ukraine.** “The bill’s partisan failure comes less than a week after Russia, a global

energy producer supplying more than 10 percent of the world's oil, launched its assault on Ukraine.” (Tristan Justice, “Democrats Torpedo Legislation Aimed To Reclaim American Energy Independence,” [The Federalist](#), 3/2/22)

- **On March 9, 2022, House Democrats voted down a motion to consider the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.** “Democrats voted down a motion to consider GOP legislation that would reverse several Biden administration energy policies, according to Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy’s office. During the vote Wednesday evening, 219 Democrats voted against consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act offered by Republican Texas Rep. Dan Crenshaw, McCarthy’s office said. The legislation was introduced by Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman on Feb. 28.” (Thomas Catenacci, “Democrats Block GOP Bill That Would Restart Keystone XL, Federal Oil Lease Program,” [The Daily Caller](#), 3/9/22)
  - **On March 9, 2022, Gonzalez joined his fellow House Democrats and voted “yea” on ordering the previous question.** (H. Res. 973, On Ordering the Previous Question, [Roll Call #63](#), Passed: 219-199: R 0-199, D 219-0, Gonzalez Voted Yea, 3/9/22)

*Editor’s Note:* In an effort to bring H.R. 6858 to the floor, House Republicans attempted to force consideration of the bill under a procedure vote [called](#) the “previous question” – which Democrats blocked by voting “yea.”

- **On March 16, 2022, House Democrats blocked consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.** “House Democrats on Wednesday blocked consideration of a Republican bill aiming for U.S. energy independence from Russia amid the Ukraine war. A former environmental engineer now running for Congress in New Mexico condemned the move as ‘unconscionable’ in comments to Fox News Digital... H.R.6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act, would approve the Keystone XL pipeline without a presidential permit, direct the president to commission an energy security plan, and open up oil and gas leases across the U.S., among other things. Republicans have emphasized U.S. energy production as the solution to America's importing Russian oil – which President Biden halted in an executive order this month – and to Europe's reliance on Russian oil amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.” (Tyler O’Neil, “House Dems block energy independence bill; GOP energy expert slams move as ‘unconscionable,’” [Fox News](#), 3/17/22)
  - **On March 16, 2022, Gonzalez joined his fellow House Democrats and voted “yea” on ordering the previous question.** (H. Res. 979, On Ordering the Previous Question, [Roll Call #73](#), Passed: 219-204: R 1-204, D 218-0, Gonzalez Voted Yea, 3/16/22)

*Editor’s Note:* In an effort to bring H.R. 6858 to the floor, House Republicans attempted to force consideration of the bill under a procedure vote [called](#) the “previous question” – which Democrats blocked by voting “yea.”

- **On March 31, 2022, for the fourth time, House Democrats blocked consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act—legislation that could help lower the rising cost of gas.** “Republicans offered a motion to block the previous question on the House floor. If the previous question was blocked, the House could consider Republican-led H.R. 6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act, to support American energy production across the country. However, Democrats blocked the motion in support of the bill on the same day that President Joe Biden urged American oil companies to start producing more oil and threatened them with punishment if they did not respond. If the bill passed, it would have provided a solution Biden is looking for by supporting the production of American energy across the country and helping lower the rising cost of gas. On Thursday, the bill was offered by Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN), who offered up the bill earlier in the month as well. However, it was shot down – for the fourth time – as 218 Democrats in the House voted against the motion, and four did not vote.” (Jacob Bliss, “House Democrats Block Consideration for American Energy Independence From Russia Act for the Fourth Time,” [Breitbart](#), 3/31/22)
  - **On March 31, 2022, Gonzalez joined his fellow House Democrats and voted “yea” on ordering the previous question.** (H. Res. 1017, On Ordering the Previous Question, [Roll Call #98](#), Passed: 219-202: R 1-202, D 218-0, Gonzalez Voted Yea, 3/31/22)

*Editor’s Note:* In an effort to bring H.R. 6858 to the floor, House Republicans attempted to force consideration of the bill under a procedure vote [called](#) the “previous question” – which Democrats blocked by voting “yea.”

- **On April 6, 2022, House Democrats—for the fifth time— blocked consideration of the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.** “House Democrats blocked a motion by the Republicans on Wednesday for the fifth time that would have brought a bill up for consideration that would have supported American energy to help lower the price of gas for all Americans.” (Jacob Bliss, “House Democrats Block Consideration of American Energy Independence from Russia Act for 5th Time,” [Breitbart](#), 4/7/22)
  - **On April 6, 2022, Gonzalez joined his fellow House Democrats and voted “yea” on ordering the previous question.** (H. Res. 1033, On Ordering the Previous Question, [Roll Call #119](#), Passed: 221-206: R 1-206, D 220-0, Gonzalez Voted Yea, 4/6/22)

*Editor’s Note:* In an effort to bring H.R. 6858 to the floor, House Republicans attempted to force consideration of the bill under a procedure vote [called](#) the “previous question” – which Democrats blocked by voting “yea.”

### **On November 19, 2021, Gonzalez voted for the Build Back Better Act:**

- **On November 19, 2021, Gonzalez voted for H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act.** (H.R. 5376, [Roll Call 385](#), Passed 220-213: R 0-212, D 220-1, Gonzalez Voted Yea, 11/19/21)

**The Build Back Better Act, as passed by the House on November 19, 2021, imposes increased energy costs through increased royalties on domestic energy production, blocks previously authorized energy production and future energy exploration, and could increase U.S. dependence on foreign adversaries such as Russia and China:**

- **The Build Back Better Act would raise the royalty rates for all new oil, gas, and coal leases from 12.5% to 20%, and in some cases up to 25%.** “In the Build Back Better bill, minimum onshore royalty rates would be increased from 12.5% to 20%, while higher royalty rates of 16.67% would be increased to 25%. Offshore production royalties would be increased across the board from 12.5% to 20%.” (Mark Passwaters, “Biden’s Build Back Better bill would ban drilling offshore Florida, increase royalty rates,” [Upstream Online](#), 11/4/21)
  
- **Build Back Better would restrict the Secretary of the Interior from issuing any lease or authorization for “exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas” in specific planning areas.** “SEC. 71301. PROTECTION OF THE EASTERN GULF, ATLANTIC, AND PACIFIC COASTS. The Secretary of the Interior may not issue a lease or any other authorization for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in any of the planning areas on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Pacific Region Planning Areas, in the Atlantic Region Planning Areas, or in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area identified on the map entitled ‘Outer Continental Shelf Lower 48 States Planning Areas’ and dated October 18, 2021.” (Rules Committee Print 117-18, “Text of H.R. 5376 Build Back Better Act,” [Page 922](#), 11/3/21)
  - **The Build Back Better Act would block previously authorized domestic energy production in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** “The law would, if passed, repeal in its entirety the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Oil and Gas Program, cancel any leases issued pursuant to the same section of the related law, and return all payments for leases to the lessees within 30 days of enactment of the act. It also reinstates the prohibition of oil and gas leasing in certain areas of the Outer Continental Shelf, amends on and offshore fossil fuel royalty rates, and changes or introduces other fees related to fossil fuel exploration and development.” (Beth Verge, “Biden administration takes aim at ANWR in Build Back Better Act,” [Alaska’s News Source](#), 10/29/21)
  
  - **The Build Back Better Act would also block future domestic energy exploration efforts in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and in areas off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.** “The measure is part of the bill’s climate-related issues and would permanently ban leasing of areas set off limits by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006, which includes the eastern Gulf of Mexico. It would also ban drilling in areas off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts currently off limits in the 2017-2022 leasing programme.” (Mark Passwaters, “Biden’s Build Back Better bill would ban drilling offshore Florida, increase royalty rates,” [Upstream Online](#), 11/4/21)

- **“In fact, the proposed methane fee alone will disincentivize domestic producers of traditional energy, add burdensome costs, and raise prices for everyday Americans while increasing our dependence on foreign adversaries for our energy needs, putting our national security at risk.”** (AAPL, “AAPL President James T. Devlin, CPL, Delivers Letter to U.S. Senators on Build Back Better Act,” [Blog](#), 12/1/21)

**In 2019, Gonzalez supported legislation that would permanently extend the moratorium on offshore drilling in certain areas of the Florida Gulf Coast:**

***Editor’s Note:** According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), The Gulf of Mexico federal offshore oil production accounts for 15% of total U.S. crude oil production and federal offshore natural gas production in the Gulf accounts for 5% of total U.S. dry production.*

- **Gonzalez voted YEA on H.R. 205.** (H.R. 205 [Roll Call #521](#), Passed 248-180, Porter Voted Yea, 9/11/19)
- **“This bill permanently extends the moratorium on oil and gas leasing, preleasing, and related activities in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Florida.”** (“Summary,” H.R. 205, [Congress](#), 9/11/19)
- **LCV supported the legislation because the bill would permanently extend the moratorium on offshore drilling on the Florida Gulf Coast, which is set to expire in 2022.** “Representatives Francis Rooney (R-FL) and Kathy Castor (D-FL) sponsored H.R. 205, the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019, a bipartisan bill that would permanently extend the moratorium on offshore drilling on the Florida Gulf Coast, which is set to expire in 2022. It also includes an amendment reinstating Obama-era rules requiring stricter safety standards on offshore drilling rigs. This legislation would protect the clean and healthy coasts and marine ecosystems that are vital to Florida’s economy and coastal communities. On September 11, the House approved H.R. 205 by a vote of 248–180 (House Roll Call Vote 521). YES IS THE PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTE. The Senate Took No Action On This Legislation.” (2019 Scorecard, [LCV](#), Accessed 6/14/22)

**In June 2022, gas prices in Texas reached an all-time high when they hit \$4.62/gallon of regular unleaded:**

- **Gas prices reached an all-time high in Texas when they hit \$4.62/gallon.** “Gas prices across the nation are setting records, and Texas is no exception. The current statewide gas price average for a gallon of unleaded fuel in the Lone Star State is \$4.62, according to AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. This is the highest average price for Texas that AAA has ever tracked. This price is \$1.88 more than what gas costs a year ago, and 28 cents more than this time last week.” (Sunny Tsai, “Texas gas price average hits all-time high, AAA says,” [Spectrum News 1](#), 6/10/2022)