

Teresa Leger Fernández voted for legislation that would impose costs on energy, which could increase costs for families and small businesses.

BACKUP:

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- **In August 2022, Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández voted for H.R. 5376, the Inflation Reduction Act.** (H.R. 5376, [Roll Call #420](#), Passed 220-207: R 0-207, D 220-0, Leger Fernández Voted Yea, 8/12/22)
- **President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law.** “President Joe Biden signed a sweeping \$750 billion health care, tax and climate bill into law at the White House on Tuesday – marking a major victory for his administration and the Democratic Party ahead of the midterm elections. Biden said during a signing ceremony in the State Dining Room that the legislation, called the Inflation Reduction Act, is ‘one of the most significant laws in our history.’” (Maegan Vazquez and Donald Judd, “Biden signs Inflation Reduction Act into law,” [CNN](#), 8/16/22)

The Inflation Reduction Act would reinstate and increase a long-lapsed tax on crude and imported petroleum products and impose a first-time fee on methane emissions, which could contribute to higher bills for natural gas customers, including families and small businesses:

- **The Inflation Reduction Act would reinstate and increase a long-lapsed tax on crude and imported petroleum products to 16.4 cents per barrel, which would be paid by US refineries receiving crude oil and importers of petroleum products.** “The climate and tax spending deal announced last week by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Joe Manchin could cost billions in new taxes. The legislation, which may get a Senate vote as soon as this week, would reinstate and increase a long-lapsed tax on crude and imported petroleum products to 16.4 cents per barrel, according to a summary of the plan released Sunday by the Senate’s tax-writing committee. The fee would be paid by US refineries receiving crude oil and importers of petroleum products, according to the Congressional Research Service, which said proponents of the taxes believe they reflect a ‘polluter pays’ mentality.” (Ari Natter, “Manchin Spending Deal Includes Billions in Oil Import Taxes,” [Bloomberg](#), 7/31/22)
- **The Inflation Reduction Act would impose costs on the oil and gas industry, including a first-time fee on methane emissions and increases in the royalty rate payable on oil and gas produced on federal land.** “The 725-page spending bill, which includes some \$370 billion in spending to help fight climate change, would also impose other costs on the oil and gas industry, including a first-time fee on methane emissions and increases in the royalty rate payable on oil and gas produced on federal land.” (Ari Natter, “Manchin Spending Deal Includes Billions in Oil Import Taxes,” [Bloomberg](#), 7/31/22)
 - **In 2021, the American Gas Association warned that a methane fee would likely contribute to higher bills for natural gas customers, including families and small businesses.** “New fees or taxes on energy companies will raise costs for customers, creating a burden that will fall most heavily on lower-income Americans. While we appreciate that the details of the methane fee proposal are still under development,

based on similar proposals introduced earlier this Congress, we estimate that the fee could amount to tens of billions of dollars annually. These major new costs most likely will result in higher bills for natural gas customers, including families, small businesses, and power generators. In one scenario, we estimate that such a fee could result in the average customer seeing an approximate increase of 17% in their natural gas bill, or over \$100 per year for the average American family. 2 We also estimate that the proposal could put more than 100,000 American jobs at risk.” (Letter, [American Gas Association](#), 9/7/21)

- According to Americans For Tax Reform, the Inflation Reduction Act would impose a regressive tax on American oil and gas development that will drive up the cost of household energy bills in violation of Biden’s pledge not to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 a year. “The bill imposes a regressive tax on American oil and gas development. The tax will drive up the cost of household energy bills. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the natural gas tax will increase taxes by \$6.5 billion. The tax hike violates President Biden’s tax pledge to any American making less than \$400,000 per year. Biden administration officials have repeatedly admitted taxes that raise consumer energy prices are in violation of President Biden’s \$400,000 tax pledge.” (Mike Palicz, “\$6.5 Billion Natural Gas Tax Which Will Increase Household Energy Bills,” [Americans For Tax Reform](#), 8/7/22)