The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 5, 2026

Mr. Ryan Lance
Chairman, National Petroleum Council
Chief Executive Officer, Conoco Phillips
925 N. Eldridge Pkwy
Houston, Texas 77079

Dear Mr. Lance:

The Trump Administration is driven by a bedrock conviction that an affordable, reliable, secure energy supply is the foundation of a strong and prosperous Nation. Since the beginning of this administration the Department of Energy has worked tirelessly to realize that ambition through innovating our research, policy, and investment approaches. The National Petroleum Council (NPC or Council) has been a valuable resource for us throughout that time.

Looking to 2027, I request two studies from the NPC on topics that are central to achieving a reliable, affordable, and secure energy future. These are:

- *A 21st Century Strategic Petroleum Reserve*: This six-to-twelve-month study would evaluate Strategic Petroleum Reserve's (SPR) purpose, capabilities, and role in the modern energy economy. The 2026 crude oil exchange demonstrated the continued importance of the SPR's core mission, as well as challenges that the program will face in the future. The Department must balance the need to rebuild the SPR's inventory, maintain its 50-year-old facilities, and adapt to revolutionary changes in the oil sector with the imperative to address new energy challenges. The study should make recommendations on how the SPR can be optimized to meet the challenges of a dynamic and quickly changing global energy environment while sustaining its core mission. This should include, but is not limited to: the configuration of the reserve, including the volume of resources and whether the reserve should contain strategic stocks of resources beyond crude oil, including natural gas and petroleum products; other geographic locations in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii; types of storage, to include underground, tanks, and proven reserves; and ownership structures, such as government owned or leased storage.

- *Product Availability*: This six-to-twelve-month study will provide recommendations on what steps can be taken to ensure the domestic market for refined products is reliable, secure, and affordable. This should include but is not limited to: discussion of product availability and inter-Petroleum Administration for Defense District (PADD) movements; regional and seasonal diesel and gasoline specifications; and a retrospective on lessons learned from past approaches to United States (U.S.) domestic and international refined product markets.

Now in its 80th year, the NPC remains one of the most valued advisory committees in the U.S. Government, providing thoughtful, actionable, and durable recommendations to the Department of Energy. The work of this Council, and your leadership of it, are helping to ensure American energy dominance for decades to come.

Thank you, and I look forward to celebrating the NPC's achievements when we meet later this year.

Sincerely,

Chris Wright

Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy

cc: Mike Wirth