Dear Mr. Ogunlesi,

The more than 80 undersigned organizations and individuals are asking Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) to halt the proposed Rio Grande Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal.

Global Infrastructure Partners Fund V is an investor in the proposed Rio Grande LNG through Global Infrastructure Partner’s $3.5 billion investment, making the firm the largest investor with a minimum 46% ownership stake in the project. This comes after French bank Société Générale pulled support for the project in 2022. GIP’s Rio Grande LNG project is among several proposed LNG terminals that have been “repeatedly delayed due to rising construction, labor and borrowing costs” and volatile gas prices, according to Reuters.

There has been significant community and legal opposition to this project for the last eight years. If built, the Rio Grande LNG terminal is estimated to emit the equivalent emissions of 44 coal power plants every year, about 163 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

The Rio Grande LNG terminal would be built on the sacred land of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas which has never been consulted by the LNG company, federal regulatory agencies and GIP. Rio Grande LNG would also be the biggest polluter of chemicals that impact respiratory health in the economically disadvantaged region that is home to Latinx and Indigenous communities. Additionally, the facilities would significantly degrade local fishing, shrimping and natural tourism industries putting communities’ livelihoods at risk.

Due to these risks, communities across South Texas have opposed Rio Grande LNG. The city of Port Isabel joined a lawsuit against the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERC), alleging the agency had not conducted a sufficient environmental review. The Laguna Vista Town Council, the South Padre Island City Council, and Long Island Village unanimously adopted resolutions opposing the Rio Grande LNG terminal. The Point Isabel School District that represents these communities rejected a tax abatement for Rio Grande LNG. Communities across South Texas are building momentum in their fight against the Rio Grande LNG terminal and will only continue to fight.
LNG exports are not in alignment with the 1.5 degree warming targets of the Paris Agreement and thus poses financial risks to GIP and its investors. EPA research found that LNG exports from existing terminals have driven up carbon dioxide emissions, which would be more than doubled by proposed development of new LNG terminals. The harms of LNG are exacerbated by emissions through leakage through the transportation process, according to a study recently submitted to a peer-reviewed journal by a professor at Cornell University. US consumers are also affected by LNG exports. Increased exports of LNG subject US consumers to fluctuations in global markets and raise domestic gas prices according to analysts at the Energy Information Administration.

Future global demand for LNG is also highly uncertain. The IEA forecast that demand for gas, oil and coal will all peak before 2030, and has noted that demand for gas growth has slowed considerably, leading to concerns about a “glut of LNG.” Sinking millions of dollars into massive gas infrastructure exposes communities and investors to financial and environmental risks.

To address the financial, social, and ecological risks of the Rio Grande LNG terminal, we urge Global Infrastructure Partners to halt the construction of the Rio Grande LNG terminal in Brownsville Texas and to immediately withdraw from the project.

Thank you,

Juan Mancias, Tribal Chairman of the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
Patricia Rubio, Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative
Christopher Basaldú, PhD, South Texas Environmental Justice Network
Rebekah Hinojosa, South Texas Environmental Justice Network

South Texas Environmental Justice Network
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earth Action, Inc.
Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Habitat Recovery Project
The Vessel Project of Louisiana
Freeport Haven Project for Environmental Justice
Transformative Wealth Management, LLC
Third Act
GreenFaith
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
350 Colorado
350 Yakima Climate Action
350 Juneau
Mossville Environmental Action Now
MARBE, SA
Seeding Sovereignty
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Mossville Environmental Action Now
CONCERN CITIZEN TABLE OF LAKE CHARLES
Strong Economy for All
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
Divest Washington
Accelerate Neighborhoods Climate Action
Oil Change International
Businesses for a Livable Climate
Call to Action Colorado
CatholicNetwork US
Colorado Businesses for a Livable Climate
Community for Sustainable Energy
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance
Green House Connection Center
Indivisible Ambassadors
Interstate 70 Citizens Advisory Group
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety, & Environment
Working for Racial Equity
Womxn from the Mountain
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate
Wall of Women
Unite North Metro Denver
Texas Campaign for the Environment
System Change Not Climate Change
Spirit of the Sun
Southwest Organization for Sustainability
Littleton Business Alliance
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries
Mind's Eye Productions
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association
North Range Concerned Citizens
Our Sacred Earth
Small Business Alliance
RapidShift Network
Save the Environmental Protection Agency
Oil and Gas Action Network
Stand.earth
350 Hawaii
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Third Act NYC
Third Act Lawyers
Reclaim Finance
Save RGV (Rio Grande Valley)
Cosmic Poetry Sanctuary
Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN)
South Texas Environmental Justice Network
Private Equity Stakeholder Project
Sunrise New Orleans
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Rainforest Action Network
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Climate Conversation Brazoria County
Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Water
198 methods
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
Clean Energy Now Texas
Bayou City Waterkeeper
Coalition Against Pipelines
Micah Six Eight Mission
Break Free From Plastic
Freeport Haven Project for Environmental Justice
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition
United For Clean Energy
Divest Invest RGV
Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN)
Beyond Extreme Energy (BXE)
Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church
Fishermen Involved In Sustaining Our Heritage (F.I.S.H.)
Solutions for Our Climate (SFOC)

Cc:
Larry Fink, CEO, Blackrock
Danielle Sugarman, VP Investment Stewardship, Blackrock
Michelle Edkins, Managing Director, Global Head of Investment Stewardship, Blackrock

Raj Rao, President & COO, Global Infrastructure Partners
Julie Ashworth, Partner & General Counsel, Global Infrastructure Partners
Jonathan Bram, Founding Partner, Global Infrastructure Partners
Matt Harris, Founding Partner, Global Infrastructure Partners
Bill Woodburn, Founding Partner, Global Infrastructure Partners
Mustafa Riffat, Managing Director & Head of Communications, Global Infrastructure Partners