



AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE



March 25, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
U.S. Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Current Global Level 4 Health Advisory, Ramifications for Global Oil & Natural Gas Operations

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

Please accept our sincere gratitude for the tremendous efforts to combat the spread of the COVID-19 Virus. We are extremely appreciative of your personal efforts and the administration's ongoing efforts to bring the spread to a halt.

The International Association of Drilling Contractors,¹ the American Petroleum Institute,² The International Association of Geophysical Contractors,³ and the Petroleum Equipment and Services Association⁴ represent all segments of America's oil and natural gas industry, who produce, process, distribute, provide the geophysical and

¹ IADC has represented the interest of the upstream oil & gas industry since 1940. Currently, we represent over 1,150 member companies who employ thousands of employees in the upstream oil and gas business.

² API represents all segments of America's oil and natural gas industry. Its more than 600 members produce, process, and distribute most of the nation's energy. The industry supports 10.9 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization. In its first 100 years, API has developed more than 700 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency and sustainability.

³ IAGC, founded in 1971, is the global trade association for the geophysical and exploration industry, the cornerstone of the energy industry. The IAGC optimizes the business and regulatory climate and enhances public understanding to support a strong, viable geophysical and exploration industry essential to discovering and delivering the world's energy resources. With more than 80 companies in nearly 50 countries, our membership includes onshore and offshore survey operators and acquisition companies, data and processing providers, exploration and production companies, equipment and software manufacturers, industry suppliers, and service providers.

⁴ PESA is the unified voice for the oilfield's services and equipment organizations, advocating and supporting continued achievements in job creation, technological innovation and economic stability.

exploration services and the equipment for most of the nation's energy. Our members are concerned about the Global Level 4 Health Advisory, specifically that subsequent actions may impose mandatory travel restrictions that would impede the rotational work schedule for the crew members who conduct oil and natural gas operations globally. We are writing to request assurance that both U.S. and lawful foreign national oil and natural gas workers will have access to travel to and from their assignments to support the nation's critical infrastructure.

Under this type of advisory, it is our understanding that U.S. citizens are recommended to avoid international travel and any U.S. citizen currently outside of the U.S. should return home immediately. While we appreciate the actions you are taking to protect public health, we ask that you consider the unintended impacts that associated travel restrictions could have upon critical energy infrastructure. Typically, a number of U.S. Expatriate crew members comprise the senior management of these oil and natural gas facilities, and these are highly skilled and trained professionals who ensure the personal and environmental safety of oil and natural gas operations and the employees onboard. These individuals often work a rotational schedule of, for example, 28 days on and 28 days off (they travel to the facility for 28 days onboard and then travel home for 28 days of time off).

The Level 4 Health Travel Advisory raises concerns that subsequent actions may impose mandatory travel restrictions prohibiting expatriate crews from their points of embarkation on their assigned facility globally and/or from returning home to the U.S. at the end of their work rotation.

Given the challenges of commercial travel during these challenging times, our member companies and oil and natural gas operators are prepared to consider the charter of private aircraft to transfer our personnel to and from their work locations, if required. Accordingly, we seek assurance that privately chartered aircraft will continue to be allowed to depart from and return to the U.S.

Oil and natural gas crew members are currently being screened at their point of departure from the U.S. by trained medical professionals and again at their point of embarkation on the facility. We would be pleased to share our current protocols aimed at protecting public health with the Department and are open to additional medical screenings, if required.

We fully appreciate the difficult position in which the Administration finds itself and thank you for your ongoing efforts to stem the tide and end this terrible pandemic. In the short term, we would appreciate further guidance regarding both U.S. and lawful foreign national oil and natural gas workers having access to travel to and from their assignments to support the nation's critical infrastructure. In addition, should the ultimate decision be taken to prohibit airline departures/arrivals into the U.S., we respectfully request the opportunity to work together to seek mutually agreeable terms which would allow and ensure safe and medically sound travel means for our crew members.

We are available for further consultation at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Jason McFarland
IADC President



Michael J. Sommers
API President and CEO



Nikki Martin
IAGC President



Leslie Beyer
PESA President

Cc: Acting Secretary Chad Wolf, Department of Homeland Security