



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Reta Jo Lewis  
President and Chair  
Export-Import Bank of the United States  
811 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20571

Dear Chair Lewis,

I am writing in response to the fantastic news that the Export-Import Bank of the United States has decided to uphold human rights in the Western Hemisphere and protect the interest of the American taxpayer. The bank's decision to deny a roughly 800 million dollar loan to Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) for its free donations to the communist dictatorship of Cuba is excellent and appropriate. I am pleased at least one part of the Administration is committed to enforcing United States law as stipulated in the Helms-Burton LIBERTAD Act.

**The President of Mexico is using Pemex as a charity for dictators.**

The President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, known as AMLO, began sending free gasoline to Cuba after he gave dictator Miguel Díaz-Canel the red-carpet treatment in September 2021. AMLO is trying to replace the fuel imports Cuba has lost from their corrupt allies in Venezuela and their distracted, war-waging friends in Russia. Estimates for this year range as much as 200 million dollars of gasoline which AMLO has given Cuba for free. This irresponsible policy is bankrupting the once successful Pemex and risks turning it into the next PDVSA.

**Mexico's donations of oil to Cuba fuel their repressive apparatus.**

Any free fuel that Cuba receives is money they won't have to spend on imports and can instead spend on weapons purchases from Russia, China and Iran to keep their suffering people oppressed. Free fuel for Cuba is the same as free money for Cuba. There are over 1,000 political prisoners in Cuba, jailed for protesting for basic rights. No country that jails, tortures and kills people for demanding freedom should receive donations from Mexico, the United States, or any other country.

**Your intelligent policy is sending the right message to Mexico, so stay vigilant.**

Mexico is already beginning to say that it is reconsidering sending the free fuel to Cuba. Nonetheless, if Pemex begins selling oil to Cuba for fuel, they would be in violation of the LIBERTAD Act which is United States law and must be enforced. Please keep the pressure on Pemex so they stop this irresponsible and harmful policy once and for all.

This decision by the Export-Import Bank is an example to the rest of the United States government on how to stand up for human rights in our hemisphere; I hope people are watching. Bravo to you and your team, keep it up!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Elvira Salazar'.

María Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress