

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

November 7, 2025

Fatih Birol, Ph.D.
Executive Director
International Energy Agency
9 rue de la Fédération
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France

Dear Dr. Birol:

Your recent announcement that the International Energy Agency (IEA) will resume including a Current Policies Scenario (CPS) in its *World Energy Outlook* (WEO)¹ is welcome news. This course correction, which U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce leadership has been requesting,² will help restore the IEA's credibility and impartiality.

Maintaining objective data analysis, free from activism, is imperative. The IEA has long stood as an invaluable source of unbiased data and analysis on the security of oil markets. The agency's work carries significant weight for policymakers, the energy industry, and global financial firms.

Yet in 2020, the IEA, under pressure from climate activists eager to exploit the agency's credibility to discourage oil and gas investment, abandoned its longstanding CPS, and began only publishing WEOs that relied on subjective scenarios that assumed different degrees of adherence to climate action agreements. These aggressive Stated Policies Scenarios (STEPS), rely heavily on policy aspirations, while ignoring market realities.

Since 2020, IEA forecasts have recklessly assumed that both world oil and natural gas demand would peak before 2030.³ This is an assertion that has been repeatedly rebuked by other

¹ Press Release, International Energy Agency (IEA), *World Energy Outlook 2025* (2025), <https://www.iea.org/events/world-energy-outlook-2025>.

² Letter from H. Comm. Energy and Commerce to Fatih Birol Ph.D., Executive Director, International Energy Agency (IEA) (Mar. 20, 2024), <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/8E2BA8FC-08F5-432F-A579-0BE6EEAE81C4>.

³ International Energy Agency (IEA), *The Oil and Gas Industry in Net Zero Transitions*, (Nov. 23, 2023), <https://www.iea.org/reports/the-oil-and-gas-industry-in-net-zero-transitions/oil-and-gas-in-net-zero-transitions>.

Letter to Dr. Fatih Birol, Ph.D.

November 7, 2025

Page 2 of 3

credible modelers. In fact, for natural gas demand, most forecasts show large increases for decades to come—ranging from about 20 to 47 percent growth through 2050.⁴

In the United States alone, oil and natural gas account for about 74 percent of the primary energy sources consumed every year, with natural gas accounting for approximately 43 percent of electric power generation.⁵ Due to artificial intelligence and other technologies, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts significant natural gas demand growth over the next several years.⁶ As you know, the EIA maintains the use of a policy-neutral baseline reference case.

Politicized and censored demand scenarios can distort policy decisions and misguide capital investment. Just last year, the Biden-Harris Administration leveraged these questionable IEA projections, while ignoring EIA data, to support banning liquefied natural gas export projects.⁷ This decision discouraged sufficient capital allocation toward critical energy supplies and emboldened Russia's war machine.⁸

Unbiased, policy-neutral baseline forecasts are imperative when it comes to evaluating the costs and benefits of energy-policy decision making. Removing the CPS from analysis resulted in perpetuating a false narrative that additional investment in fossil fuel development is unnecessary. This in turn undermined energy investment decisions in developing countries, undermining the economic opportunities afforded to developing nations.⁹ The world is hungry for energy to drive economic growth, and the IEA must not ignore that reality.

Regardless of the pace of renewable energy source development, oil and gas will continue to be critical in powering the world for the foreseeable future. It is encouraging to see the IEA acknowledging this reality and returning to the agency's key role in providing the gold standard for data, scrutinizing energy markets, policies, and geopolitical dynamics. If the IEA subservient to the aspirational dreams of environmental activists it will lose the impartial, thoughtful, and useful function that it has long served.

⁴ Sheila Dang, *Exxon sees natural gas demand surging in outlook to 2050*, Reuters (Aug 28, 2025), [https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/exxon-sees-natural-gas-demand-surging-in-outlook-2050-2025-08-28/#:~:text=HOUSTON%2C%20Aug%2028%20\(Reuters\),with%20coal%2C%22%20he%20said,https://www.eia.gov/pressroom/releases/press542.php](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/exxon-sees-natural-gas-demand-surging-in-outlook-2050-2025-08-28/#:~:text=HOUSTON%2C%20Aug%2028%20(Reuters),with%20coal%2C%22%20he%20said,https://www.eia.gov/pressroom/releases/press542.php) <https://rhg.com/research/global-fossil-fuel-demand/>.

⁵ U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), *U.S. energy facts explained* (Jul. 15, 2024), <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/us-energy-facts/>.

⁶ U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), *Short-Term Energy Outlook* (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/report/natgas.php>.

⁷ See testimony of David Turk, S. Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources, *to Examine the Administration's Pause on LNG Export Approvals and the Department of Energy's Process For Assessing LNG Export Applications* (Feb 8, 2024), <https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/12C4B00D-BFF3-4D11-9CD7-E462B156BF61&ved=2ahUKEwjzia-jv8OJAxWmFlkFHYZTCMQQFnoECBIQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1AJCoRgk4vry-czQQt1m3E>.

⁸ Shotaro Tani and Alice Hancock, *Russia overtook US as gas supplier to Europe in May*, Financial Times, (Jun 16, 2024), <https://www.ft.com/content/15e7b892-c4f3-45b8-b375-80ef52e4b83c>.

⁹ NJ Ayuk (@nj_ayuk), Twitter (Jul. 7, 2024, 5:47 a.m.), https://mobile.x.com/nj_ayuk/status/1809886880000876802.

Letter to Dr. Fatih Birol, Ph.D.

November 7, 2025

Page 3 of 3

We look forward to examining the WEO upon release, particularly the objective analysis of the IEA tracking the trajectory of global climate policies. Restoring the IEA's credibility is essential, and we hope to continue discussions regarding the vital role IEA plays in energy security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brett Guthrie".

Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert E. Latta".

Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy