Domestic Energy Producers Alliance

DEPA DRILLER

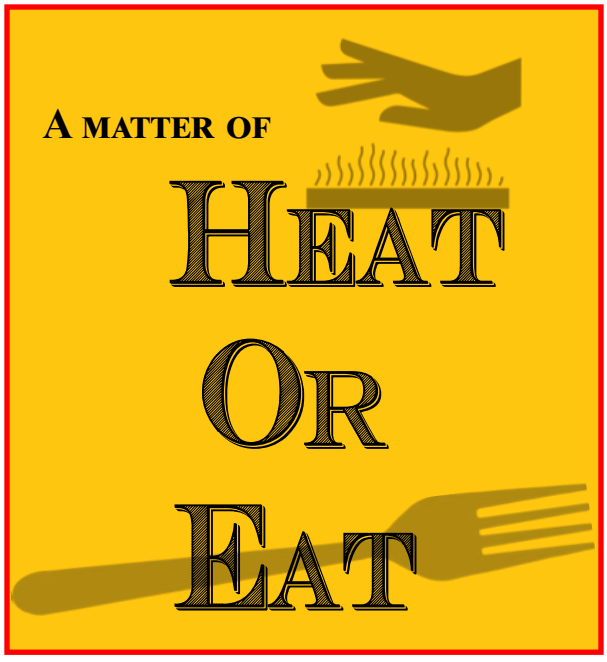
September 2023

DEPA Report on Industry, Leadership, Legislation and Energy Regulation

The Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023

Introduced into Congress this month, ***The Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023*** is sponsored by Representative Harriet Hageman (R-WY) and Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) with co-sponsorship by 17 Republicans.

The bill requires reviews of existing energy laws and regulations to determine if they are adversely impacting energy prices, and establishes metrics to ensure future laws and regulations do not inflict energy poverty on at-risk communities. This legislation responds directly to President Biden's targeting of resource-producing states like Wyoming at the expense of all Americans who benefit from reliable and affordable energy.



Rep. Hageman stated, "Supply versus demand is the most basic economic concept. Yet, Congressional majorities and presidential administrations led by climate crazed-politicians, rather than statesmen, have artificially destroyed supply while demand for energy resources continues to grow. Whether it was President Biden or Obama, Speaker Pelosi or Leader Schumer, these so-called leaders have waged war against American coal and oil and gas, all the while knowing they cannot replace the very energy resources they are undermining.

These same officials roll out strategies promoting "environmental justice" and "economic equity" (while never defining either). Yet, it is ultimately our fellow Americans who struggle to make ends meet when the price at the pump goes up, energy bills reach record highs, and the grocery bill doubles. My bill would expose this culture of false promises by requiring the government to disclose how it currently and in the future will inflict disparate economic pain on at-risk communities across this country.

America's natural beauty comes from our clean, abundant resources which has provided a quality of life and level of prosperity humanity has never previously seen. Today, Americans suffer from government-imposed wretchedness, and we must chart a new course. The Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act will empower the People and their elected representatives to identify those bad actors intentionally turning off the lights while holding these officials and their policies accountable. Reform is needed, and this legislation will identify the perpetrators of this government-created crisis."

"The people most negatively impacted by the Biden administration's war on American energy have been those in our rural, elderly, and lower-income communities," Senator Sullivan said. "Under the guise of 'environmental justice,' the Biden administration's hypocritical and short-sighted policies have increased costs on hard-working Americans and disproportionately harmed the very people, particularly Alaska Native communities, this administration so often claims to champion. Just last week, the Department of the Interior announced it was locking up millions of acres of land set aside for resource development, ignoring the objections of the Alaska Native people who live in the area and threatening their economic future.

Fall 2023 Board Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

October 23-24, 2023 | Hotel Emma

Event Schedule

Monday, October 23

- 10:30-11:30 am Leadership Committee
- 11:30 am -12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:00-3:00 pm Board Meeting
- 5:30-6:30 pm Welcome Reception
- 6:30-8:30 pm Dinner with Speaker

Tuesday, October 24

- 8:30-9:30 am Breakfast
- 10:00 am Shuttle to Valero HQ
- 10:30 am -12:00 pm Valero Program
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Return to hotel
- 5:30-7:30 pm Reception

Please register to attend and book your room BEFORE OCT 6.
Registration is on the DEPA website.
Our group rate is $395.
The room block is limited
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DEPA believes in seeking common ground, through common sense solutions, to the challenges facing our industry. Our bipartisan approach provides a uniquely powerful voice for our members at the state and national level.

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Upcoming Regulatory Committee Meetings

October 23 & December 21

Committee Co-Chairman

Will Houser, Continental Resources & Rusty Shaw, Denbury Resources

Meetings are held via zoom at 2pm CT, and are open to anyone who would like to attend.
Please email CSimonds@depausa.org to be included in call-in information. Dates are subject to change.

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UN PLAN PROMISES MASSIVE EMISSION CUTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR – THE MOST POLLUTING AND TOUGHEST TO DECARBONISE

OR

UN PLAN PROMISES BETTER LIVING THROUGH UNREALISTIC SUGGESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL REGULATION REQUIREMENTS

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE UN
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Rapid urbanization worldwide means every five days, the world adds buildings equivalent to the size of Paris, with the built environment sector already responsible for 37% of global emissions. A report published today by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Yale Center for Ecosystems + Architecture (Yale CEA), under the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), offers solutions to decarbonize the buildings and construction sector and reduce **the waste it generates.**

The report, ***Building materials and the climate: Constructing a new future***, offers policy makers, manufacturers, architects, developers, engineers, builders and recyclers a three-pronged solution to reduce **"embodied carbon" emissions and the negative impacts on natural ecosystems** from the production and deployment of building materials (e.g., **cement, steel, aluminium, timber, biomass):**

1.) **Avoid** waste through a circular approach: building less by repurposing existing buildings is the most valuable option, generating 50-75 per cent fewer emissions than new construction; **promote construction with less materials and with materials that have a lower carbon footprint and facilitate reuse or recycle.**

2.) **Shift** to ethically and sustainably sourced renewable bio-based building materials, including **timber, bamboo, and biomass.** The shift towards properly managed **bio-based materials** could lead to compounded emissions savings in many regions of up to 40 % in the sector by 2050. However, more policy and financial support is needed to ensure the widespread adoption of renewable bio-based building materials.

3.) **Improve** decarbonisation of conventional materials that cannot be replaced. This mainly concerns the processing of concrete, steel, and aluminum – three sectors responsible for 23% of overall global emissions today – as well as glass and bricks. Priorities should be placed on **electrifying production** with renewable energy sources, increasing the use of reused and recycled materials, and scaling innovative technologies. **Transformation** of regional markets and building cultures is critical **through building codes**, certification, labelling, and the education of architects, engineers, and builders on circular practices.

The three-pronged *Avoid-Shift-Improve* solution needs to be adopted throughout the building process to ensure emissions are slashed and human health and biodiverse ecosystems are protected. The solution also requires, in its implementation, sensitivity to local cultures and climates, including the common perception of concrete and steel as modern materials of choice.

"**Until recently**, most buildings were constructed using locally sourced **earth, stone, timber, and bamboo**. Yet modern materials such as **concrete and steel often give only the illusion of durability**, usually ending up in landfills and

contributing to the growing climate crisis," said Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director of UNEP's Industry and Economy Division.

"Net zero in the building and construction sector is achievable by 2050, as long as governments put in place **the right policy, incentives and regulation** to bring a shift the industry action," she added.

To date, most climate action in the building sector has been dedicated to effectively reducing "operational carbon" emissions, which encompass heating, cooling, and lighting. Thanks to the growing worldwide decarbonisation of the electrical grid and the use renewable energies, these are set to decrease from 75% to 50% of the sector in coming decades.

Since buildings contain **materials produced in disparate regions across the globe**, reducing "embodied carbon" emissions from production and deployment of building materials requires decisionmakers to adopt a whole life-cycle approach. This involves harmonized measures across multiple sectors and at each stage of the building lifecycle – from extraction to processing, installation, use, and demolition.

Government regulation and enforcement is also required across all phases of the building life cycle – from extraction through end-of-use – to ensure transparency in labelling, effective international building codes, and certification schemes. Investments in research and development of nascent technologies, as well as training of stakeholders in the sectors, are needed, along with incentives for cooperative ownership models between producers, builders, owners, and occupants to the shift to circular economies.

"The decarbonisation of the buildings and construction sector is essential for the achievement of the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. By providing cutting-edge scientific insights as well as very practical recommendations to reduce embodied carbon, the study "Building materials and the climate: Constructing a new future" advances our joint mission to decarbonise the sector holistically and increase its resilience", said Dr. Vera Rodenhoff, Deputy Director General for International Climate Action and International Energy Transition of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), which together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has funded the study.

Case studies from Canada, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, and Senegal, demonstrate how decarbonisation takes places using "Avoid-Shift-Improve" strategies: developed economies can devote resources to renovating existing ageing buildings, while emerging ones can leapfrog carbon-intensive building methods to alternative low-carbon building materials.

Cities worldwide can drive the implementation of decarbonisation. Many are already integrating vegetated surfaces, including green roofs, façades, and indoor wall assemblies to reduce urban carbon emissions and cool off buildings, increase urban biodiversity and more.

-END-

A Deep Dive Into This Press Release Information

Let's talk about Rapid Urbanization

Quotes below from the UN Human Development Report September 6, 2017

"Throughout history, cities have been the main centers of learning, culture, and innovation. It is not surprising that the world's most urban countries tend to be the richest and have the highest human development.

Ongoing rapid urbanization has the potential to improve the well-being of societies. Although only around half the world's people live in cities, they generate more than 80 percent of the Global Domestic Product (GDP). Cities are also younger: home to relatively more young and working-age adults than rural areas, making them pivotal places to capture demographic dividends."

"In 1950, only 30 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas, a proportion that grew to 55 per cent by 2018. The global urbanization rate masks important differences in urbanization levels across geographic regions. Northern America is the most urbanized region, with 82 percent of its population residing in urban areas, whereas Asia is approximately 50 percent urban, and Africa remains mostly rural with 43 percent of its population living in urban areas in 2018" (United Nations, 2018).

- **THE WASTE URBANIZATION GENERATES SOURCE: BigRentz.com Blog**

"Not all countries approach their waste management efforts in the same way. In fact, some countries trade waste products like commodities, since the recycling and recovery process can generate thousands of local jobs. For example, the United Kingdom exports several thousand tons of waste every year, but the country recycles approximately 90% of C&D waste. China, a leading importer of foreign waste and recyclables…"

"Although the construction industry contributes a quarter of the country's annual waste generation, the industry is already doing an incredible job of recovering building materials. By using recycled materials and smart asset management systems, and by avoiding demolition projects via adaptive reuse, construction companies are paving the way for a zero-waste future."

- New construction contributed just **5.5%** of all U.S. C&D waste in 2018. (EPA)
- In 2018, **76%** of all C&D waste in the U.S. was recovered or recycled. (EPA)
- Over **95%** of concrete and asphalt concrete waste, the largest contributors to total C&D waste, was recovered in 2018. (EPA)
- A 2016 study showed that in one year alone, C&D recycling opportunities led to the creation of **175,000** U.S. jobs. (EPA)
- Over **650 million tons** of steel are recycled each year across the globe. (WSA)
- **98%** of the steel in construction and demolition projects is recycled for new uses. (AISC)
- Jobs created by recycling and reuse outnumber traditional waste disposal jobs **9-to-1**. (NRDC)

"Embodied Carbon" Emissions and the Negative Impacts on Natural Ecosystems

- Embodied carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions arising from the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building materials.

Cement and Concrete

- Although the terms cement and concrete often are used interchangeably, **cement is actually an ingredient of concrete**. Concrete is a mixture of aggregates and paste. The aggregates are sand and gravel or crushed to a rock-like mass. This hardening process continues for years meaning that concrete gets stronger as it gets older.
- Cement is made by firing limestone, clay, and other materials in a kiln. CO2 is emitted from the energy used to fire the material, and the chemical reaction produced from the mixture when it is exposed to heat. According to the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, each pound of concrete releases 0.93 pounds of carbon dioxide.

- As the largest concrete company globally, Lafarge-Holcim has participated in respectable efforts to demonish its environmental footprint. The company has lowered carbon emissions by 25% since 1990 and has a goal to reach net-zero emissions soon. Eric Olsen CEO of the company said *"I will not stop pushing the boundaries on our net zero journey with rigorous science-based targets. At LafargeHolcim we are accelerating circular and low-carbon solutions to lead the way in green construction."* China National Building Materials ($1.4 billion deal with British Solar Renewables) and Cemex (35% carbon reduction goal by 2030) have followed Laharge-Holcim's path in improving their footprint.

Steel

- Whether it is future energy and transport systems, protection from the impacts of natural disasters, climate-resilient infrastructure, construction and housing, low-carbon manufacturing, and agriculture, steel is at the heart of delivering solutions. Increasingly, circular economic approaches are prolonging steel's useful life. The steel industry is an integral part of the circular economy – with our material ideally suited to be remanufactured, reused, and ultimately recycled.
- In October 2020, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released its Iron and Steel Technology Roadmap. This document analyses the impacts and tradeoffs of different technology choices and policy targets for the industry to be in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Under the IEA's Sustainable Development Scenario, total direct emissions from the iron and steel sector fall by more than 50% by 2050 relative to 2019. On the same pathway, the emissions intensity of crude steel production must fall by 58%. The IEA states that steel is vital to modern economies and notes that sustaining the projected demand growth in steel while reducing emissions poses immense challenges. While efficiency improvements will help the industry, there is a need to develop further and deploy a broad portfolio of breakthrough technology options and enabling infrastructure to achieve long-term, deep reduction in emissions.
- Each company's choice of which breakthrough technology to invest in will to a large degree depend on the resources available and the policies in place. However, even if the conditions are good, it is clear that the production of low-carbon steel is going to be more expensive than steel production today. The higher production cost will result from a combination of the following:
• increased operational expenses, due to, for example the use of more expensive low-carbon resources such as green hydrogen or low-carbon electricity; CCS equipment requiring additional energy to operate and for CO2 storage
• increased capital expenses due to, for example the replacement of coal-based blast furnace units with hydrogen-based DRI units and basic oxygen furnaces with electric arc furnace units; the conversion of existing equipment to use hydrogen or other fuels; the retrofitting of CCS or CCUS infrastructure
• capital losses due to, for example: the potential early retirement or write-off of long-lived steelmaking assets
The IEA estimates the additional production cost to be between 10% and 50%11 compared to today, a cost increase significantly exceeding production margins. However, the steel industry will continue to reduce costs by improving its operational efficiency and deploying intelligent manufacturing technologies, partly offsetting the additional cost. https://worldsteel.org/wp-content/uploads/Climate-change-and-the-production-of-iron-and-steel.pdf

Aluminum

- Aluminum is an abundant element within Earth's surface, getting it out of the ground requires heavy machinery to plow up the land. Fortunately, the environmental impact of that process can be somewhat balanced out by post-mining rehabilitation, efficient recycling, and generally reducing our consumption.
- Almost 75% of all the aluminum ever produced in the US is still in use today. That's how well aluminum can be and is recycled! Aluminum is not only a great material because it's lightweight and conducts heat well, it can also be recycled indefinitely (if uncontaminated). Aluminum beverage cans contain 3X to 12X more recycled content than competing packaging types.
- When used for construction, aluminum structures can weigh substantially less than steel while providing comparable strength.
- Aluminum Makes cars and trucks more energy efficient without any compromise on safety or performance.
- Makes beverage cans lighter, easier to ship, and infinitely recyclable.
- Makes more durable, longer-lasting buildings with ma-

terial that is easily recycled at the end of life.

- Supports a more circular and sustainable economy.
- And aluminum made in North America today is less than half as carbon-intensive as it was 30 years ago thanks to reliance on renewable hydropower in the region. U.S. aluminum helps innovators innovate.

Biomass

Wood, landfill gas, municipal solid waste (garbage), biofuels (ethanol/biodiesel)

- Plants that are the source of biomass for energy capture almost the same amount of CO_2 through photosynthesis while growing as is released when biomass is burned, which can make biomass a carbon-neutral energy source
- Using wood, wood pellets, and charcoal for heating and cooking can replace fossil fuels and may result in lower CO_2 emmissions overall. Wood can be harvested from forests, from woodlots that have to be thinned, or from urban trees that fall or have to be cut down.

  Wood smoke contains harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Modern wood-burning stoves, pellet stoves, and fireplace inserts can reduce the amount of particulates from burning wood. Wood and charcoal are major cooking and heating fuels in poor countries, but if people harvest the wood faster than trees can grow, it causes deforestation. Planting fast-growing trees for fuel and using fuel-efficient cooking stoves can help slow deforestation and improve the environment.
- Burning garbage could result in less waste buried in landfills. On the other hand, burning garbage produces air pollution and releases the chemicals and substances in the waste into the air. Some of these chemicals, which are mostly related to the combustion of non-biomass materials in garbage, can be hazardous to people and the environment if they are not properly controlled. EPA has strict rules about air pollution control devices
- Ash from waste-to-energy plants can contain high concentrations of various metals that were present in the original waste. Textile dyes, printing inks, and ceramics, for example, may contain lead and cadmium.
- Separating waste before burning can solve part of the problem. Because batteries are the largest source of lead and cadmium in municipal waste, they should not be included in regular trash. Florescent light bulbs should also not be put in regular trash because they contain small amounts of mercury.
- The EPA tests ash from waste-to-energy plants to make sure that it is not hazardous. The test looks for chemicals and metals that could contaminate groun- water. Some MSW landfills use ash that is considered safe as a cover layer for their landfills, and some MSW ash is used to make concrete blocks and bricks.
- Biogas, which may be referred to as *renewable natural gas*, forms as a result of biological processes in sewage treatment plants, waste landfills, and livestock manure management systems. Biogas is composed mainly of methane (a greenhouse gas) and CO_2. Many facilities that produce biogas capture it and burn the methane for heat or to generate electricity. This electricity is considered renewable and, in many states, contributes to meeting state renewable portfolio standards (RPS). This electricity may replace electricity generation from fossil fuels and can result in a net reduction in CO_2 emissions. Burning methane produces CO_2, but because methane is a stronger greenhouse gas than CO_2, the overall greenhouse effect of CO_2 is lower than it is for methane.

In conclusion

Construction and urbanization done in a safe, efficient manner are far preferred over living in a hut with no concrete, and "vegetated surfaces". Modern life can't go back to mud huts. Concrete and steel are necessary. While it is easy to agree with some of the message, like avoiding waste, other suggestions are not realistic.

Most US industry finds value in continuing to evolve and innovate. Pushing toward more new technologies and more modern materials that are an all-around better product. Consider the average home of the 1970s and the improvements to this structure today when it comes to air sealing, equipment like HVAC systems, water consumption in showers and toilets, etc. Home energy consumption has taken a steep rise in the last 50 years, and so has energy efficiency. When considering just the appliances that we use, they are cheaper, better, and more energy-efficient than ever before. Today's and energy-efficient household appliances are part of the ongoing, but under-appreciated "miracle of manufacturing." Thanks to advances in technology and worker productivity, American consumers get cheaper and more efficient goods year after year, which translates into a higher standard of living for all Americans, especially for lower and middle-income households.

People living in dwellings built "using locally sourced earth, stone, timber, and bamboo" are not boasting about their "vegetated surfaces" they are trying to survive and they could be helped by the power of fossil fuels to live a healthier, longer life. They are not *choosing* to live without concrete and steel.

Thank You Kathleen Sgamma and Western Energy Alliance for Your Public Comments and Leadership

"Examining the Biden Administration's Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program."

September 19, 2023

Sgamma's Testimony Before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Oversight Hearing

"Let me start off by correcting something the ranking member said in her opening statement. She claimed that oil and gas production on federal lands is responsible for about a 1/4 of greenhouse gas emissions. That's a complete falsehood.

That's based on a misreading of a study of greenhouse gas emissions. And if you actually look at the numbers, production on federal lands and waters accounts for 0.6% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, not 'nearly a quarter. Even the stopped using that number after I simply pointed out the numbers from the USGS report."

Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocasio-Cortez, and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The Administration is moving forward with a whole-of-government approach to stopping American oil and natural gas. The level of regulation coming at my industry is astounding, with practically every single agency, not just oil and natural gas regulators, getting into the action in the name of climate change. Financial regulators, transportation, labor, every agency is attempting to prevent American production of the oil, natural gas, and coal that provides 80% of the energy to power our economy and enable the healthy, safe, and environmentally protective modern lifestyle that Americans enjoy.

And to what end? We have an administration that has consistently begged Saudi Arabia and before the invasion, Russia, to increase their oil production to relieve high prices. We are once again in a cycle of higher gasoline prices, yet the president continues to announce plans to curtail yet more American oil production, the most recent being the cancelation of leases in Alaska and the locking away of 13 million acres in the Alaskan Petroleum Reserve even though Congress mandated leasing as recently as 2017. The president has let OPEC raise energy prices by blocking my industry from doing what we did just a few short years ago in making OPEC irrelevant. We could be producing between two and three million more barrels of oil per day if the president wasn't blocking us at every step, more than enough to cover the production declines of OPEC and Russia and keep prices low for consumers the world over.

There are those who say that we must make these sacrifices in the name of climate change. People must not be allowed to drive when they want, eat what they want, use air conditioning, or heat their homes. But as John Kerry has said several times, we could take all American greenhouse gas emissions to zero and it would make no difference. If you run each of the policies of scarcity, energy inflation, and control through the models the government relies on, you get negligible impact. The only way to justify any of these policies is by using a Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases that inflates the benefits on paper, but not in reality.

We have an administration pursuing these policies even though it is well known what the ill-effects are when energy

becomes scarce, unreliable, and unaffordable. We have seen energy prices skyrocket in California as manufacturing has fled the state. We know Germany is much further down the "energy transition" path and how that it has left that country with the second highest electricity prices in Europe, yet also the most vulnerable to Russia. We know intermittent wind and solar energy cannot do it all, that battery backup is cost prohibitive and practically nonexistent, and that our grid is becoming more susceptible to brown-outs and blackouts. We know that California mandated electric vehicles (EV) by 2035 and then the next week asked people not to charge them during the day. We know that Europe has had to back off its EV mandate because it is unrealistic and unwise.8 We know that people died in Texas during a winter incident when the instability of a grid overbuilt on intermittent renewables was exposed. Yet this administration is blindly following the same path at the federal level.

I urge the administration to come to the American oil and natural gas industry to solve high energy prices rather than running to Saudi Arabia. It is not wise to shut out the industry that provides 70% of American energy not just because it is distasteful to turn to countries that don't have our best interests at heart, but because you cannot transform the energy sector politically without partnering with the energy sector itself. Many oil and natural gas companies have spent collectively billions on alternative energy research. Natural gas is a major reason the United States has reduced more greenhouse gas emissions than any other country, through fuel switching in the electricity sector. We have reduced more carbon dioxide from power generation than wind and solar energy combined. Natural gas is necessary to back up intermittent renewable energy when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Government policies, as Europe is discovering, don't make real energy appear, no matter how many billions of dollars are thrown at it. We're all in this together, and I urge the administration to work with us, not regulate us out of business.

In the meantime, I urge Congress to expose this ill-advised whole-of-government approach. When looking at the magnitude of the regulatory changes coming at not just my industry but the financial, transportation, and consumer sectors, it is truly mind-blowing. A federal government not known for its crack efficiency has suddenly been able to pull every single regulatory lever to truly change our economy and society. How is that possible? We still don't have large segments of the bureaucracy back in the office yet they are able to exert such all-encompassing control on practically everything Americans do? I ask this Committee and others to demand information from the agencies to uncover the sources of these policies. There is likely collusion with many environmental groups, foundations, and other climate activists that are providing the background for these policies and even writing whole sections of regulations. For example, the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), an advocacy group disguised as an energy analysis organization, put out shoddy research on the harm from gas stoves, and then the Department of Energy followed that up with conservation standards designed to ban them. That was no coincidence. There are likely many examples under the jurisdiction of this Committee.

I appreciate that this Committee is conducting oversight of the policies the Administration is taking to kill the federal onshore oil and natural gas program. I urge you to submit formal requests for information on the coordination between the Department of the Interior, including its various offices and bureaus, and environmental and activist groups. I believe those requests would uncover a trove of information of inappropriate collusion outside the public eye and outside formal Administrative Procedure Act processes. The information would be very helpful as states and groups like Western Energy Alliance seek to overturn many of these regulations in court, a Herculean task given the sheer volume of them.

I would like to highlight just some of the policies that are meant to halt leasing and development on federal lands. The increased costs these policies represent ensure that the Biden Administration's energy inflation will outlast it far into the future.

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leasing rule would increase costs on American by $1.8 billion by going even farther than the costs passed in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). New requirements that increase bonding amounts twenty-fold will upend the bond market, particularly for small producers that simply do not have access to the surety market at the same value as do larger companies. Small companies would be forced to put down the cash rather than putting it into new development or actual well reclamation. The Interior Department recently admitted to Congress that there are only 37 orphan wells on federal lands and there have been only 40 calls on bonds over the last decade. That's .04% of the 89,350 wells on federal lands and four bond calls a year. The data show the bonding provisions are an arbitrary and capricious solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

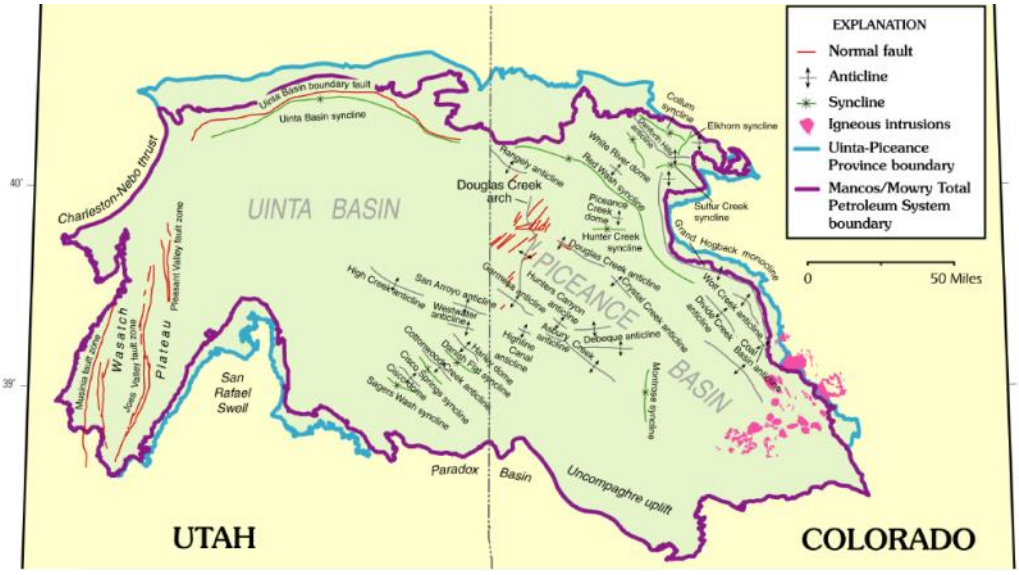
- The Interior Secretary ordered a withdrawal of over 336,000 acres from oil and natural gas leasing around the **Chaco Culture National Historical Park**. In withdrawing the lands from development against the wishes of the Navajo Nation, the action prevents Navajo mineral owners from developing their oil and natural gas resources and realizing $194 million in royalty income over 20 years. The department is also moving forward with a withdrawal of 225,000 acres in the Thompson Divide area of Colorado, an area with a history of oil and natural gas coexisting with land protection back to the 1940s. Both withdrawals will stop development in the very promising Mancos Shale formation. At least in this regard, the Interior Secretary is equal opportunity, as she closed 225,500 acres in the Superior National Forest of Minnesota to mining for the critical minerals needed for renewable energy.

- BLM proposes to close 1.566 million acres to oil and natural gas leasing in the Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley field offices in the highly productive **Piceance Basin** on Colorado's West Slope. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) considers the Piceance Basin to have five of the top 50 natural gas fields in the United States in proven reserves. The update to the Resource Management Plan and supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is also designed to cut off new development in the Mancos Shale formation.

- The Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ) proposed revision to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines would require federal agencies to require the evaluation of renewable energy projects when a fossil fuel project is proposed. The intent is to speed up approvals for renewable energy projects while slowing down approvals for fossil fuel projects.

- The BLM conservation and landscape health rule stretches Congress' original intent of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) away from managing public lands for "multiple use and sustained yield" of resources to preservation only. FLPMA specifically defines "principal or major uses" as limited to mineral exploration and production, livestock grazing, rights-of-way, fish and wildlife development, recreation, and timber. Of course FLPMA calls for the protection of the environment, water, and cultural resources, but does not list conservation as a use. FLPMA mandates public lands are to "be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber". BLM's rule would violate the multiple-use and sustained yield mandate by closing or restricting unnecessarily large amounts of land to productive uses, making it more difficult to develop in energy-rich basins across the West.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposes three new ESA rules regarding interagency cooperation, listings, and critical habitat designation. Taken together, the Biden Administration is seeking to erode the standards with the goal of listing species that do not credibly meet the ESA's definition of threatened or endangered species and designate critical habitat on a massive scale, including areas that are unoccupied. The result is reduced areas open to development, increased costs, unwarranted or unjustified permit requirements, delays, and a multitude of operational constraints that significantly impact the ability to responsibly develop energy resources.



"Diligent" Development

I would like to focus in particular on the BLM leasing rule. The proposed rule is based on the Administration's continued narrative that operators are not diligently developing their valid existing leases. It would impose penalties for not developing within the first five years of the primary term of the lease, restricting availability of lease extensions and suspensions for any reason, and restricting extensions for applications for permit to drill (APD), regardless of the fact that BLM is often the source of the delays. In good Kafkaesque form, BLM is largely discouraging companies from wanting to develop federal oil and natural gas through this rule and others, further piling on the impediments to leasing and development to ensure they don't. These include changes in bonding requirements, increased fees and royalty rates, shorter permit validity times, a new nomination fee, higher bonus bids, higher royalty rates, and increased rental rates collectively raise operational costs on federal lands, deterring participation, especially by new small businesses.

We have to assume it is irony that BLM discusses "incentiviz [ing] diligent development of leased resources . . . ." after extensive language in the proposed rule aimed at discouraging companies from wanting to obtain federal leases in the first place. Instead of encouraging development by providing incentives to develop such as fast-tracking approvals or otherwise being proactive in assisting companies in the regulatory review process, BLM proposes to further punish operators for holding federal leases.

At the end of FY 2022, there were 34,409 leases in effect, 23,631 producing, and only 10,778 nonproducing leases, which is a 69% utilization rate. Sixty nine percent of leases are in production, despite the fact that the Alliance is in court defending over 5,900 leases from litigation by environmental groups. Most of these leases cannot be developed on until the litigation is cleared up. Factoring in that litigation means that only 28,509 of those 34,409 acres are available for development, which indicates a practical utilization rate of 83%, a very high rate since other leases may be tied up in the NEPA process, awaiting permit approvals or adjacent leases, and otherwise working their way through the federal approval process. Rather than a two-faced rule that claims to "incentivize" diligent development while tying up companies in more red tape and cost, BLM could simply complete the corrective NEPA analysis as required by the D.C. District Court. Yet BLM is dragging its feet on simply completing that straightforward NEPA analysis and letting our members develop on the leases they have in hand.

Additionally, BLM has a number of Expressions of Interest (EOI) from industry that are not being processed but which are adjacent to leased lands. Oftentimes companies need to acquire adjacent leases in order to efficiently develop existing leases, especially when drilling horizontal wells with one to three-mile laterals. They nominate lands that may be part of a larger patchwork of federal, state and fee leases in order to form a full development unit that best accesses the resources while minimizing surface disturbance. BLM's delay in processing many of these EOIs stalls a company's ability to put these lease positions together. Moving forward with regular leasing would increase the utilization rate further.

Bonding

The bonding provisions in the proposed rule would in particular price small companies out of the process. The proposed rule suffers from the flawed assumption that bonds are the only source of funding available to plug and abandon wells and reclaim well sites. In fact, companies are under obligation for the full cost of properly plugging wells and are not released from liability until BLM has determined they have properly done so. Companies assume the obligation when they acquire another company's assets and successor companies also assume the obligation. Struggling companies are often acquired, so at-risk wells, as identified in the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, do not necessarily become orphaned wells.

Bankruptcies almost always result in continuous liability for the assets, whether through restructuring or sale of the assets. In addition, when companies acquire new federal leases that have existing orphan wells on them, oftentimes the acquiring companies plug and reclaim orphan wells before moving forward with new wells. When a company sells or transfers its federal assets, it maintains its liability to plug and abandon any well, and reclaim any well site, that it operated or benefitted from during the term of its lease should a future company default. Thus, there is very low risk of a well on federal lands becoming orphaned. BLM rarely needs to access a bond in order to plug a well, and in fact has done so at the rate of about four per year. A good question to ask BLM is how many wells are plugged and abandoned each year without requiring a call on a bond.

If bond levels are raised too high, as they are in the proposed rule, it ties up significant amounts of capital in an unproductive capacity, adding another cost that, in combination with all the other costs of operating on federal lands and in the proposed rule, leads to less production. The rule would raise costs unnecessarily for the vast majority of companies who are responsible and fulfill their reclamation obligations. The real issue is of course, fly-by-night operators, but the issues are being or have been addressed by BLM with existing policies that give it the flexibility to set higher bond amounts for at-risk companies, more stringent interim and final reclamation requirements, additional bonding reviews, and other measures to limit the risk to the taxpayer.

In fact BLM should be applauded for—using the power it already has over the last two years of the Trump Administration and into the Biden Administration—reducing the number of orphaned wells from the 296 wells identified in the 2019 GOA down to 37 today. That is a success story that shows that the new bonding provisions are unnecessary, yet the political leadership at BLM blindly continues to ignore that success. Throughout the proposed rule, BLM focuses extensively on addressing an orphan well problem not supported by evidence. BLM leadership must recognize its own facts: orphan wells are not the crisis it implies and addressing orphan wells on federal lands is not the taxpayer emergency BLM leads the public to believe in the proposed rule. BLM's approach is disingenuous and misleading.

In the 2019 report, GAO estimated that annually BLM spends about $267,600 in total on reclamation. That amount is just 0.003% of the $8.6 billion in revenue the industry returned to the government in 2022 from the onshore program. That reclamation total is likely much smaller now given how few orphan wells there are on federal lands. It certainly doesn't provide justification for a rule that will price small business out of the bond market altogether.

Thank you Chairman Stauber, for your oversight of these issues. I look forward to questions.

The Jurisdiction of the Subcommittee:

Committee Chair Pete Stauber (R-MN)

- Planning for and development of energy from solar and wind resources on land belonging to the United States, including the outer Continental Shelf.
- All matters and measures affecting geothermal resources.
- Marine hydrokinetic energy development on the outer Continental Shelf.
- All matters related to the leasing, development, and conservation of fossil fuel resources belonging to the United States, including on the outer Continental Shelf and land where the surface is owned by entities other than the United States, including decommissioning of relevant facilities and reclamation of affected areas.
- Mitigation of energy and mining related impacts on Federal lands and resources.
- Terrestrial and geological sequestration of carbon dioxide, except for matters involving implementation of land or forestry management strategies.
- All measures and matters concerning the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.
- All measures and matters concerning the U.S. Geological Survey, except for the activities and programs of the Water Resources and Ecosystem Mission Areas or their successors.
- Collection and management of energy and mineral revenues.
- Mining interests generally, including all matters involving mining regulation and enforcement, including the reclamation of mined lands, the environmental effects of mining, mineral land laws and claims, long-range mineral programs, and seabed mining.
- Conservation of United States uranium supply.
- Geospatial data collection and management, except for nautical charts (or data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).
- Helium supply and management of the Federal helium program.
- Rights-of-way over public lands for pipeline transportation of oil, natural gas, carbon dioxide, helium, and hydrogen.
- Measures and matters concerning the transportation of natural gas from or within Alaska and disposition of oil transported by the trans-Alaska oil pipeline.
- Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.
- Rights-of-way over public lands for energy-related transmission.
- All matters relating to mineral withdrawals on public lands and public forest lands.
- General and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies, and programs within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ENERGY APPRECIATION DAY

Sponsored By Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) and Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)

In an effort to recognize the vital role energy plays in our day to day lives and celebrate the men and women who make it all work. Representative Duncan and Senator Lummis have drafted a resolution to designate October 4th as National Energy Appreciation Day. This was submitted before the end of September and will be voted on quickly.

DEPA issued a support letter for this resolution reading "The Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) enthusiastically supports Senator Lummis' resolution to establish a National Energy Appreciation Day (NEAD). DEPA's membership are The People of American Oil and Gas. We have, and will continue to support the NEAD stated goals"

OCTOBER 4TH

What is National Energy Appreciation Day?

National Energy Appreciation Day (NEAD), observed annually on the first Wednesday of October, will recognize the importance of our domestic energy industry to modern life and celebrate the men and women who make it work.

The U.S. energy mix is truly reflective of an all-of-the-above approach. Coal, oil and natural gas make up 80% of our daily energy needs, nuclear makes up 8% and a variety of renewables such as hydro, biomass, wind, and solar make up 12%. In recent years, some energy technologies have sought to undermine the growth of other energy technologies by painting them in a negative light. We recognize all of our energy resources have tradeoffs, but also important and life-changing benefits. On this day, we want to celebrate them all and focus on how our modern energy system has made our lives and our economic opportunity so much better!

Celebrating National Energy Appreciation Day will:

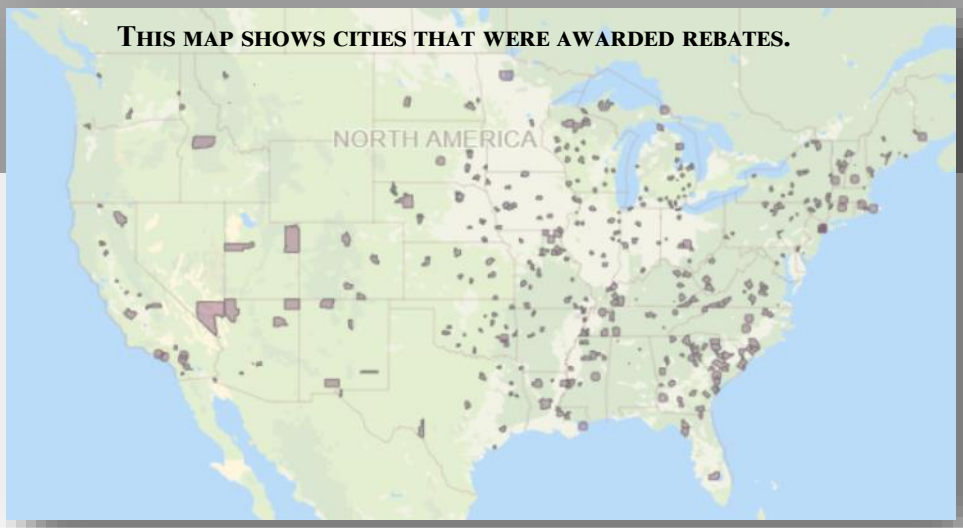
RECOGNIZE the vital role that energy plays in our economy and society, making everything we do possible.

EDUCATE the public on how energy is accessed – the hard work and long-term planning that goes into safely bringing resources online.

CELEBRATE how environmental progress has gone hand-in-hand with improved energy productivity.

ELEVATE the women and men working in the energy field that deserve our recognition and gratitude.

Energy & Commerce Committee Announce Oversight Hearing Electric School Buses



This map shows cities that were awarded rebates.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chair Morgan Griffith (R-VA) held a hearing, Wednesday September 13 to discuss the $5 billion investment the Biden infrastructure law included for school bus fleets over the next five years. On September 29, 2022, the EPA announced it would nearly double the funding awarded. On March 29, 2023, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled, "Follow the Money: Oversight of President Biden's Massive Spending Spree." IGs for the Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, and EPA discussed risks associated with the large infusion of funding for their respective agencies under the IIJA and Inflation Reduction Act and shared updates on their efforts to identify and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse within those programs. EPA IG Sean O'Donnell expressed concern about the capacity of nonfederal recipients of IIJA funding. to manage funding effectively. He also warned that demand for electric school buses under the CSB Program could exceed supply and thus complicate proper expenditure of funding.

According to the EPA's second report to Congress on the program, the EPA approved nearly $1 billion in rebates for 415 school districts to purchase 2,609 vehicles, which included 2,446 electric buses, 147 propane buses, and 16 compressed natural gas vehicles. Each rebate was $395,000. Electric school buses cost three to four times more than diesel buses.

"If there was no funding, it wouldn't happen, because honestly we're not there yet [on bus design and costs]. But eventually, it'll make sense."

-Amy Dobrikova, VP of Fleet Management Blink Charging

On September 1 Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced the state would receive $24 million to help purchase electric school buses.

"It is a problem to have batteries in cold weather, and we have a pretty cold climate, one of the coldest in North America," said Stretch Blackard, owner of Chicago-based Tok Transportation, which contracts with the local schools. According to Blackard in an interview with Autoblog when temperatures hit zero, costs to run electric buses double.

Early adopters of electric school buses have reported challenges and most agree the buses are not as cost-effective and high-performing as the schools would like them to be. PC Magazine spoke to transportation managers in California and Massachusetts

in October of 2022. They reported the children enjoyed the smooth quiet ride that an EV provides. However, the Ramona Unified School District (near San Diego California) transportation manager, a Tesla owner herself, reported real struggles with her eight electric buses. Maintenance issues with the chargers and overheating batteries have taken her EVs out of service several times. Additional issues like storage for sports/band equipment headed to an event is not available in EV buses where batteries are housed under neither the passenger floor where storage would normally be. The range for longer away game trips for sports teams, daily routes to more distant rural housing areas, and more hilly typography keep Ramona diesel buses busy since the electric buses can't perform the tasks.

"One school district in New York received nearly $1.2 million from the EPA under this program to purchase 3 electric busses. However, that community voted against the purchase of these busses, with the school superintendent noting that the EPA award of $1.2 million would not cover the full expenses related to the three busses."

"It's just a matter of educating on infrastructure and then making sure schools get the funding," said Amy Dobrikova, vice president of fleet management at Blink Charging a Miami Beach-based company that designs, manufactures, owns, and operates EV charging stations in North and South America, Europe and the Middle East. "If there was no funding, it wouldn't happen, because honestly we're not there yet [on bus design and costs]. But eventually, it'll make sense."

A quick running of the numbers released for the EPA on this project shows the top 15 oil and gas-producing states (production for 2022) were awarded 611 buses. The 15 states that produced no fossil fuels, were awarded 692 buses. Using data from the 2022 Senate election "Republican States" were granted 635 buses while "Democrat States" were granted 583 buses. The difference in money to the school districts was $20,540,000 more to Republican-led states.

Delaware and Hawaii were the only two states to be categorized as "not prioritized" Both received rebate funds. Delaware received 4 buses and Hawaii received 25.

Delaware's Colonial school district has:

- 15 schools /9,531 students enrolled
- a minority enrollment of 74%.
- Graduation rate is 84% and average test ranking is 3/10.

Hawaii only has one school district encompassing the entire state.

- Hawaii has 295 schools/ 173,178 students enrolled
- With a minority enrollment of 89%
- Graduation rate is 86% and the average testing ranking is 1/10

When the hearing, titled "*Making the Grade?: Audit of the EPA's Clean School Bus Program*." was announced in early September Chairs Rodgers and Griffith released the following statement to the media, "To advance their rush-to-green agenda, President Biden and Congressional Democrats set aside billions of taxpayer dollars for an electric school bus program that is divorced from the reality of what school districts could practically implement safely and efficiently. Issues such as limited EV infrastructure, supply chain constraints, as well as inclement weather-related complications raise serious concerns regarding whether EV buses can perform as effectively as traditional fleets at this time. Further, these limitations in rolling out the project elevate the risk of waste, fraud, and abuse. This hearing builds upon our investigation into the spending of infrastructure bill funding as well as work from the Environmental Protection Agency's Inspector General, and it will allow members an opportunity to examine one specific program vulnerable to misuse."

The only witness to testify was Honorable Sean O'Donnell, *Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency*

Chairman Griffith opened the hearing with comments that included: "The EPA projects that, under these rules, electric vehicles could account for two-thirds of new light- and medium-duty vehicle sales by model year 2032. They have made this proposal without considering 'all of the consequences' such as grid reliability and safety.

"Under the EPA's Clean School Bus Program which we will discuss today, the EPA plans to give out around 5 billion dollars to replace school buses with electric or alternative fuel buses.

"The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorized the EPA to make awards for both electric zero-emission busses

and alternative fuel buses, but we are advised 95% of the 2,600 busses to be replaced under the first round of awards will likely be electric.

"While the EPA has already begun handing out billions of dollars in federal funding to convert school bus fleets to electric busses, many important questions have yet to be answered.

"It is already well-documented that electric vehicles lose a considerable percentage of their range in cold weather. For example, EPA's own Clean School Bus Program website warns, 'Electric School Buses are still operational in cold climates, but additional considerations might be necessary depending on a school district's situation.'"

"According to the EPA itself, a study on battery electric busses saw a range decrease of approximately 33% for a temperature decrease of 30 degrees. How will these buses make long trips, such as those required for sports competitions, rural routes up and over mountains, or long-distance field trips?

In an opening statement by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) reminded attendees about Secretary Granholm's own EV road trip, which didn't go smoothly.

"President Biden's rush-to-green agenda is unaffordable, completely impractical, and is harming everyday Americans. This was made clear from news that broke earlier this week about a multi-state "road trip" this summer, led by Secretary Granholm, which was intended to promote electric vehicles.

Here are just a few of the headlines from her trip:

- "Electric cars have a road trip problem, even for the secretary of energy"
- "On an EV road trip to promote green tech, the US Energy Secretary and her entourage couldn't find enough electric vehicle chargers"
- "Irate family called police on Jennifer Granholm's team for blocking the charging station spot for her electric car"

"Apparently, The Secretary's staff discovered what we've known: most of the country lacks the necessary vehicle charging infrastructure for EVs, especially rural areas. If President Biden's own Energy Secretary can't travel smoothly in an EV, how can this administration promise to ensure millions of children are able to get around in EV school buses?

Cathy McMorris Rodgers is Eastern Washington's chief advocate in Congress, serving as the representative for the state's 5th Congressional District. She was elected to the House in 2004.

Cathy currently serves as the Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has broad jurisdiction over the issues that matter most to the people of Eastern Washington. As leader of this committee, Cathy is focused on delivering real results on everything from expanding access to rural broadband and improving healthcare to addressing climate change and securing America's energy independence.

Prior to leading in this role, Cathy served as Chair of the House Republican Conference from 2012 to 2018. In 2006, Cathy married Brian Rodgers, a Spokane-native and retired 26-year Navy Commander. In 2007, she gave birth to Cole Rodgers. Cole was born with an extra 21st chromosome and inspired Cathy to become a leader in the disabilities community.

Morgan Griffith was first elected to represent the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia in the U.S. House of Representatives on November 2, 2010. Morgan is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over some of the most important issues facing Virginia's Ninth District including public health and federal regulations.

For the 117th Congress, Morgan was named Republican Leader of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He is a member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Energy.

Prior to his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Morgan served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1994 to 2011, where he represented the Eighth District. In 2000, Morgan was elected House Majority Leader, the first Republican in Virginia history to hold that position.

Morgan is a graduate of Salem's Andrew Lewis High School and an honors graduate of Emory & Henry College. After completing studies at the Washington and Lee University School of Law, Morgan returned to Southwest Virginia where he practiced law for nearly three decades.

Morgan is married to Hilary, and together they have three children.

After the initial funding boost from the EPA, how will school districts purchase more electric busses, how will school districts be able to maintain these vehicles, and how will those districts cover all of the related expenses?" and finished her five minutes of opening state time with "I had the opportunity to meet with the Inspector General last month to discuss the challenges ahead and OIG's efforts to safeguard taxpayer funds against waste, fraud, and abuse.

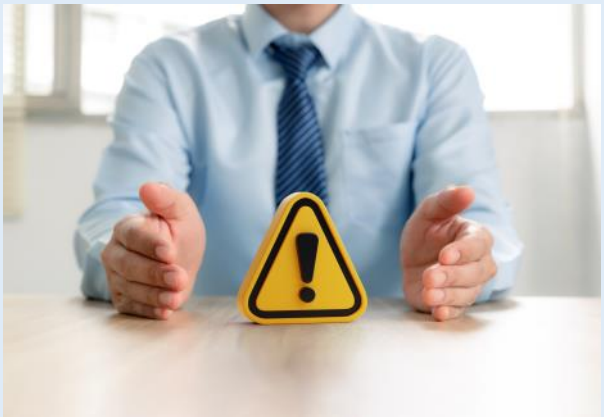
I look forward to continuing that important discussion today. Ensuring our children's safety should be the number one priority for any program looking to improve student transportation resources.

An unprecedented amount of taxpayer dollars was spent last Congress, and there must be transparency as to how it is being spent."

Chair Rodgers concluded her opening statement by saying, "Beyond this program, I also have broader concerns with the EPA. While the EPA was created by an executive order, Congress never actually authorized the EPA, and apparently, the EPA still believes that it does not have to take direction from Congress. I fear that it has replaced its core mission of protecting human health and the environment with a harmful political agenda to force an energy transition onto American families and businesses who will suffer."

Sean O'Donnell, the inspector general for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board was called to present to the committee and started with some statistics and context for the committee's consideration.

- school buses in the U.S. travel more than 4 billion miles each year
- transporting more than 25 million children every day
- existing school buses emit nitrogen oxides and particulate matter in diesel exhaust
- children have a faster breathing rate than adults and their lungs are not fully developed, they are particularly vulnerable to air pollution inside and near older diesel school buses
- bus drivers and school staff members are also exposed to the diesel exhaust and may suffer ill health effects
- over the last two years, the EPA has received historic funding for its programs and operations.—a combined $102 billion from two pieces of legislation, IRA and IIJA
- the EPA's annual appropriation in fiscal year 2023 was just over $10 billion, or about a tenth of the funds it received under the IRA and the IIJA.
- funding will be awarded in the form of loans, grants, and rebates to nonfederal entities through existing programs. **"We are concerned about the capacity of these recipients, and their subrecipients, to handle this money efficiently and effectively," O'Donnell said.**
- "Starting in April 2022, we have published an annual IIJA oversight plan, which explains our strategic approach to IIJA oversight and outlines a year-by-year preview of our work. Our most recent IIJA oversight plan, issued in April 2023, highlighted ongoing or planned oversight projects, including an audit of the EPA's Clean School Bus program. We have also issued a compendium of open or unresolved OIG recommendations that are related to the IIJA. These 25 open or unresolved OIG recommendations indicate that the EPA does not have the internal controls necessary to effectively administer programs that will handle IIJA funding."
- "With respect to the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act program, we identified findings related to recipients' financial management systems not meeting federal requirements, not meeting job reporting and Buy American requirements, not meeting all grant award objectives, not finishing projects by the completion dates, and questioned costs totaling over 90 percent of DERA expenditures, or $23.8 million of $26.3 million."



"The EPA awards these funds before the school bus has been manufactured and delivered. Because of this, the rebate money can sit idle, in a bank account, for up to a year. As a result, the EPA needs to have strong monitoring controls to ensure that funds are safeguarded and used for their intended purpose."
- Sean O'Donnell, Inspector General US EPA and US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

- "We are currently conducting an audit of the Clean School Bus program to determine whether potential supply chain or production delays could impact the EPA's efforts to disburse and manage the $5 billion of IIJA funding."
- "While the results are preliminary, one noteworthy finding affecting the EPA's ability to disburse and manage IIJA funds is the potential delays related to the infrastructure needed to support the bus chargers, including the increased demand on utility companies responsible for constructing power lines and transformers needed to make electric buses fully operational. The EPA made a programmatic decision to limit funding to infrastructure between the electrical meter and the charging port, but not for any infrastructure costs associated with connecting to the utility company's power supply. In addition, the EPA did not require 2022 Clean School Bus program applicants to coordinate with their utility companies before applying for rebates. Not surprisingly, approximately one-third of rebate recipients requested extensions and delayed reimbursement requests because they needed more time to coordinate with their local utility companies. Our initial calculations, which will be subject to further verification, is that those seeking extensions represent 502 buses totaling nearly $188 million in rebates. And our forthcoming report will likely stress, among other things, the need for the EPA to monitor the situation and ensure that school districts will be able to establish the infrastructure necessary to support clean bus and charging purchases in the expected timeframe of having buses fully operational by October 2024."
- "The OIG will conduct additional Clean School Bus program oversight in FY 2024. Yesterday my office announced an evaluation of the EPA's selection of recipients for IIJA funding under the Clean School Bus program. Our evaluators will determine whether the EPA followed requirements for selecting recipients for IIJA Clean School Bus program funds. We initiated this evaluation based on congressional concerns that the EPA's selection process for the FY 2022 funds, which was in the form of rebates, resulted in an imbalance in funded technologies. For example, in FY 2022, 94 percent of funded school buses were zero-emission while 6

Sean O'Donnell joined the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) as the Acting Inspector General (IG) on April 6, 2020. Mr. O'Donnell is also the Inspector General of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and was sworn in on January 27, 2020. Mr. O'Donnell serves as the Acting DoD IG in addition to his current duties as the EPA IG.

Mr. O'Donnell previously served at the U.S. Department of Justice for 15 years, most recently as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section.

Early in his career, Mr. O'Donnell clerked for U.S. Circuit Judge Raymond Gruender on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and U.S. District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. He also spent time in private practice, working on intellectual property and antitrust litigation, among other matters.

Mr. O'Donnell has a bachelor's degree in economics from Texas A&M University, a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in economics and a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

"In closing, the title of today's hearing poses the question as to whether the EPA's Clean School Bus program is 'making the grade.' I believe that it is too early to tell. If I had to give a grade today, it would be an 'incomplete'.

Sean O'Donnell, the Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

percent comprised other clean school buses, including propane and compressed natural gas buses."

- "According to the EPA, this lottery system consisted of assigning a random number to each applicant, then ranking the applicants according to prioritization criteria outlined in the 2022 Clean School Bus rebates program guide."
- "Since 2022, the EPA has awarded over $902 million to approximately 400 school districts across the United States. Once these school districts submit purchase orders, the EPA will provide up to $375,000 per school bus. The EPA awards these funds before the school bus has been manufactured and delivered. Because of this, the rebate money can sit idle, in a bank account, for up to a year. As a result, the EPA needs to have strong monitoring controls to ensure that funds are safeguarded and used for their intended purpose."
- "While the OIG's evaluation will provide feedback on the process for selecting recipients, it is also important that the EPA ensure money already in recipients' hands is properly safeguarded. To that end, my office also yesterday announced a new audit of the EPA's oversight of Clean School Bus program rebate recipients."
- "Our oversight work responds directly to the risks associated with budget multipliers such as the IRA and IIJA. Clean School Bus program funding introduces unique challenges that the EPA will need to consider as it stewards billions of dollars in extra cash. While rebates and other aspects of the program make Clean School Bus particularly risky, I will focus my remarks on four fraud risks:
(1) the way funds are provided to recipients,
(2) the unique requirements for destroying replaced buses,
(3) the increased risks presented by sub-programs, and
(4) the potential for overlapping funding from multiple federal agencies.

  Currently, a school system could be receiving funding from the EPA, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Energy for material and labor associated with the Clean School Bus program. There is a high potential for, among other things, falsely substituting or duplicating requests from multiple federal agencies for the same or very similar materials and associated labor."
- "The EPA has historically faced challenges in enforcing the requirement for grant recipients to submit adequate documentation to support costs incurred under their grants, and the EPA's processes for reviewing grant payments were not always effective in detecting disallowed or improper costs. Our report emphasized the need to establish clear guidance to monitor grants and to develop detailed work plans to identify how and when the recipient will use program funds to produce specific outputs. Additionally, the EPA needs to ensure oversight processes provide assurance that grant recipients are reporting accurately and timely, procuring costs and grant activities that are allowable, and conducting proper recipient monitoring."

Is Anyone Listening?

"This worry about CO2, the worry about methane, the worry about global warming, is all a total fabrication by shock journalists and/or dishonest politicians."

Watch the full American Thought Leaders Interview with Dr. Clauser

Theoretical and experimental physicist, contributor to the foundation of quantum mechanics, 2022 Nobel Prize winner, Dr. John Clauser says the prevailing climate models have ignored a key variable.

"I believe I have the missing piece of the puzzle that has been left out in virtually all of these computer programs, and that is the effect of clouds."

- Dr. John Clauser

American Physicist Dr. John Clauser said in an interview earlier this month that the role of clouds in the climate system is not given enough significance. Clauser explained, "Cloud cover has a profound effect on the earth's heat input that the clouds are reflecting a massive amount of light back out into space." This thought peaked his curious scientific mind and unsurprisingly he did additional research reading various IPCC and National Academy reports and calling them "sloppy" and adding "And in particular, it was very obvious, even in the earliest reports, and all carried on through to the present, that clouds were not at all understood. ... It's just simply bad science."

When the discussion on climate change is held, most focus on the effect of human-produced CO_2 and the changes humans must make to reverse CO_2 levels, however, the dynamics of clouds have been overlooked.

Watch the interview with Dr. Clauser using the link at the top of the page

Dr. Clauser tops the list of 1750 scientists and professionals from around the world who signed a World Climate Declaration (WCD) document contending there is no "climate emergency".

The document highlights the limitations of current climate models and states the effect of greenhouse gases has been overemphasized.

The Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL) website hosts the full WCD document which ends by saying "From now onward the group is going to function as "Global Climate Intelligence Group". The CLINTEL Group will give solicited and unsolicited advice on climate change and energy transition to governments and companies worldwide."

Founded in 2019, CLINTEL is an independent foundation

with the mission of "generating knowledge and understanding of the causes and effects of climate change as well as the effects of climate policy.

The WCD document reads:

Climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific. In particular, scientists should emphasize that their modeling output is not the result of magic: computer models are human-made. What comes out is fully dependent on what theoreticians and programmers have put in: hypotheses, assumptions, relationships, parameterizations, stability constraints, etc. Unfortunately, in mainstream climate science most of this input is undeclared.

To believe the outcome of a climate model is to believe what the model makers have put in. This is precisely the problem of today's climate discussion to which climate models are central. Climate science has degenerated into a discussion based on beliefs, not on sound self-critical science. We should free ourselves from the naïve belief in immature climate models. In future, climate research must give significantly more emphasis to empirical science.

Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming
The geological archive reveals that Earth's climate has varied as long as the planet has existed, with natural cold and warm phases. The Little Ice Age ended as recently as 1850. Therefore, it is no surprise that we now are experiencing a period of warming.

Warming is far slower than predicted
The world has warmed significantly less than predicted by IPCC on the basis of modeled anthropogenic forcing. The gap between the real world and the modeled world tells us that we are far from understanding climate change.

Climate policy relies on inadequate models
Climate models have many shortcomings and are not remotely plausible as global policy tools. They blow up the effect of greenhouse gases such as CO_2. In addition, they ignore the fact that enriching the atmosphere with CO_2 is beneficial.

CO_2 is plant food, the basis of all life on Earth
CO_2 is not a pollutant. It is essential to all life on Earth. Photosynthesis is a blessing. More CO_2 is beneficial for nature, greening the Earth: additional CO_2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also good for agriculture, increasing the yields of crops worldwide.

Global warming has not increased natural disasters
There is no statistical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts and suchlike natural disasters, or making them more frequent. However, there is ample evidence that CO_2-mitigation measures are as damaging as they are costly.

Climate policy must respect scientific and economic realities
There is no climate emergency. Therefore, there is no cause for panic and alarm. We strongly oppose the harmful and unrealistic net-zero CO_2 policy proposed for 2050. If better approaches emerge, and they certainly will, we have ample time to reflect and re-adapt. The aim of global policy should be 'prosperity for all' by providing reliable and affordable energy at all times. In a prosperous society men and women are well educated, birthrates are low and people care about their environment.

To believe the outcome of a climate model is to believe what the model makers have put in. This is precisely the problem of today's climate discussion to which climate models are central. Climate science has degenerated into a discussion based on beliefs, not on sound self-critical science. Should not we free ourselves from the naive belief in immature climate models?

Air Products Files Lawsuit Against BLM to Stop the Auction of US Federal Helium Reserve Assets

Helium is a byproduct of natural gas processing, and it may exist in small proportions (generally < 0.3% He) in most conventional natural gas fields, but perhaps not in quantities large enough to be produced.

Helium is a vital element for a number of major technologies that affect our lives every day, but the ability of existing and planned sources of helium to meet the future demand is uncertain. As an exhaustible natural resource with no substitute. Uses include as a coolant in high tech military aircraft, certain types of nuclear reactors; the manufacture of optical fiber and semiconductors; providing low enough temperatures for superconducting magnets; enabling modern MRI technologies to operate; and other cryogenic applications, that is just a start. Because of its unique properties, helium is expected to continue to be essential in enabling the development of such critical technologies in the future.

Why would the BLM Auction off this important commodity?

The Federal Helium System managed by the BLM currently supplies over 20% of the domestic and 9% of the global demand for helium by supplying crude helium to private helium refining companies, which in turn refine the helium and market it to consumers.

Understanding The Current Situation

Since the passage of the Helium Conservation Act of 1925, the Federal government has played a significant role in the production, refining, and storing of helium. This has included establishing a U.S. underground stockpile known as the Federal Helium Reserve, which is located just outside of Amarillo, Texas.

A short-sided decision made by Congress in 1996 set into motion a 25-year plan to unload the reserve to shrink government. However, that plan was at the cost of a host of vital industries that rely on helium.

The law required the BLM to sell off the crude helium remaining in the Federal Helium Reserve, before 2013, to repay the U.S. Treasury the $1.3 billion debt incurred creating it. This debt was supposed to be repaid at the end of the 2013 fiscal year. That, as a consequence, meant the helium program would terminate on October 1, 2013, unless Congress took action.

The Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 was designed to "keep the Federal Helium Program revenue positive through ongoing crude helium sales."

The Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 sought to:

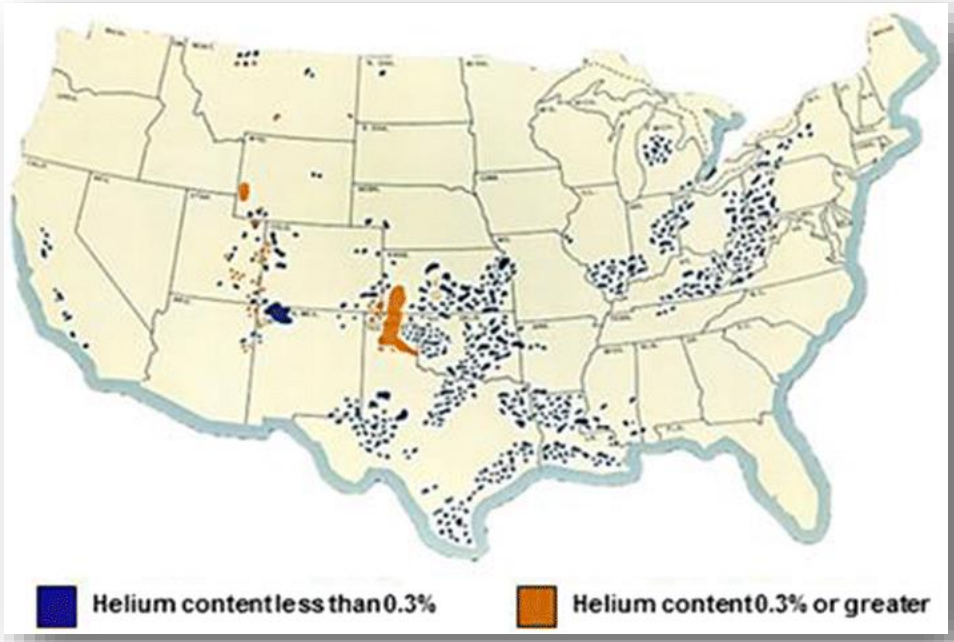
- Ensure continued access to Federal crude helium
- Provide for an orderly transition among three phases, resulting in minimal market disruption to end users:

Phase A: Allocation Transition
The Federal Helium Reserve continued to operate as-is until September 30, 2014
Phase B: Auction Implementation
Beginning in FY 2015, 10% of helium volumes made available will be auctioned Annually thereafter, the per-

centage auctioned increases by 10 percentage points

Phase C: Continued Access for Federal Users This phase starts when 3 billion cubic feet of helium remain in the Federal Helium Reserve, and limits sales to Federal users

- Increase taxpayer returns and stimulate investment in private helium sources by selling crude helium at market-driven prices
- Bolster transparency by requiring timely and public publication of information related to the Federal Helium Reserve
- Obtain a global helium assessment that includes forecasts of demand and assessments of supply
- Establish helium extraction, separation, and conservation R&D programs
- Facilitate the development of a long-term strategy for helium acquisition for all Federal users



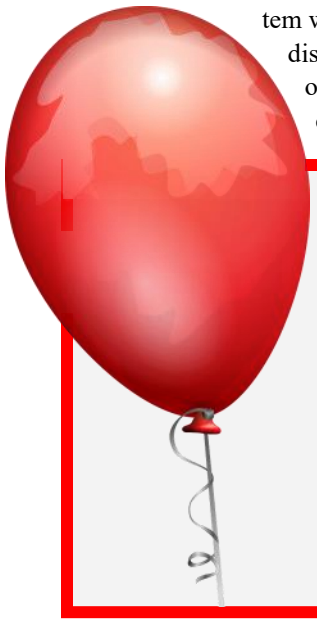
Source: BLM

It was clear in 2013 that loss of access to the Federal Helium Reserve would result in significant disruptions to a large number of critical U.S. industries. Congressional action was necessary to prevent a crippling shortage for University R&D, National Laboratories, and a broad range of industries. Such a shortage would stifle domestic manufacturing of semiconductors, fiber optic cables, medical imagining equipment, as well as industrial welding operations, and other economic activities that rely upon helium.

In September 2021 another sale was announced to accomplish the ultimate goal, of Congress. The Secretary of the Interior was directed to gradually sell off the government's helium reserve according to statutorily-defined phases and limitations, by September 30, 2021. The System was declared excess property to be disposed of through sale like any extra office equipment or government vehicles would be—via a General Services Administration (GSA) auction, with help from the Secretary of the Interior and the BLM. Congress set no deadline for the GSA to sell the property. The September 2021 sale did not happen. No explanation for the sale cancellation was given and things remained quiet until the announcement of a sale set for September 2022.

In June 2022, nine of the eleven helium storage contract holders, and all of the major helium suppliers, sent a letter to the GSA urging them to delay the disposal of helium assets until the government had time to address the same three critical concerns the Air Products lawsuit lays out in its filing. The September 2022 sale was cancelled.

"Every delay, every pause in the sale, every discussion about the value of helium gives us hope that maybe someone is paying attention," said Sophia Hayes, a professor of chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis in an interview this year with NBC. Members of the science community and those inside industries who need helium spent a good part of 2022 urging government officials to reconsider selling the US Reserves to a private company or possibly a foreign-owned entity.



- In 2013 the Federal Helium Reserve supplied roughly 70% of the global helium demand, (40% domestic and 30% international).
- In 2014 that number was 62%.
- In 2015, total sales of U.S. helium accounted for about 56% of the world's supply (by volume).
- By 2020 the US remained the leading supplier of helium for the world offering 44% of global production.
- Today, the US supplies just over 20% of the world's helium.

The natural formation in which the helium is stored is a dolomite structure, a massive cave-like formation situated beneath two layers of salt that act as a cap. This cap enables the reserve to do what virtually no other known place in the world can do: store helium long term.

Northwestern University professor of physics Bill Halperin explained "NASA and SpaceX need helium for liquid fuel rockets. The MRI industry needs helium. The pharmaceutical industry is reliant on helium. And so is the Department of Defense." The Defense Department uses helium not only for missiles but also for surveillance balloons. "It's very important to have observation status which doesn't compromise human life. And balloons provide that. In Afghanistan and Iraq, helium balloons were used to monitor activity," Halperin said.

January 2023 the Geological Survey requested public comment on the "Helium Supply Risk"

The request summary read :

"In light of recent geopolitical events and concurrent with the return of primary helium data-collection responsibility from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the USGS is soliciting input from the public, including domestic helium users, that will aid the USGS in analyzing whether there is an increasing risk of helium-supply disruption; whether that risk stems from supply from countries that may be unwilling or unable to continue to supply the United States; and whether those risks pose a significant likelihood of increasing the Nation's import reliance or creating a concentration and risk of permanent or intermittent supply disruptions from a small number of international or domestic supply sources. The USGS is also soliciting input that will aid the USGS in analyzing whether potential disruptions to helium supply would jeopardize manufacturing or use of products vital to the defense, healthcare, aerospace, consumer electronics, and other industries

Helium is important to the U.S. economy, with uses including magnetic resonance imaging, lifting gas, analytical and laboratory applications, electronics and semiconductor manufacturing, welding, engineering and scientific applications, and various minor applications. At present, the United States is the world's leading helium producer and is a net exporter of helium. In 2021, fifteen plants in the United States extracted helium from natural gas and produced crude helium; two plants extracted helium from natural gas and produced Grade-A helium; and three plants purified helium from other sources to produce Grade-A helium. Helium production outside the United States was concentrated primarily in Qatar and Algeria. Both countries, as well as Canada, Russia, and Tanzania, have the technical capacity to increase their production in the future."

Helium did not meet the criteria for inclusion on the 2022 final list of critical minerals. However, the USGS has noted that several factors make helium a commodity that warrants watching. The Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 directed the sale of the Federal Helium System by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The global shift from conventional natural gas toward shale gas, which lacks recoverable quantities of helium, has the potential to reduce the supply of helium. While the United States has significant domestic helium production capacity, recent geopolitical events may impact foreign production capacity.

Last June the GSA announced a July 12, 2023 sale for the Federal Helium System assets. It begs the question, why do they keep putting this on an auction list?? The answer is, they have to, by law, BLM is required to sunset its management of the system and report any excess helium and helium assets to GSA to follow the statutory disposal process.

The sale process was to include the Cliffside Gas Plant, Federally-owned Plant Equipment, Mineral Rights, Helium Storage Reservoir, Natural Gas Wells, and Federal Helium Pipeline.

The Cliffside Gas Plant, is situated on two leased parcels of land totaling 8.108 acres near Amarillo, Texas. The property encompasses a range of primary and support buildings, including offices, warehouses, maintenance facilities, laboratories, and storage areas.

The Federal Helium System is also comprised of plant equipment, including a booster compressor, natural gas chiller skid, metering equipment, spare parts, emergency generators, storage tanks, and other machinery critical to the helium enrichment process.

In addition to the facilities, the sale was to encompass Mineral Rights acquired by the Federal Government from 1930 to 1942. These subsurface ownership interests cover approximately 38,000 acres of gas and approximately 60 acres of oil resources, providing an opportunity for future exploration and development.

The Helium Storage Reservoir, known as the Bush Dome, a natural geologic formation located approximately 3,000 feet below the surface. The reservoir has historically held up to 44 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of helium, which includes both federally owned stored helium and native helium commingled with natural gas.

The Federal Helium System further encompasses a network

of 23 natural gas wells some of which serve as high-pressure injection wells. These wells have been instrumental in supplying natural gas to the system, and they offer potential opportunities for ongoing production and utilization.

Crucial to the system's operation is the Federal Helium Pipeline, which spans approximately 423.24 miles, connecting the Cliffside Field to privately owned helium refineries across Northern Texas, the Oklahoma panhandle, and Southern Kansas. The pipeline facilitates the production, transmission, storage, and delivery of crude helium to refineries. The Federal Helium Pipeline works in conjunction with privately owned refineries and BLM and typically delivers more than 2 million cubic feet (MMcf) of crude helium per day to the refiners. It has been a reliable conduit, delivering millions of cubic feet of crude helium daily.

The July 2023 sale never happened. It is actually speculation as to why the sale was cancelled. Media inquiries inside the BLM and the GSA over the cancelled sales have been ignored and a public explanation was never given, but what is know is that none of the previous issues with keeping supply in order while transitioning to a new owner were ever resolved.

The future of critical industries ability to serve the US, and the world remains uncertain. Many are hopeful the November 15th planned sale of the Federal Helium System assets could be postponed or cancelled after the filing of a lawsuit by Air Products against the BLM. However, things have been marching forward as if the lawsuit has not affected the auction.

Air Products filing sheds light on how any owner of the Federal Helium Reserve will have trouble keeping this system in place, because of the government's management of it's creation. This piece of the story is insane.

The Air Products filing states:

1. "GSA, working with BLM, has failed to adopt reasonable safeguards to ensure that the next owner has the financial, technical, and operational experience, as well as the necessary property rights, to safely provide a stable helium supply to the many who depend on it, such as Plaintiffs and their customers."
"**sale conditions fail adequately to account for the System's compliance with the numerous safety, pipeline, and environmental regulations that will apply to the System's private owner, but from which the Government is largely exempt. Compliance problems may result in closure of the System when federal and state regulators bring these regulations to bear. Further still, Defendants have admitted that the conveyance will not include complete documentation of the easements and rights-of-way across private land needed to operate the System's 423-mile helium pipeline across three states. A number of parcels in Texas and Kansas, for example, either rely on deeds without warranty (meaning title conveys but without a warranty against problems with the title), or have no records available to support title at all. Such incomplete documentation invites property disputes when the System is conveyed to a private party, and it takes only one bad right-of-way to shut down the entire pipeline.**

2. "Defendants' timing of the sale constitutes an unexplained change in position and fails to consider the reliance interests of the helium refiners, suppliers, and consumers who reasonably believed and relied upon Defendants' previous public representations.

Between 2020 and 2022, Defendants repeatedly told market participants that they would continue to operate the System "until such time as all privately owned helium is produced from the field" and delivered—helium that Air Products had already bought from the Government and is paid for in full. At the time, Defendants anticipated delivering all of Air Products' helium by 2023—a date which has since been delayed by at least three years because of unexpected System outages, as further alleged below. Reasonably relying on Defendants' previous public statements, Air Products thought there would be enough time to get its purchased helium delivered before Defendants conveyed the System to a private buyer. But Defendants have since arbitrarily accelerated the sale. Defendants initially announced a sale date of September 2022, before postponing that sale after an avalanche of concerns voiced by affected entities. **Now, without fully resolving those concerns, Defendants have launched the sale process again and set a bid closure date of November 15, 2023, with selection and conveyance to follow—and thereby guaranteed that Defendants will convey the System with Air Products' helium still in the System's underground reservoir, contrary to Defendants' previous representations.** Given longstanding capacity constraints on delivering helium from the System's underground reservoir to private refiners, Air Products cannot simply ask for its helium today and get all of it delivered tomorrow, next week, or even this year; it will take several years to deliver all of Air Products' helium. Defendants' arbitrary new sale timeline thus frustrates Air Products' investment-backed expectations for its approximately 800 million cubic feet of

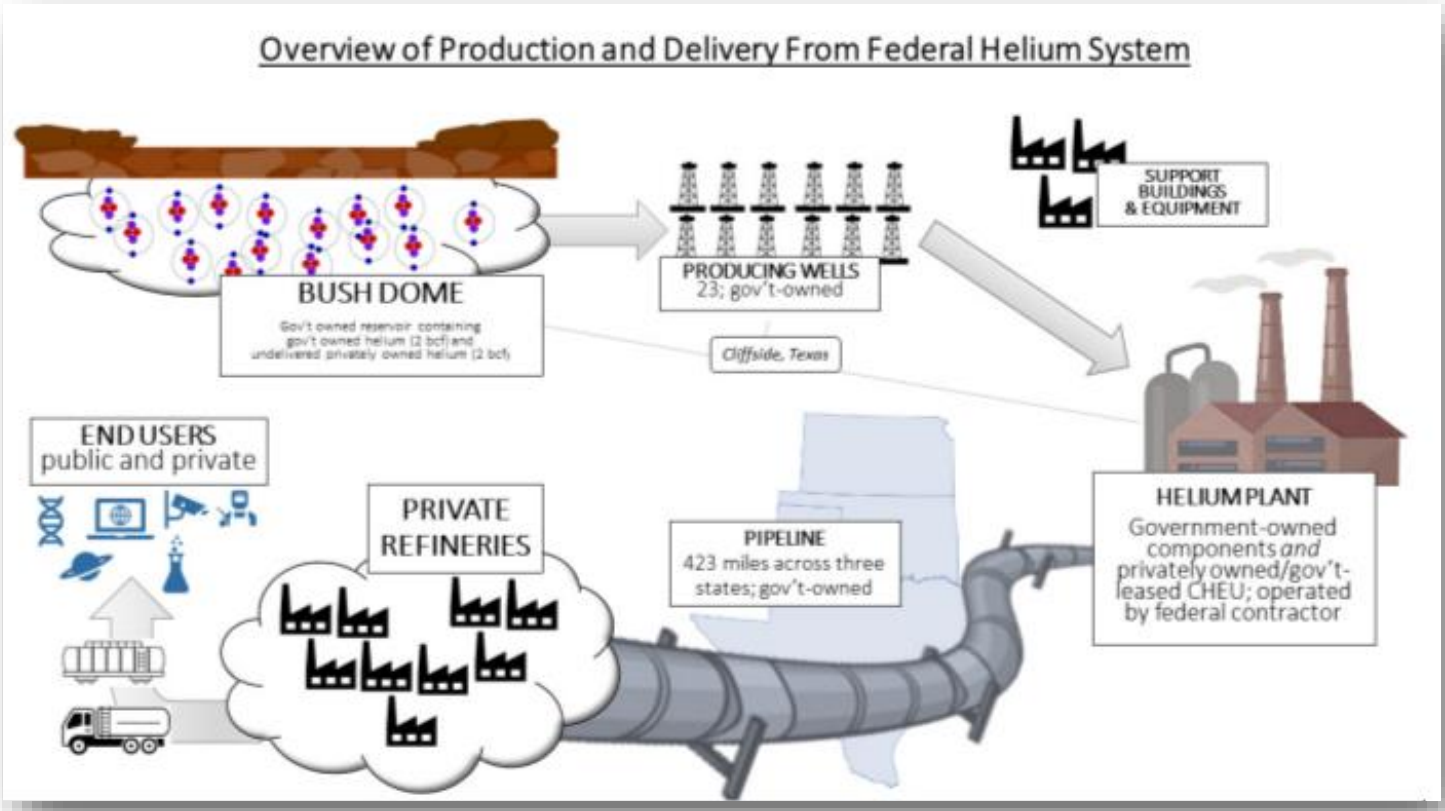
The Air Products filing states "Defendants have admitted that the conveyance will not include complete documentation of the easements and rights-of-way across private land needed to operate the System's 423-mile helium pipeline across three states. A number of parcels in Texas and Kansas, for example, either rely on deeds without warranty... or have no records available to support title at all. ...it takes only one bad right-of-way to shut down the entire pipeline."

undelivered helium. Defendants' decision to speed up the timeline undermines those reliance interests at a time when lengthy unexpected shutdowns in the System and at alternative sources of supply have already triggered a severe helium supply disruption.

