

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 6, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

As your illegal war with Iran continues into its third month with on and off again negotiations and naval blockade, you have unleashed chaos, undermined our national security, and escalated the conflict by threatening war crimes including wiping out an entire civilization and destroying civilian infrastructure.¹ It is clear that you chose to start your war without coherent or realistic strategic objectives, and with no plan to prevent Iran from expanding its strategic control over the Strait of Hormuz.² The impacts of your war will be felt for years, and the consequences of your reckless decision to drag America into war are increasingly falling on the American public.³ Consumer prices reached their fastest growth in almost two years, as a spike in oil costs began feeding into the broader economy.⁴ Gas prices and household expenses are increasing, and your war has already cost taxpayers approximately \$2 billion per day during the initial phase of attacks.⁵ Amid a worsening affordability crisis, Americans deserve to know whether your Administration considered the many ways your war would increase the day-to-day cost of living, and what steps you are now taking to protect Americans from the fallout of your foolhardy rush to war.

¹ See *With Threat to Wipe Out Iran's Civilization, Trump's Rhetoric Goes Beyond Bluster*, New York Times (Apr. 7, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/04/07/us/politics/trump-iran-civilization-threat.html).

² See *How Trump Took the U.S. to War with Iran*, New York Times (Apr. 6, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/04/07/us/politics/trump-iran-war.html).

³ See *The Iran War's Forever Costs Will Far Exceed the Immediate Pain for Consumers*, The Century Foundation (Apr. 1, 2026) (online at <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/the-iran-wars-forever-costs-will-far-exceed-the-immediate-pain-for-consumers>).

⁴ *Iran War Oil Shock Pushes US Inflation to 3.3%. It's Expected to Get Worse*, CNN (Apr. 10, 2026) (online at www.cnn.com/2026/04/10/economy/us-cpi-inflation-march).

⁵ See Center for American Progress, *The War in Iran Will Raise Fuel Prices and Costs Throughout the Economy* (Mar. 11, 2026) (online at www.americanprogress.org/article/the-war-in-iran-will-raise-fuel-prices-and-costs-throughout-the-economy); *The Iran War Could Cost the American Taxpayer \$1 Trillion, Says Harvard Academic*, CNBC (Apr. 14, 2026) (online at www.cnbc.com/2026/04/14/iran-war-cost-us-taxpayer-trillion-harvard.html).

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical waterway that runs along the coast of Iran and carries approximately one fifth of the world's oil out of the Persian Gulf. In response to U.S. and Israeli attacks, Iran placed the Strait of Hormuz under a blockade, laying mines and attacking vessels trying to pass through.⁶ Despite your claims that the U.S. is “totally independent” of the Middle East because of domestic oil production, oil markets are global and any supply shortages result in higher costs for everyone.⁷ In fact, your war has caused crude oil prices to surge by approximately 50%, creating significant increases in the cost of living for everyday Americans.⁸ Estimates suggest that American consumers have shouldered at least \$32 billion in additional fuel costs due to your war.⁹ As of May 4, 2026, average gasoline prices across the country have risen to almost \$4.50 per gallon, an increase of more than \$1 per gallon since the attacks on Iran were first launched.¹⁰ In a recent *Reuters/Ipsos* poll, more than half of respondents said that the increases in gasoline prices had at least “somewhat” impacted their household finances, and approximately one fifth of those individuals indicated they were affected “a great deal.”¹¹

The rising fuel costs are not felt only at the gas pump.¹² Jet fuel costs have increased 85% since the beginning of your war, leading airlines to raise ticket prices and cut flights.¹³ Diesel has been averaging more than \$5 per gallon, creating higher shipping and distribution costs for all types of consumer goods.¹⁴ Even the U.S. Postal Service announced an 8% surcharge for certain

⁶ *What to Know About the Strait of Hormuz Blockade*, New York Times (Mar. 12, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/03/12/world/middleeast/strait-of-hormuz-iran-blockade-explained.html); *What to Know About the Strait of Hormuz Under the Cease-Fire*, New York Times (Apr. 9, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/04/09/business/iran-strait-of-hormuz-what-to-know.html).

⁷ *Trump Claims US is 'Totally Independent of the Middle East.' He's Overlooking How Global Energy Markets Work.*, Yahoo Finance (Apr. 2, 2026) (online at <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/trump-claims-us-is-totally-independent-of-the-middle-east-hes-overlooking-how-global-energy-markets-work-100000997.html>).