3. Helium is also rare, non-renewable, and difficult to produce, refine, and distribute. Generated deep underground through radioactive decay, helium rises through the Earth's crust and atmosphere and escapes into space unless trapped by chance in pockets of natural gas. **Fewer than twenty plants around the world have the capacity to produce major quantities of helium as a byproduct of natural gas extraction. Many of the largest helium plants are located outside the U.S. in Russia, Qatar and Algeria,** where long supply chains and geopolitical environments make it difficult to supply U.S. consumers, including federal agencies and critical private industries... The Crude Helium Enrichment Unit (CHEU) is indispensable to the System; without it, helium cannot be extracted from underground storage and distributed (via pipeline) for further processing.. The System's operations are closely tied to the helium market's health because helium is a scarce, non-renewable resource, and because the System is one of few places around the globe that can store significant amounts of helium underground. Government helium sales have sometimes led to market disruptions. In 2006–07, 2011–13, and 2018–20, unexpected supply gaps around the world due to planned and unplanned maintenance outages led to helium shortages and dramatically increased prices, jeopardizing scientific, technological, and national-defense projects.

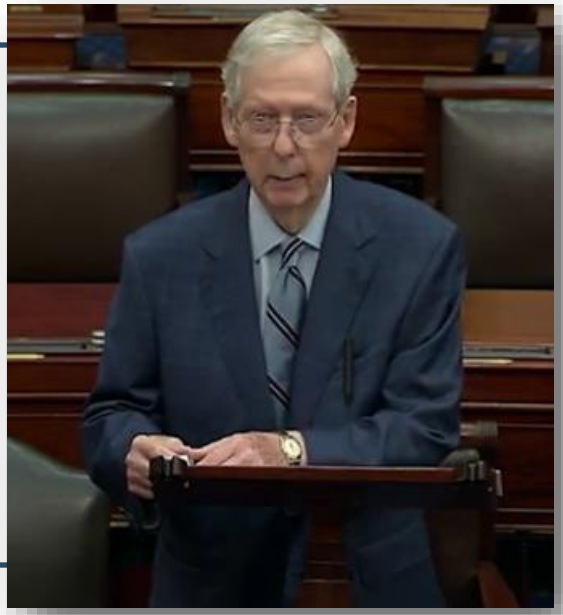
Who would want to bid on a facility/commodity that could potentially be tied up in a lawsuit for years?

An open house of the Cliffside facility will be hosted October 26th for those interested in a tour before the auction.



The War on American Energy Hurts Working Families

"Freezing the development of clean and reliable energy here at home does nothing more than kick production of more expensive and less reliable fuels into overdrive overseas. You can guarantee fuels won't be climate conscious or environmentally sound when they come from hostile regimes overseas"



U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered the following remarks September 12 on the Senate floor regarding energy production:

"Across the country, the end of summer gave working families gas prices near all-time highs – beyond just a seasonal swing.

Last week, Washington Democrats opened a new front in their war on affordable and abundant American energy. The Biden Administration announced the withdrawal of more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve from oil and gas leasing and cancelled seven oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The President calls this move a necessary step to 'meet the urgency of the climate crisis.' But any serious observer would call it bad news for families trying to make ends meet.

Last fiscal year, under President Biden's stranglehold, the number of new federal acres leased plummeted. Comparing the first 30 months of each Administration, onshore leasing is down from 67 sales under the previous Administration to a mere 9 sales under President Biden.

Meanwhile, the Biden Administration has let a five-year plan for offshore energy production – required by law – to expire over a year ago with no new plan in sight. In other words, there are no new offshore energy leases in the hopper.

Now, Congress has exercised its authority and forced the President to re-instate an offshore lease it had already cancelled. But in response, his Administration put 6 million acres of the sale off limits to oil and gas exploration.

And Senate Democrats have been more than willing to toe the party line. Last year, every single one of our Democratic colleagues voted against Senator Barrasso's effort to require dependable onshore leasing. And every single one voted against Senator Kennedy's measure to restore certainty to offshore leasing.

So freezing the development of clean and reliable energy here at home does nothing more than kick production of more expensive and less reliable fuels into overdrive overseas. You can guarantee fuels won't be climate conscious or environmentally sound when they come from hostile regimes overseas.

The cost of Washington Democrats' shortsighted obsession is measured in higher costs at the pump, higher home heating and cooling bills, and greater reliance on foreign energy.

By outsourcing our energy policy to the radical environmentalists, the Biden administration is outsourcing America's energy security. Our nation deserves better."

What You Missed on Twitter this Month if you don't participate

Jusper Machogu follows

Wide Awake Media ✓
@wideawake_media

Australian broadcaster, Alan Jones, utterly schools a panel of climate zealots on the reality of the #ClimateScam.

"CO2 is 0.04% of the atmosphere, and human beings are responsible for 3% of that 0.04%... It's like saying: 'There's a granule of sugar on the Harbour Bridge. Clean the bridge up, it's dirty'."

Steve Milloy ✓ @JunkScience · Sep 18

"The Chairman's biggest whopper was his assertion that 'we have no climate agenda whatsoever.'

"Yet emails obtained by Energy Policy Advocates through a Freedom of Information Act request show that SEC officials have been working on the rule with the climate outfit Ceres, whose... Show more

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Gary Gensler Tells a Climate Whopper

The SEC Chairman fibs to Congress about his pending disclosure rule.

By The Editorial Board
Sept. 17, 2023 4:17 pm ET

Williams ✓ @WilliamsUpdates · 27m

❓ Did you know America is exporting more natural gas than any other country?

👍 That's good news for our trade balance and also for global efforts to move away from carbon-heavy fuels.

naturalgasintel.com
United States Expected to Retain Top LNG Exporter Title into 2024 as...
The United States is expected to keep the title as the world's largest LNG exporter into next year after shipping out more cargoes than any ...

Markwayne Mullin ✓ @SenMullin · 5h

FACT: Since Joe Biden took office, energy prices have skyrocketed 43%, costing the average American family an extra $141 per month. Electricity prices are up almost 25%, with gasoline prices soaring over 64%.

Americans know the true cost of 'Bidenomics'.

"Rick thanks so much for the invitations, the nomination, to join that club. I accept your nomination, and I very much look forward to a life of being much more aerodynamic than I have been in the past. Thank You."

- Senator Mike Lee

September 13, Dr. David Ortiz, Director of the Office of Electric Reliability for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission testified before the Committee on Energy and Commerce, subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security.

SAN ANTONIO | 2023

DEPA

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE GOLF CLASSIC

PLAYER/TEAM REGISTRATION

- **Please send registration and payment no later than Tuesday, October 9, 2023**
- **Registration** for this event is $500 per individual player OR $2,000 for a team of four.
- **Online registration is available** on the WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG events tab.
- **Credit Card payment:** please email this completed form to csimonds@depausa.org An invoice will be sent with a payment link.
- **Paying by check:** please make payable to **DEPA** and mail to P.O. Box 33190, Tulsa, Ok 74153

❑Check Enclosed

❑Send an invoice for credit card payment

Send invoice to:

_____

Email:

_____

Phone:

_____

Online Registration and additional information about this event, including full sponsor information is also available on our website **WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG** on the "Events" tab.

For questions contact
Cynthia Simonds in the DEPA office
405-669-6646, or csimonds@depausa.org

Company Name:_____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email:_____

Contact Phone:_____

❑ **We are a sponsor. (Check box if you ARE a sponsor)**

We have _____ player registrations included in our sponsorship.

We are registering _____ additional players we need to pay for.

*If you have more than 4 players to register, you can include a list or use this form multiple times.

1)_____/_____
Name Handicap (max 20)

2)_____/_____
Name Handicap (max 20)

3)_____/_____
Name Handicap (max 20)

4)_____/_____
Name Handicap (max 20)

RENTAL EQUIPMENT: TPC San Antonio offers rental club equipment from top brands for your convenience and the opportunity to try out the latest in golf club technology. Most rental sets are $99 plus tax ($175 plus tax for PXG). If you'd like to rent equipment please fill out the form located on the TPC site to reserve your set. Upon arriving at the course check in with the Golf Shop to complete payment for your rental set and pick it up.

DRESS CODE: TPC San Antonio has a strict dress code policy. Golfers must wear appropriate golf attire, including collared shirts, golf pants or Bermuda length shorts. Golf shoes are required. TPC is a soft spike shoe facility. Denim, t-shirts, cutoffs, athletic shorts and cargo short are not permitted on the golf course.

WEATHER: In the event of an unexpected course closure or if TPC staff deems the course unfit for play because of weather conditions, DEPA will make every effort to reschedule the event.

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AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
GOLF CLASSIC

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

Title Sponsor $25,000 Exclusive

- Company name on the tournament.
- Prominent display of company name and/or logo on all pre-event marketing materials (eblasts, social media, event webpage etc.
- Invitation to the pre-tournament reception, at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, October 24
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Company logo on tables during pre-tournament reception
- Opportunity to briefly speak at the pre-tournament reception
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Company logo on 9 of the pin flags. DEPA logo on others
- Logo on color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Four full page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on score cards
- Three complimentary foursomes in the tournament.
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Platinum Sponsor $15,000

- Company name and/or logo on pre-event marketing materials to include : eblasts, social media, event webpage
- Invitation for six to the pre-tournament reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, October 24
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Three full page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Two complimentary foursomes in the tournament.
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Gold Sponsor $10,000

- Company name and/or logo on pre-event marketing materials to include : eblasts, social media, event webpage
- Invitation to the pre-tournament reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, October 24
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Two full page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- One complimentary foursomes in the tournament.
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Silver Sponsor $5,000

- Invitation to a reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Company name on event website
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- A full page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Two complimentary player registrations in the tournament
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Golf Cart Co–Sponsor $5,000 Max 2

- Invitation to a reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Company name on event website
- Company logo on the golf cart card
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Two half page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Two complimentary player registrations in the tournament
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Lunch Co-Sponsor $5,000 Max 2

- Invitation to a reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Company name on event website
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Table identification as lunch sponsor
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Two half page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Two complimentary player registrations in the tournament
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

On-Course Bar Sponsor $5,000

- Invitation to a reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Company logo on the welcome banner at pre-event reception
- Company logo on table tents during lunch
- Company name on event website
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Two half ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Two complimentary player registrations in the tournament
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

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WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG/GOLF-TOURNAMENT/

Awards Reception
Co-Sponsor $5,000 Max 2
- Invitation to a reception at The Hotel Emma Tuesday, October 24
- Company logo on the welcome banner at the 10/24 reception
- Company logo on signage during Award Reception
- Color photos of foursomes taken day of the event
- Company name on event website
- Two half page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Two complimentary player registrations in the tournament
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Awards Reception Bar Sponsor $4,000
- Company name on event website
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- One half page ad in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Company acknowledgement during Tues., Oct. 24
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Social Media Sponsor $4,000
- Company name on event website
- Company logo on two social media event promotional posts
- Company acknowledged on all social media posts.
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- One half page ad in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Company acknowledgement during Tues., October 24 reception
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Player Gift Co-Sponsor $4,000 Max 2
- Company logo on enclosure card for player gift
- Company name on event website
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- One half page ad in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Company acknowledgement during Tues., October 24 reception
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Breakfast Co-Sponsor $3,500 Max 2
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Company logo on signage in prominent space during breakfast
- Company name on event website
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- One quarter page ad in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Company acknowledgement during 10/24 reception
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

10/24 Pre-Tournament Reception Sponsor $3,000
- Invitation to a reception at The Hotel Emma Tues., Oct. 24
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Company logo on signage during Award Reception
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- Company name on event website
- One half page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on welcome banner at registration table
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Hole-In-One Sponsor $2,500
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Company logo used during special pre-promotion of Hole-In-One prizes on social media, in the DRILLER, Eblasts and website.
- Company logo on signage during Award Reception
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- One half page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Door Prize Sponsor $2,000
- Company logo on the welcome banner at reception
- Company logo on signage during Award Reception
- Color photos of company foursomes taken day of the event
- Company name on event website
- Company logo on the welcome banner at registration table
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Exclusive Hole Sponsor $1,000 Max 4
- Logo on signage at one of the 18 holes
- Opportunity to put a company tent and staff near your sponsored hole
- Company name on event website
- Acknowledgement on some tournament publicity
- Acknowledgement on welcome signage at registration table
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

Hole Sponsor $500
- Name on signage at one of the 18 holes (maybe shared by more than one sponsor)
- Acknowledgement on welcome signage at registration table
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap

In-Kind Donor
If your company would like to help us off set costs by donating items needed for the event we will provide:
- Acknowledgment in the DEPA DRILLER event recap
- Acknowledgement during the pre-tournament reception/dinner
- Acknowledgement during the event
- Two quarter page ads in the DEPA DRILLER newsletter

Event Day Volunteers– Welcome to wear company logo shirts.
Shirts– Printed with Event logo and Title Sponsor name. Enclosure card would be from donor company.
Printing– Assistance with materials printing.
Bottled Water—Can have company logo on it.
Golf Balls—Logo or plain Golf Towels– Tournament logo

If you'd like to suggest an in-kind donation not included on this list, please contact the DEPA office to discuss.

SPONSORSHIP FORM

San Antonio | 2023
DEPA
DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE
AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE GOLF CLASSIC

- **Please send player registration information and payment no later than Monday, October 9**
- **Player online registration is available** on the WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG events tab. Select "sponsor team" to register complimentary players.
- **Credit Card payment:** please email this completed form to **csimonds@depausa.org** An invoice will be sent with a payment link.
- **Paying by check:** please make payable to **DEPA** and mail to P.O. Box 33190, Tulsa, Ok 74153

❑Check Enclosed

❑Send an invoice for credit card payment

Send invoice to:

_____

Email:

_____

Phone:

_____

Confirm Sponsorship Commitment Total:_____

FOR OFFICE USE

INVOICED: ❑Yes Date: _____

PAID: ❑Yes Date:_____

Company Name:_____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email:_____

SELECT YOUR SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Check the box of the sponsorship you'd like to select. If your first choice package has a maximum number of opportunities, please circle a "2" to indicate what your second choice package would be if your choice has sold out.

- ❑ **2** Title Sponsor $25,000 **Exclusive**
- ❑ **2** Platinum Sponsor $15,000
- ❑ **2** Gold Sponsor $10,000
- ❑ **2** Silver Sponsor $5,000
- ❑ **2** Golf Cart Co–Sponsor $5,000 **Max 2**
- ❑ **2** Lunch Co-Sponsor $5,000 **Max 2**
- ❑ **2** On-Course Bar Sponsor $5,000
- ❑ **2** Awards Reception Co-Sponsor $5,000 **Max 2**
- ❑ **2** Awards Reception Bar Sponsor $4,000
- ❑ **2** Social Media Sponsor $4,000
- ❑ **2** Player Gift Co-Sponsor $4,000 **Max 2**
- ❑ **2** Breakfast Co-Sponsor $3,500 **Max 2**
- ❑ **2** Pre-Tournament Reception Sponsor $3,000
- ❑ **2** Hole-In-One Sponsor $2,500
- ❑ **2** Door Prize Sponsor $2,000
- ❑ **2** Exclusive Hole Sponsor $1,000 **Max 4**
- ❑ **2** Hole Sponsor $500
- ❑ In-Kind Donor ❑Shirts ❑Printing ❑Event Day Volunteers ❑Bottled Water ❑Golf Balls ❑We have something else in mind.

Contact for in-kind donation

_____

Email/ Phone_____

Our charge for 2022 was Rational. Going into 2023 DEPA will continue to seek rational decisions, while we keep **purposeful goals in mind.** Our leaders and voters need to overcome the emotional response to the inaccurate messages and keep the purpose of our industry in mind- The welfare of the US, and the world starts with energy. DEPA will bring facts and clear thinking to the table where challenges are being discussed.

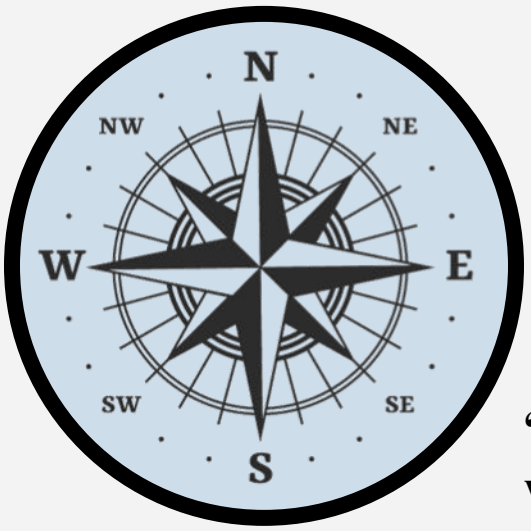
Purposeful

pur-pose-ful (adjective) /ˈpərpəsf(ə)l/

1: Having or showing determination or resolve

2: Having a useful purpose

3: Intentional



2023

"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction"

- John F. Kennedy

Be assured DEPA will continue to be prepared, passionate, and persistent when it comes to representing your interests in Washington, D.C.

Our work is critical. Your support is vital.

We look forward to working with you.

THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL & NATURAL GAS

DEPA

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

Member Information:

Member Name:_____

Company Name:_____

Phone:_____

Primary Email:_____

Secondary Email:_____

Mailing Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____

"I'm not convinced there is a better industry that supplies as many jobs, and as many products worldwide...when you're looking at the bottom of your shoes, or a bicycle seat, or the grips, or a steering wheel... if you sit inside an airplane and look around, everything that is in the airplane is made from fossil fuels. And I just can't imagine that anywhere in someone's mind that they believe that they could literally replace all of those products and kill an industry, over a myth."

-Judy Stark, Pres. Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Assoc, on the fight to protect the oil and gas industry from misinformation

Member Levels:

- ❍ $100,000: DEPA Underwriter
- ❍ $75,000: Lead Investor
- ❍ $50,000: Executive Investor
- ❍ $25,000: Principal Investor
- ❍ $15,000: Partner Investor
- ❍ $10,000: Associate Investor
- ❍ $5,000: Affiliate Investor
- ❍ $2,500: Colleague
- ❍ $1,000: Advocate
- ❍ $500: Friend of the Industry
- ❍ $100: DEPA Supporter

Return completed form and payment to:

DEPA P.O. Box 33190 ★ Tulsa, OK 74135

WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG ★ 405-669-6646

Domestic Energy Producers Alliance, Inc.
is a 501(C)(6) not-for-profit organization.
Remittance is not deductible as charitable,
but 70% may be deductible as ordinary business expenses.
Tax ID #26-43968612019

WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG

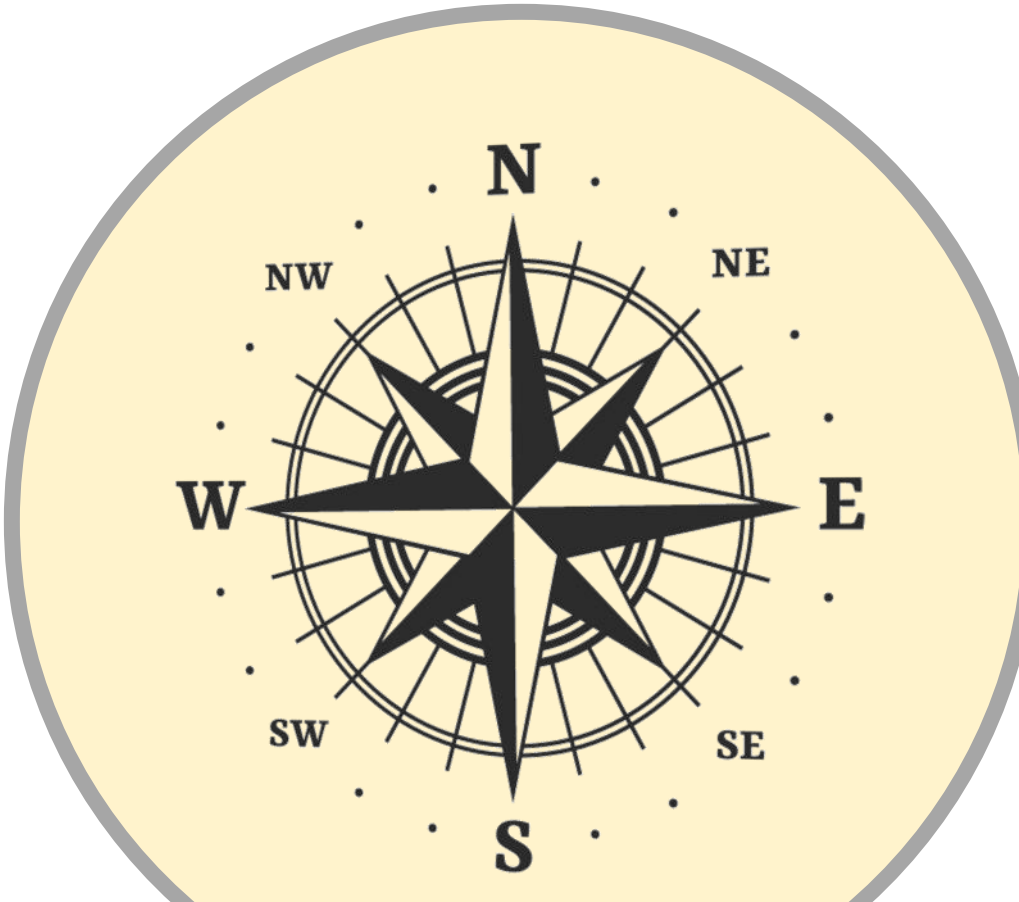
Dear DEPA Members,

The welfare of the US, and the world starts with energy. In 2023 our mission is to be purposeful. "Efforts and courage are not enough with out purpose and direction." DEPA will continue the effort to seek rational decisions, while we keep **purposeful goals** on the forefront of our agenda**.** Our leaders and voters need to overcome the emotional response to the inaccurate messages and keep the purpose of our industry in mind. DEPA will bring facts and clear thinking to the table where challenges are being discussed.

Please do what you can to support our efforts by donating to our DEPA PAC. PAC donation rules are very stringent. Please follow the instructions on the donation card to make your contribution.

Thank you for all you do, and for your support of DEPA, and our mission.

Jerry Simmons
DEPA President/CEO



DEPA PAC
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

DONATE TODAY!

Fill out these forms and send them in with your support of our mission work in 2022.

What does your contribution to DEPA do?

We believe the only way to accomplish our sharply focused agenda is to establish common ground. We consistently seek common sense solutions to the challenges that face us in business, including our relationships with the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government.

DEPA gives a loud, clear voice to the majority of individuals, and companies responsible for domestic oil and gas production. We should be unapologetic about being the driver of economic growth ad security across the globe. Find out more at **WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG**

Name : _____

Contact Person:_____

Address: _____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____

Occupation:_____

Amount of Contribution: _____

All contributions to the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance PAC (DEPA PAC) are voluntary. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal. Contributions to the DEPA PAC are used for federal election purposes, and may be used in connection with state elections.

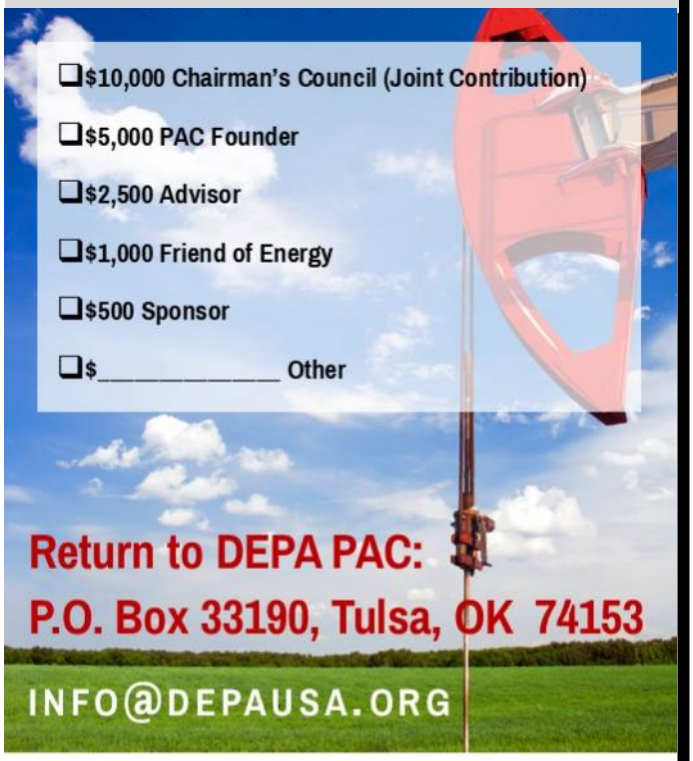
Any contribution levels listed are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more, or less, than the guidelines suggest or nothing at all, and you will not benefit or be disadvantaged by the amount of contribution, or a decision not to contribute.

Federal Law Requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of $200 in a calendar year.

Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits contributions from corporations, national banks, labor unions, federal govt. contractors, or foreign nationals lacking permanent resident status.

Signature:

_____



Check enclosed for $ _____

Please make checks payable to : **DEPA PAC**

Credit card payment is possible though an electronic invoice if you'd prefer to make your donation that way. Contact Debbie Bloem ddbloem@depausa.org, or 405-669-6646 to request and electronic invoice.

Paid for by the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance PAC

PAC contributions are not deductible for federal tax purposes. The maximum an individual may contribute to the PAC is $5,000 per year. Couples may contribute $10,000 from a joint account, but such contribution requires both signatures. Contributions from corporations, labor unions, federal govt contractors, national banks, and foreign nationals without permanent residency status and from any individual contributing another's funds are prohibited.