⁸ *Oil Soars 60% in March as Iran War Chokes Global Energy Supplies*, Financial Times (Mar. 31, 2026) (online at www.ft.com/content/5a5b3220-d260-4355-baa5-1986ac1523fb?syn-25a6b1a6); See also Center for American Progress, *The War in Iran Will Raise Fuel Prices and Costs Throughout the Economy* (Mar. 11, 2026) (online at www.americanprogress.org/article/the-war-in-iran-will-raise-fuel-prices-and-costs-throughout-the-economy).

⁹ Brown University Watson School of International and Public Affairs, *Iran War Energy Cost Tracker* (online at <https://iranwarcost.watson.brown.edu>) (accessed May 4, 2026).

¹⁰ NBC News, *Graphic: Track U.S., State and County Gas Prices* (online at www.nbcnews.com/data-graphics/gas-prices-iran-war-state-national-cost-trump-rcna265835) (accessed May 4, 2026).

¹¹ *Rising Gas Prices Hitting US Household Finances and More Pain is Expected, Reuters/Ipsos Poll Finds*, Reuters (Mar. 20, 2026) (online at www.reuters.com/business/energy/rising-gas-prices-hitting-us-household-finances-more-pain-is-expected-2026-03-20).

¹² See *The World Economy is Experiencing the Most Severe Oil Shock in Decades. The Worst Could Still Be on the Way.*, NBC News (Mar. 30, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/oil-economy-worst-on-the-way-iran-war-rcna265779).

¹³ *A Global Jet Fuel Shortage is Raising the Cost of Air Travel*, NBC News (Mar. 31, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/business/travel/global-jet-fuel-shortage-raising-cost-air-travel-iran-war-rcna265990).

¹⁴ *Gas Tops \$4 and Diesel Is Over \$5. How an Extended War with Iran Could Push Prices Higher.*, Yahoo Finance (Mar. 31, 2026) (online at <https://finance.yahoo.com/personal-finance/banking/article/gas-tops-4-and-diesel-is-over-5-how-an-extended-war-with-iran-could-push-prices-higher-225053638.html>).

services to cover higher fuel costs.¹⁵ These added costs have not only hurt consumers, but small business owners are also facing concurrent increases in transportation costs, changes to shipping routes, and reductions in capacity to source materials and deliver their products.¹⁶

Approximately 40% of U.S. electricity is generated by natural gas power plants.¹⁷ Because of your war with Iran, Qatar shut down production at the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility, and LNG shipments have been unable to move through the Strait of Hormuz. These developments have increased the cost of LNG abroad, particularly in Europe and Asia.¹⁸ The more LNG the U.S. exports, the more domestic prices in America are linked to global prices, further burdening households with higher heating and electricity bills.¹⁹ If your war ended tomorrow, experts predict that it will take years to rebuild damaged LNG infrastructure in the Gulf region, in part due to supply chain constraints.²⁰ Notably, this threat to affordable electricity comes after more than a year of your Administration's shortsighted attacks on clean energy projects, including arbitrarily blocking almost all wind and solar projects and permits and advocating to defund clean energy programs across the government.²¹ As the current crisis demonstrates, renewable energy is the fastest and cheapest way to generate electricity and stabilize consumer costs while reducing reliance on foreign fuel sources.²²

Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz has also disrupted global transportation of fertilizer. Such a disruption immediately before planting season in the U.S. is likely to drive up food prices, endanger the livelihoods of American farmers, and reduce global food security.²³ Almost half of the global supply of urea and a third of the global supply of ammonia—key components

¹⁵ *USPS to Add Temporary Fuel Surcharge, Raising Some Postage Prices as Transportation Costs Jump*, CBS News (Mar. 25, 2026) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/usps-fuel-surcharge-gas-prices).

¹⁶ *Iran War a "Perfect Storm" for American Small Businesses*, E&E News (Apr. 2, 2026) (online at <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2026/04/02/iran-war-disrupts-us-small-businesses-with-shipping-tangles-higher-costs-00855390>).

¹⁷ Energy Information Administration, *Fossil Generation Could Rise with Faster-than-Expected Growth in Data Center Power Demand* (Mar. 12, 2026) (online at www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=67344).

¹⁸ *How Will the War in Iran Affect Your Utility Bills?*, Inside Climate News (Mar. 5, 2026) (online at <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/05032026/iran-war-lng-utility-bills>).

¹⁹ Center for American Progress, *The War in Iran Will Raise Fuel Prices and Costs Throughout the Economy* (Mar. 11, 2026) (online at www.americanprogress.org/article/the-war-in-iran-will-raise-fuel-prices-and-costs-throughout-the-economy).

²⁰ *Report: Energy Recovery from Iran War Could Take Years*, E&E News (Mar. 26, 2026) (online at <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2026/03/26/report-energy-recovery-from-iran-war-could-take-years-ew-00844737>).

²¹ See *One Year of the Trump Administration's All-Out Assault on Climate and Clean Energy*, Union of Concerned Scientists (Jan. 15, 2026) (online at <https://blog.ucs.org/rachel-cleetus/one-year-of-the-trump-administrations-all-out-assault-on-climate-and-clean-energy>).

²² See *Want Cheap Power, Fast? Solar and Wind Firms Have a Suggestion.*, New York Times (Mar. 17, 2025) (online at www.nytimes.com/2025/03/17/climate/renewable-energy-trump-electricity.html).

²³ *Beyond Oil: The Strait of Hormuz and the Global Food Risk*, Forbes (Mar. 1, 2026) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/rpapier/2026/03/01/beyond-oil-the-strait-of-hormuz-and-the-global-food-risk); *Iran War Sends Fertilizer Prices Sky-High*, The American Prospect (Apr. 1, 2026) (online at <https://prospect.org/2026/04/01/iran-war-trump-strait-hormuz-fertilizer-fossil-fuels>).

in many fertilizers—are shipped through the Strait of Hormuz.²⁴ Even if American farmers were to increase their reliance on domestic fertilizer sources, they would still face higher prices as global fertilizer demand increases.²⁵ As costs of critical inputs skyrocket—including an approximately 43% increase in diesel fuel prices, a 50% increase in urea prices, and a 20% increase in ammonia prices—costs have increased by as much as 25% for some farmers.²⁶ One survey found that around 70% of farmers could not afford the amount of fertilizer they will need this year.²⁷ In addition to high energy costs, experts have pointed out that increased fertilizer prices and costs to farmers are likely to keep food prices high in the longer term.²⁸ Analysts estimate that the Iran war could lead to an increase in the prices of key staples such as wheat, fruits, and vegetables.²⁹

Although it was long predicted that any attack on Iran would prompt Iran to cut off access to the Strait of Hormuz, your Administration claimed that your war would have a minimal impact on global prices and energy markets.³⁰ This claim has proven to be false, apparently due to a lack of preparation by the White House. You reportedly did not consult with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Energy Secretary Chris Wright, or Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard to gauge the likely impact on global oil markets before attacking Iran.³¹ According to a former government official who served in both Democratic and Republican administrations, “Planning around preventing this exact scenario—impossible as it has long seemed—has been a bedrock principle of U.S. national security policy for decades.”³²

²⁴ *Iran War Sends Fertilizer Prices Sky-High*, The American Prospect (Apr. 1, 2026) (online at <https://prospect.org/2026/04/01/iran-war-trump-strait-hormuz-fertilizer-fossil-fuels>); *It's Not Just Oil. Here Comes Hormuz Inflation.*, Politico (Mar. 14, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/news/2026/03/14/hormuz-inflation-helium-fertilizer-00828680).

²⁵ *Iran War Sends Fertilizer Prices Sky-High*, The American Prospect (Apr. 1, 2026) (online at <https://prospect.org/2026/04/01/iran-war-trump-strait-hormuz-fertilizer-fossil-fuels>).

²⁶ *The Ripple Effect of the Iran War on Struggling U.S. Farmers: "It Couldn't Have Come at a Worst Time"*, CBS News (Mar. 28, 2026) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/ripple-effect-iran-war-struggling-u-s-farmers); *Iran War Sends Fertilizer Prices Sky-High*, The American Prospect (Apr. 1, 2026) (online at <https://prospect.org/2026/04/01/iran-war-trump-strait-hormuz-fertilizer-fossil-fuels>).

²⁷ *Farm Bureau Survey Reveals Real Impact of Fertilizer Availability and Price*, Farm Bureau (Apr. 14, 2026) (online at www.fb.org/market-intel/farm-bureau-survey-reveals-real-impact-of-fertilizer-availability-and-price).

²⁸ *Farmers Warn of Food Price Spike as War Drives Up Fuel and Fertilizer Costs*, PBS (Apr. 6, 2026) (online at www.pbs.org/newshour/show/farmers-warn-of-food-price-spike-as-war-drives-up-fuel-and-fertilizer-costs).

²⁹ *How the Hormuz Closure Could Affect Food, Medicines and Smartphones*, BBC (Mar. 26, 2026) (online at www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gjxv5g19no).

³⁰ *The White House Is Too Sure About Iran and Oil Prices*, Bloomberg (Feb. 19, 2026) (online at www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2026-02-19/iran-talks-the-us-is-being-too-complacent-about-iran-and-oil-prices); *Iran War Threatens to Wreck Trump Dream of Lower Interest Rates*, Bloomberg (Mar. 31, 2026) (online at www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-31/iran-war-threatens-to-wreck-trump-dream-of-lower-interest-rates).

³¹ *How Trump Took the U.S. to War with Iran*, New York Times (Apr. 7, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/04/07/us/politics/trump-iran-war.html).

³² *Trump Administration Underestimated Iran War's Impact on Strait of Hormuz*, CNN (Mar. 13, 2026) (online at www.cnn.com/2026/03/12/politics/hormuz-trump-administration-underestimated-iran).

Experts caution that markets have so far underestimated the impact of your war and, even if it were to end immediately, broader damage to the economy will likely persist.³³ Already, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the consumer price index had increased to 3.3% in March, compared to 2.4% in February before your war.³⁴ Analysts have also predicted that your illegal war will add more than 1% to inflation in the U.S. over the next year.³⁵ This war-driven inflation could mean that an American household that typically spends \$5,000 on expenses each month would now have to spend an additional \$150 each month, or \$1,800 each year.³⁶

To determine whether you made any effort to understand or prepare for the ways that starting a war with Iran would make life more difficult and expensive for the American people, whether and how you intend to address the increased expense to Americans that you have caused, and to inform potential legislative solutions to lower the cost of living for American households, we request the following information by May 20, 2026:

1. Documents and communications between the White House and any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, regarding how a potential war with Iran was anticipated to affect shipping and transportation through the Strait of Hormuz;
2. Documents and communications between the White House and any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, regarding how a potential war with Iran was anticipated to affect global energy markets;
3. Documents and communications between the White House and any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, regarding how a potential war with Iran was anticipated to affect global fertilizer markets;
4. Documents and communications between the White House and any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, regarding how a potential war with Iran was anticipated to affect gasoline, shipping, and transportation prices;

³³ *The World Economy is Experiencing the Most Severe Oil Shock in Decades. The Worst Could Still Be on the Way.*, NBC News (Mar. 30, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/oil-economy-worst-on-the-way-iran-war-rcna265779).

³⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Consumer Price Index Summary* (Apr. 10, 2026) (USDLE-26-0599) (online at www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm).

³⁵ *War Will Push U.S. Inflation Above 4% This Year, O.E.C.D. Says*, New York Times (Mar. 26, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/03/26/business/inflation-prices-energy-iran-oecd.html).

³⁶ *The World Economy is Experiencing the Most Severe Oil Shock in Decades. The Worst Could Still Be on the Way.*, NBC News (Mar. 30, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/oil-economy-worst-on-the-way-iran-war-rcna265779).

5. Documents and communications between the White House and any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, regarding how a potential war with Iran was anticipated to affect utility costs within the U.S.;
6. Documents and communications between the White House and any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, regarding how a potential war with Iran was anticipated to affect farming and food costs within the U.S.;
7. Documents and communications regarding whether and how the White House or any federal agency, including but not limited to the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy, and Agriculture, planned to mitigate or otherwise address any negative impacts on increased costs to Americans that might result from a potential war with Iran; and
8. A detailed description of how the White House intends to address the affordability crisis that you exacerbated by starting this illegal war with Iran.

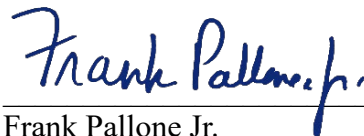
To the extent that the documents and communications above do not exist, please state this explicitly. As a reminder, there is no law or rule restricting the Executive Branch from providing classified information to Congress, and Congress is entitled to that information. The Committees will utilize appropriate infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of any classified materials.

The undersigned are the Ranking Members or Senior House Democrats of Committees with jurisdiction over the matters raised in this letter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



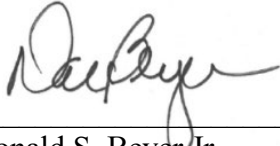
Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce



Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture



Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Senior House Democrat
Joint Economic Committee

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
House Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable David Schweikert
U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee