

DEPA

DRILLER

DEPA REPORT ON INDUSTRY, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND ENERGY REGULATION

SECRETARY OF ENERGY RELEASES “ENERGY DOMINANCE PLAN” MEMO

U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright signed his first Secretarial Order today directing the Department of Energy to take immediate action to unleash American Energy in accordance with President Trump’s executive orders.

As Secretary of Energy, it is an immense privilege to serve alongside each of you at such a consequential moment in American history. Energy is the essential ingredient that enables everything we do. A highly energized society can bring health, wealth, and opportunity for all. At the Department, we have an opportunity to promote energy abundance, demonstrate leadership in scientific and technological innovation, steward and strengthen our weapons stockpiles, and meet Cold War legacy waste clean-up commitments.

President Trump has outlined a bold and ambitious agenda to unleash American energy at home and abroad to restore energy dominance. To compete globally, we must expand energy production and reduce energy costs for American families and businesses. America must lead the world in innovation and technology breakthroughs, which includes accelerating the work of the Department’s National Laboratories. We must also permit and build energy infrastructure and remove barriers to progress, including federal policies that make it too easy to stop projects and far too difficult to complete projects.

We must pursue a culture of transparency, performance, and common sense to succeed. Accordingly, the Department will take the following initial actions:

1. Advance Energy Addition, Not Subtraction:

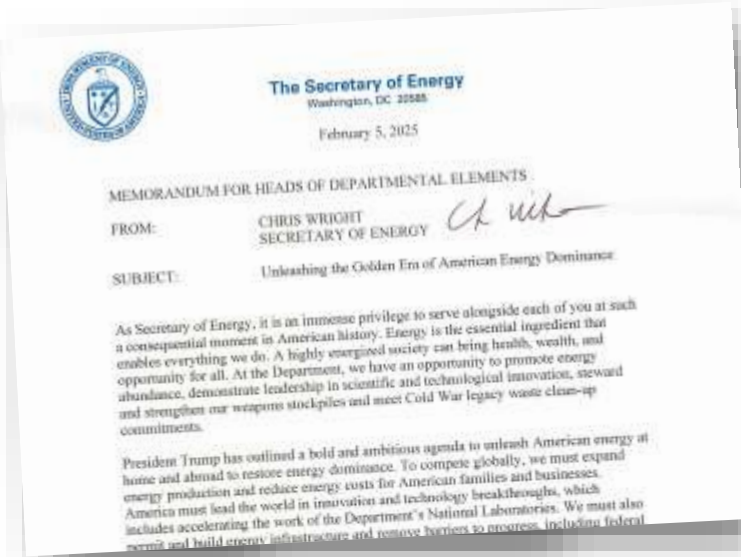
Great attention has been paid to the pursuing of a net-zero carbon future. Net-zero policies raise energy costs for American families and businesses, threaten the reliability of our energy system, and undermine our energy and national security. They have also achieved precious little in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. The fact is that energy matters, and we need more of it, not less. Going forward, the Department’s goal will be to unleash the great abundance of American energy required to power modern life and to achieve a durable state of American energy dominance.

2. Unleash American Energy Innovation:

The Department’s Research and Development (R&D) enterprise is the envy of the world. We must focus our time and resources on technologies that

will advance basic science, grow America’s scientific leadership, reduce costs for American families, strengthen the reliability of our energy system, and bolster America’s manufacturing competitiveness and supply chain security. As such, the Department’s R&D efforts will prioritize affordable, reliable, and secure energy technologies, including fossil fuels, advanced nuclear, geothermal, and hydropower.

The Department must also prioritize true technological breakthroughs – such as nuclear fusion, high-performance computing, quantum computing, and AI – to maintain America’s global competitiveness. To that end, the Department will comprehensively review its R&D portfolio. As part of





DEPA DC FLY-IN AND BOARD MEETING

MAY 20 & 21

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- Illinois Oil and Gas Association**
- American Association of Petroleum Landmen**
- Texas Alliance of Petroleum Producers**
- The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma**



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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.

*Our work is critical.
Your support is vital.*



that review, the Department will rigorously enforce project milestones to ensure that taxpayer resources are allocated appropriately and cost-effectively consistent with the law.

3. Return to Regular Order on LNG Exports:

America is blessed with abundant energy resources – we are the world’s top oil and gas producer and a net energy exporter for the first time in decades. Our energy abundance is an asset, not a liability. On January 20, the Department resumed consideration of pending applications to export American liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries without a free trade agreement (FTA) with the U.S. in accordance with the Natural Gas Act. Proper consideration of LNG export applications is required by law and shall proceed accordingly.

4. Promote Affordability and Consumer Choice in Home Appliances:

A top priority of the Trump Administration is to ensure that American families can choose from a range of affordable home appliances and products. Therefore, the Department will initiate a comprehensive review of the DOE Appliance Standards Program. Any standards should include a cost-benefit analysis considering the upfront cost of purchasing new products and reflecting actual cost savings for American families. The Department will pursue a commonsense approach that does not regulate products that consumers value out of the market; instead, affordability and consumer choice will be our guiding light.

5. Refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR):

As President Trump has stated, the SPR is a national asset that protects our security in times of crisis. It must be refilled. Unfortunately, the SPR is currently at historically low levels. We will not permit this to become a new status quo. Moreover, the Department will review SPR infrastructure and develop appropriate plans to safeguard this important strategic asset.

6. Modernize America’s nuclear stockpile:

We urgently need to modernize the nation’s nuclear weapons systems. The Department will continue its critical mission of protecting our national security and nuclear deterrence in the development, modernization, and stewardship of America’s atomic weapons enterprise, including the peaceful use of

nuclear technology and nonproliferation.

7. Unleash Commercial Nuclear Power in the United States:

The long-awaited American nuclear renaissance must launch during President Trump’s administration. As global energy demand continues to grow, America must lead the commercialization of affordable and abundant nuclear energy. As such, the Department will work diligently and creatively to enable the rapid deployment and export of next-generation nuclear technology.

8. Strengthen Grid Reliability and Security:

Fortifying America’s electric grid is critical to the reliable and secure delivery of electricity. Under President Trump’s Executive Order, “Declaring a National Energy Emergency,” the Department will identify and exercise all lawful authorities to strengthen the nation’s grid, including the backbone of the grid, our transmission system. This is an imperative as we consider current and anticipated load growth on our nation’s electric utilities. Moreover, after two decades of very slow demand growth, electricity demand is forecast to soar in the coming years. The Department will bring a renewed focus to growing baseload and dispatchable generation to reliably meet growing demand.

9. Streamline Permitting and Identify Undue Burdens on American Energy:

A burdensome federal permitting process undermines America’s competitiveness and national security. Pursuant to President Trump’s Executive Orders, the Department will prioritize more efficient permitting to enable private sector investments and build the energy infrastructure needed to make energy more affordable, reliable, and secure. To that end, the Department will identify and exercise its legal authorities to expedite the approval and construction of reliable energy infrastructure.

The Department’s mission is vital to American security and prosperity. Working together, we will accelerate American science, reduce energy costs for American families and businesses, and strengthen the reliability and security of our nation’s energy system — all in our quest to better human lives. I look forward to working with you on this noble mission.

COURT STRIKES DOWN CEQ'S NEPA REGULATIONS

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OIL AND GAS

In a landmark decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) lacks authority to issue regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As a result, CEQ's NEPA regulations are now considered invalid and unenforceable (*Marin Audubon Society v. Federal Aviation Administration*, No. 23-1067, Nov. 12, 2024). **This ruling upends nearly five decades of NEPA compliance practices, creating uncertainty for federal agencies, project developers, and the domestic fossil fuel industry, including producers, pipelines, and oilfield service companies.**

Since the 1970s, CEQ has issued regulations that federal agencies have treated as binding for NEPA compliance. These regulations have dictated how environmental reviews are conducted, impacting permitting for energy projects, pipelines, and infrastructure development. While CEQ's rulemaking authority has long been questioned, this decision definitively states that CEQ lacks the power to enforce regulations—making it an advisory body, not a regulatory agency.



This ruling has significant implications for oil and gas companies, service providers, and pipeline operators, as NEPA has been a major hurdle in securing federal approvals for energy projects. Key takeaways include:

- **Uncertainty in Permitting:** With CEQ's regulations deemed unenforceable, federal agencies may develop inconsistent approaches to NEPA reviews. This could lead to regulatory confusion and delays for new drilling operations, pipeline expansions, and refining infrastructure.
- **State and Agency-Specific Rules:** Agencies that previously followed CEQ's guidance may now rely on their own interpretations of NEPA, potentially leading to varying environmental review standards across different jurisdictions.

- **Potential for Reduced Regulatory Burdens:** The decision opens the door for the incoming Trump administration to roll back CEQ's 2024 NEPA regulations without implementing new replacements, potentially streamlining environmental reviews for fossil fuel projects.
- **Legal and Administrative Challenges:** While the ruling is binding only within the D.C. Circuit, other federal courts may take different positions, leading to legal battles over how NEPA is applied to energy projects nationwide.
- **Pipelines and Midstream Infrastructure:** The ruling

could impact the approval process for new pipelines, LNG terminals, and other midstream projects by removing CEQ's procedural constraints on federal agencies evaluating environmental impacts.

Federal agencies must now determine how to proceed without CEQ's NEPA regulations as a guiding framework. Oil and gas stakeholders should monitor how individual agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, adjust their environmental review processes.

The ruling also coincides with broader regulatory shifts, including the Supreme Court's upcoming decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County*, which could further redefine how environmental impacts are assessed under NEPA.

The D.C. Circuit's decision marks a significant shift in environmental permitting and regulatory oversight. While it may provide opportunities to streamline approvals for domestic energy projects, the lack of clear regulatory guidance could also introduce uncertainty. Oil and gas companies should stay engaged with regulatory agencies, industry associations, and legal experts to navigate the evolving NEPA landscape effectively.

A REINDUSTRIALIZATION OF AMERICA, NOT DEINDUSTRIALIZATION OF AMERICA

New Secretary of Energy Sets Clear Priorities in CNBC Interview



In a recent interview with CNBC, newly appointed Secretary of Energy and former DEPA Board Director Chris Wright outlined his vision for America's energy future. Wright made it clear that his focus will be on expanding the supply of affordable, reliable, and secure American energy while avoiding the pitfalls of failed energy policies seen in other nations.

"One of the things we are doing is looking at all the projects that are out there. Where are the commitments?

Where are the uncommitted funds? What's the best use to grow the supply of affordable, reliable, secure American energy? Tremendous opportunities there," Wright stated.

This approach stands in stark contrast to the previous administration's energy policies, which sought to follow the European model, particularly that of Germany. Wright explicitly rejected this path, citing Germany's disastrous energy experiment.

"But one thing I will say, Brian, what we will not do is follow the German model. And I think the last administration wanted to go down that road. Germany spent half a trillion dollars, made their electricity two to three times more expensive, and they produce 20 percent less electricity today than they did 15 years ago. We're not going to go down that road. We want affordable, reliable, secure energy and a reindustrialization of America, not deindustrialization of America."

Wright's comments highlight the stark differences in energy policy philosophy between the current and past administrations. Under the Biden administration, federal energy policies leaned heavily toward the California-German model—one that prioritizes rapid renewable expansion while undermining the reliability and affordability of the energy supply. Germany's experience serves as a cautionary tale: despite spending half a trillion dollars on energy transformation, the country now faces skyrocketing electricity prices and diminished energy production, leading to the deindustrialization of key sectors.

The election outcome ensured that the U.S. would not be forced down this path. Instead, Wright's leadership signals a return to policies that prioritize domestic energy production, economic strength, and energy security. By leveraging America's abundant natural resources and rejecting costly, unreliable energy schemes, the new administration aims to drive a new era of industrial growth rather than decline.

Wright's vision is a welcome shift. His commitment to common-sense energy policy and industry growth reflects what trade organizations and their members have long advocated—energy security and economic prosperity go hand in hand.

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UKRAINE'S STRATEGIC MINERALS AGREEMENT: WHAT IT MEANS FOR U.S. OIL AND GAS

In an interesting turn of events in Eastern Europe, Ukraine has agreed to a proposal from the Trump administration granting American access to strategic minerals, including oil and gas. While the full terms remain undisclosed, Ukrainian officials have emphasized that they negotiated a more favorable arrangement by dropping U.S. demands for a right to \$500 billion in potential revenue. However, the deal does not include explicit security guarantees, a key point Kyiv initially sought.

A FRAMEWORK, NOT A FINALIZED AGREEMENT

The agreement, as it stands, seems more like a framework rather than a concrete deal. The final details—such as the U.S. stake in the investment fund and the structure of “joint ownership” deals—are yet to be determined. A significant aspect of the deal is the establishment of a fund into which Ukraine would contribute 50% of proceeds from future monetization of state-owned mineral resources. These funds will then be used for investment projects within Ukraine.

Notably, the agreement does not affect Ukraine's existing major oil and gas producers, Naftogaz and Ukrnafta. Instead, it focuses on untapped resources and their potential for development in partnership with U.S. firms. Additionally, the agreement effectively locks Russia out of accessing these strategic minerals, aligning with broader geopolitical interests.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

For U.S. oil and gas professionals, service companies, and investors, this deal presents several key takeaways:

1. **Limited Immediate Impact on Domestic Production:** The agreement primarily concerns Ukraine's undeveloped resources, which means it does not directly compete with U.S. production. Given that the United States already has abundant reserves, the impact on domestic supply or pricing is expected to be minimal in the near term.

2. **Potential Expansion of U.S. Energy Influence in Europe:** The deal could position American companies as key players in Ukraine's energy development, offering new opportunities for service providers, drilling contractors, and infrastructure developers. At a time when Europe seeks alternatives to Russian energy, U.S. companies stand to benefit from increased market share and influence.



3. **Shifting U.S. Foreign Policy on Energy:** Unlike the Biden administration's previous approach of direct financial aid to Ukraine, this agreement signals a shift toward transactional diplomacy—asking what the United States gains in return. It also underscores the importance of energy security in broader geopolitical negotiations, reinforcing the role of American oil and gas in strategic alliances.

4. **Long-Term Competitive Considerations:** While the deal opens the door for U.S. energy firms in Ukraine, its ultimate success will depend on follow-up agreements and the regulatory environment. If Ukraine's energy sector experiences rapid development, it could introduce new competition into global markets, though this is a long-term prospect rather than an immediate concern.

LOOKING AHEAD

As President Trump continues discussions with European leaders on resolving the Ukraine-Russia conflict, this agreement serves as a strategic move to bolster Ukraine's economic resilience while keeping American interests at the forefront. The lack of security guarantees in the deal raises questions about long-term stability, but from a resource standpoint, the U.S. oil and gas industry stands to gain through access to untapped reserves and service contracts.

At this point, Russia's response remains uncertain, but it's unlikely that Moscow will welcome this development. As the geopolitical landscape evolves, U.S. energy professionals should monitor this agreement's implementation and its potential ripple effects on global markets. While not a game-changer for domestic production, the deal underscores the growing importance of American energy in global strategy and diplomacy.

HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES LAST-MINUTE BIDEN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPENDING

Oil and gas professionals should be keeping a close watch as the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, led by Chairman Gary Palmer (AL-06), convened a hearing on February 26 to scrutinize the Biden administration's last-minute rush to allocate energy and environmental grants and loans. This hearing aims to uncover potential waste, fraud, and misuse of federal funds as agencies scrambled to push money out the door before the end of the administration.

Unprecedented Spending Under Biden's Climate Agenda
The Biden administration touted its push to build a "clean energy economy" and claimed credit for "the largest climate and clean energy investment ever" through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These two legislative packages provided unprecedented funding to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with spending now under scrutiny.

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA):** Signed into law in November 2021, the IIJA allocated \$1.2 trillion for infrastructure projects, including more than \$62 billion to the DOE and over \$60 billion to the EPA.
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):** Enacted in August 2022, the IRA directed \$35 billion to the DOE and \$41.5 billion to the EPA, primarily for climate initiatives and emissions reduction programs.

By early 2025, DOE had committed approximately **70% of its IIJA funding** and **94% of its IRA funding**, while the EPA had awarded nearly **93% of its IRA funds** and **82% of the funds appropriated under the IIJA**.

Serious Oversight Risks Identified

The sheer volume of funding and the accelerated pace of distribution have raised red flags. Both the DOE Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the EPA OIG have warned of heightened risks of waste, fraud, and abuse due to the rapid rollout of funds.

DOE Concerns:

- The OIG flagged instances where DOE awarded funding to recipients with ties to foreign entities of concern.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program faced reports of **excessive expenditures and non-compliance with reporting requirements**.
- The DOE Loan Programs Office (LPO) "dramatically ramped up lending" in late 2024, even as the OIG found it lacked an effective system to manage conflicts of interest.

EPA Concerns:

- The EPA OIG found that **grant and contract management under the IIJA and IRA posed significant oversight challenges**.

HEARING WITNESSES:

Jonathan Black, Chief Advisor for Strategic Planning and Program Oversight, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy – *"Between December 2024 and January 2025, LPO completed loans worth more than \$46 billion. The increase in pace underscores our concerns about whether it is possible to conduct robust due diligence to protect taxpayer dollars under such time pressures."*

J. Alfredo Gomez, Director, Natural Resources and Environment team, U.S. Government Accountability Office – *"EPA officials we interviewed for our ongoing work told us they had not yet developed program-level performance goals and measures for the three subprograms."*

Nicole Murley, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – *"Two years ago, we warned of the risks threatening to undermine the EPA's implementation of IIJA funding. Today, those warnings have come to pass."*

Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment team, U.S. Government Accountability Office – *"GAO has reported on the importance of monitoring loans and guarantees after they are closed to proactively manage their risks and protect the financial interests of the federal government and the taxpayer."*



Nicole Murley, Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- A report highlighted that the agency did not track **\$836 million in Clean School Bus Program funds** effectively.
- The OIG also identified structural issues in how the EPA manages funds for water infrastructure, putting billions at risk.

CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY AND CALLS FOR REFORM

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has voiced strong concerns over the administration’s approach to vetting grant and loan recipients. Notably, the committee questioned DOE’s decision to award funds to entities with connections to China and raised alarms about the EPA’s allocation of environmental justice program funds to groups with partisan political agendas.

The hearing is expected to focus on three critical questions:

1. **What instances of waste, fraud, and abuse have emerged from these rushed allocations?**
2. **How did compressed funding timeframes impact due diligence, vetting, and the integrity of award processes?**
3. **What measures should Congress implement to ensure accountability in future funding programs?**



(Middle) **Jonathan Black**, Chief Advisor for Strategic Planning and Program Oversight, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy

For domestic oil and gas producers, this investigation underscores long-standing concerns about the federal government’s subsidization of renewable energy projects at the expense of domestic fossil fuel production. The DOE and EPA have directed billions toward politically favored clean energy initiatives, while federal agencies have imposed increasingly stringent regulations on traditional energy sectors.

With potential revelations of waste and misconduct, industry stakeholders will be watching closely to see whether Congress can implement meaningful oversight and reforms to prevent future mismanagement. Ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly—without sidelining the backbone of American energy production—remains a top priority.



WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE LOOKS TO FILL BIG SHOES

With the nomination of Kathleen Sgamma, current President of the Western Energy Alliance to the Bureau of Land Management, The Alliance has begun the search for a new President to replace Sgamma. The full job description is on The Alliance [website](#). Qualified application should sent their resumes to JOBS@WESTERNENERGYALLIANCE.ORG

BETTERING HUMAN LIVES FOUNDATION'S NEW PROJECT

In January 2024, Liberty Energy launched the Bettering Human Lives Foundation with the mission to expand access to clean cooking fuels—particularly LPG—in sub-Saharan Africa. An astounding 4 out of 5 Africans still rely on open fires or polluting stoves to prepare meals, causing premature death and limiting human potential. The Foundation provides low-interest loans to local innovators and entrepreneurs whose businesses provide clean cooking solutions, ultimately helping families take steps out of energy poverty through access to modern energy.

While the Foundation's mission is focused on providing clean cooking access, the idea for a "Life in Energy Poverty" video series came to life shortly after the Foundation's launch. Liberty employees wanted to share their personal stories of growing up in energy poverty or having family members who experienced it. These stories of gratitude and hope for change inspired the creation of the video series.

The "Life in Energy Poverty" series showcases the powerful testimonies of Liberty employees who grew up in energy-impooverished countries or visited family members in similar conditions. They share how their lives have been transformed by moving to energy-rich environments and how they are eager to bring clean cooking solutions to others in need.

The series will launch the first week of March on the foundation website: www.betteringhumanlives.org

SENATOR MCCONNELL WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION

On his 83rd birthday, February 20th, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced he will end his 40 year tenure in Congress. McConnell is the longest-service Senate party leader in U.S. History. "Seven times my fellow Kentuckians have sent me to the Senate. Every day in between, I've been humbled by the trust they place in me to do their business right here. Representing our commonwealth has been the honor of a lifetime. I will not seek this honor an eighth time. My current term in the Senate will be my last." Although vowing to complete his work on several issues. His term ends January 2027.

THE FLOOR SPEECH THAT SHOULD GO VIRAL

Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) called out Washington's hypocrisy in his floor speech, pointing out the double standard in criticism over federal spending audits. "The people screaming so loudly about Pres. Trump auditing federal spending are the SAME people who wanted to hire 80,000+ new IRS agents to audit the American people under Pres. Biden. If it weren't for double standards, there wouldn't be any standards at all in this town." You can view the speech on the Senator's social media, [Instagram](#)

NEW BASEL III BANKING REGULATIONS THREATEN CAPITAL ACCESS FOR OIL & GAS COMPANIES

The Federal Reserve, OCC, and FDIC's proposed Basel III capital requirements could create new financial hurdles for oil and gas companies. Set to begin implementation in July, with full compliance required by 2028, the new framework raises capital reserves and liquidity requirements for large banks. While intended to strengthen the financial sector, the ripple effects could restrict lending to the domestic oil and gas industry, making it more expensive—and potentially more difficult—to secure financing.

Independent producers and service providers will likely bear the brunt of the impact of capital-intensive projects requiring significant investment in drilling, production, and infrastructure if banks tighten lending due to these regulations.

With these banking constraints looming, industry leaders should explore alternative financing strategies, such as private equity, joint ventures, or bond markets, to ensure continued investment in domestic energy production. Furthermore, policymakers must recognize the unintended consequences of financial regulations that disproportionately affect industries critical to U.S. energy security and economic stability.

Basel III is a Global, voluntary regulatory framework on bank capital adequacy, stress testing, and market liquidity risk . It is designed to strengthen the resilience of the banking sector by increasing capital requirements, improving risk management and enhancing transparency.

Developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) in response to the 2008 global financial crisis, Basel III aims to prevent future banking collapses by ensuring that financial institutions have adequate capital reserves to absorb shocks.

“Specifically, how would an updated regulation impact the ability of the regional banks to compete with the big Wall Street banks and what consideration should be taken into account to ensure that we have a competitive banking system. For those of us who have largely regional banks, or the best of all of them community banks and credit unions, a competitive system is really important.”



The U.S. oil and gas industry has long been a cornerstone of the nation's energy independence. However, regulatory actions like these threaten to shift capital away from responsible domestic production at a time when energy security is more important than ever. As these proposals move forward, engagement with lawmakers and financial institutions will be critical to ensuring the industry's access to the capital it needs to power America's future.

The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (Banking) Committee held a hearing on the Federal Reserve's semiannual monetary report to Congress on February 11. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell testified before the committee.

In July 2023, the Federal Reserve, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) announced proposed regulations to implement the final components of the Basel III agreement to raise bank capital requirements. The proposal was created to set the standards for capital reserves, liquidity, and leverage at financial institutions. Under the proposal, large banks will be mandated to transition to the new framework on July 1, with full compliance starting July 1, 2028.

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) questioned Powell on the necessity of advancing a new Basel III proposal, specifically in the context of regional and community banks.

“My own view has been that our banks are well-capitalized and Basel III was not supposed to be an exercise in raising capital on U.S. banks,” responded Powell. “[...] In terms of your [regional banks], they don't face the G-SIB [global systemically important banks] surcharges. They don't face quite the burden that the large banks face on resolution planning and that sort of thing. So we need those banks to be healthy and profitable because we need them to compete with the G-SIBs. We don't want a world where the G-SIBs just keep getting a bigger and bigger share of the economy. That's not what we're looking for.”





PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL ENERGY DOMINANCE COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE ORDER

February 14, 2025

POSITIONING AMERICAN ENERGY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

- The National Energy Dominance Council will be established within the Executive Office of the President, chaired by the Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and vice-chaired by the Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, and comprised of members of President Trump's cabinet and key government agencies.
- The Council will advise President Trump on strategies to achieve energy dominance by improving the processes for permitting, production, generation, distribution, regulation, and transportation across all forms of American energy.
- It will recommend a National Energy Dominance Strategy to the President aimed at cutting red tape, enhancing private sector investments, and advancing innovation.
- The Council will facilitate cooperation between the federal government and domestic energy partners, ensuring policy consistency.
- It will also consult with various public and private sector stakeholders to expand energy production and address cost barriers.

LOWERING PRICES AND STRENGTHENING AMERICAN ECONOMIC SECURITY: Championing domestic energy production is vital both for mitigating price shocks to American families and de-risking the energy supply chain for our Nation as well as our allies.

- American energy dominance is the most reliable way to ensure the stability and affordability of American energy prices.
 - Gasoline prices, as well as overall household energy prices, increased 30% under President Biden.
 - The Biden-Harris Administration dramatically slowed the growth rate of American energy production and development, including by instituting a federal oil leasing moratorium, increasing energy permitting times by multiples of what they had been under President Trump, and removing hundreds of million acres from being available for energy production.



—Over the last four years, it is estimated that our Nation produced over two billion fewer barrels of oil than anticipated by trend (had President Trump’s energy policies been kept intact), a vast quantity of lost supply that could have lessened the burden of energy prices on American families.

- Developing American energy resources will enable our Nation to reduce its reliance on foreign entities, including strategic adversaries.

—While creating policies to restrict American production, the Biden Administration asked OPEC+ to increase production to meet American energy demand.

—As energy prices rose, the Biden Administration was reluctant to enforce American oil sanctions on rogue regimes, allowing Iran to export over one million barrels of oil per day through lax enforcement (up from a low of approximately 70,000 under the Trump administration) and temporarily lifting oil sanctions altogether on the Maduro regime in Venezuela.



—The United States is also highly dependent on China for a range of critical minerals, which has put our Nation’s supply chain at risk, as exemplified by China’s recent weaponization of its resources through bans on exporting germanium, gallium, and antimony to the United States.

—As our Nation makes rapid advancements in next generation technologies, such as artificial intelligence (along with the associated data centers), and energy demand rises, it will be all the more important to expand domestic energy supply.

- American energy leadership is vital not only for our Nation’s economic and national security, but also for the security of our allies.

—America’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry has played a critical role in helping Europe reduce its dependence on Russian energy, with LNG exports to Europe rising 141% in 2022, and continuing to increase to fill the gap.

—President Trump warned Western Europe as early as 2017 to rely on American natural gas rather than Russian energy.

RESTORING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE:

President Trump has a demonstrated track record of empowering American energy production, and will return our Nation to energy dominance.

- During President Trump’s first term, our Nation became a net exporter of energy for the first time in nearly 70 years and transformed into the world’s leading oil producer.
- President Trump expedited the LNG export license process (achieving licensing times one-sixth as long as those seen during the Biden Administration, which revoked these reforms), reduced the permitting time for drilling on federal lands (increasing permit applications by 300%), fixed the New Source Review (which punished companies for repairing and upgrading coal power plants), and opened up millions of acres for domestic energy development.
- Under President Trump’s leadership, American families saved an average of \$2,500 per year in utility and gas costs, while the economy at large saw the creation of new American energy jobs.

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER

Section 1. Policy. America is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and is a leader in energy technologies and innovation that are critical to the economic prosperity and national security of the American people, as well as our partners and allies. We must expand all forms of reliable and affordable energy production to drive down inflation, grow our economy, create good-paying jobs, reestablish American leadership in manufacturing, lead the world in artificial intelligence, and restore peace through strength by wielding our commercial and diplomatic levers to end wars across the world. By utilizing our amazing national assets, including our crude oil, natural gas, lease condensates, natural gas liquids, refined petroleum products, uranium, coal, biofuels, geothermal heat, the kinetic movement of flowing water, and critical minerals, we will preserve and protect our most beautiful places, reduce our dependency on foreign imports, and grow our economy — thereby enabling the reduction of our deficits and our debt.

It shall be the policy of my Administration to make America energy dominant.

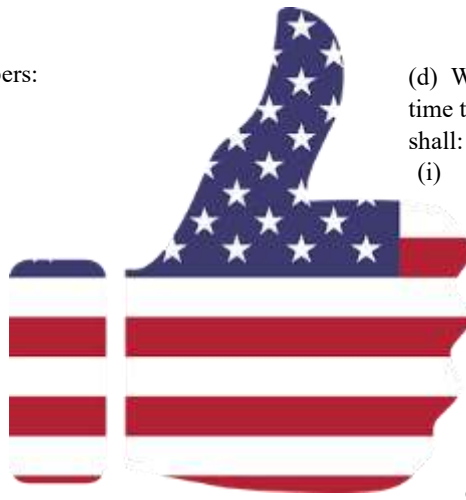
Sec. 2. Establishment. There is hereby established within the Executive Office of the President the National Energy Dominance Council (Council).

Sec. 3. Membership. (a) The Secretary of the Interior shall serve as Chair of the Council. The Secretary of Energy shall serve as Vice Chair of the Council.

(b) In addition to the Chair and the Vice Chair, the Council

shall consist of the following members:

- (i) the Secretary of State;
- (ii) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (iii) the Secretary of Defense;
- (iv) the Attorney General;
- (v) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (vi) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (vii) the Secretary of Transportation;
- (viii) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (ix) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (x) the United States Trade Representative;
- (xi) the Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy;
- (xii) the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (xiii) the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs;
- (xiv) the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
- (xv) the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (xvi) the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers;
- (xvii) the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and
- (xviii) the heads of such other executive departments and agencies (agencies) as the President may, from time to time, designate.



(d) Within 100 days of the date of this order, and from time to time thereafter as deemed appropriate by the Chair, the Council shall:

- (i) recommend to the President a plan to raise awareness on a national level of matters related to energy dominance, such as the urgency of reliable energy; the improvements in technology achieved through reliable energy sources; the national security concerns with removing reliable and affordable energy sources; the jobs supported by the energy sector; and the regulatory constraints driving up the cost of reliable energy to consumers;
- (ii) advise the President regarding the actions each agency can take under existing authorities to prioritize the policy objective of increasing energy production, such as rapidly and significantly increasing electricity capacity; rapidly facilitating approvals for energy infrastructure; approving the construction of natural gas pipelines to, or in, New England, California, Alaska, and other areas of the country underserved by American natural gas; facilitating the reopening of closed power plants; and bringing Small Modular Nuclear Reactors online;
- (iii) provide to the President a review of markets most critical to power American homes, cars, and factories with reliable, abundant, and affordable energy;
- (iv) advise the President regarding incentives to attract and retain private sector energy-production investments;
- (v) advise the President on identifying and ending practices that raise the cost of energy; and
- (vi) consult with officials from State, local, and Tribal governments and individuals from the private sector to solicit feedback on how best to expand all forms of energy production.

Sec. 4. Functions. (a) The Chair shall convene and preside over meetings of the Council, in consultation with the Office of the Chief of Staff, provided that in his absence the Vice Chair shall preside.

(b) The Council shall:

- (i) advise the President on how best to exercise his authority to produce more energy to make America energy dominant;
- (ii) advise the President on improving the processes for permitting, production, generation, distribution, regulation, transportation, and export of all forms of American energy, including critical minerals;
- (iii) provide to the President a recommended National Energy Dominance Strategy to produce more energy that includes long-range goals for achieving energy dominance by cutting red tape, enhancing private sector investments across all sectors of the energy-producing economy, focusing on innovation, and seeking to eliminate longstanding, but unnecessary, regulation;
- (iv) advise and assist the President in facilitating cooperation among the Federal Government and domestic private sector energy partners; and
- (v) advise the President on facilitating consistency in energy production policies included in the Strategy developed under subsection (b)(iii) of this section.

(c) In performing the advisory functions listed under subsection (b) of this section, the Council, through the Chair, shall, when appropriate, coordinate with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The functions of the Council shall report to the Office of the Chief of Staff.

Sec. 5. Administration. (a) The Council shall have such staff and other assistance as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

(b) Agencies shall cooperate with the Council and provide such assistance, information, and advice to the Council related to policies that affect energy dominance as the Chair or, at the Chair's direction, the Vice Chair, shall reasonably request, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 6. Representation on the National Security Council. The Secretary of the Interior, as Chair of the Council, shall serve as a standing member of the National Security Council.

Sec. 7. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
 - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

CONGRESS MOVES TO REPEAL BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S METHANE FEE RULE

The oil and gas industry is rallying behind H. J. Res. 35, a resolution that seeks to block the Biden administration's controversial methane fee rule through the Congressional Review Act (CRA). This rule, finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on November 18, implements a provision from the 2022 climate-tax-health law (Public Law 117-169), imposing steep penalties on methane emissions exceeding a set threshold.

Under the regulation, companies emitting excess methane would be subjected to fees starting at \$900 per metric ton in 2024, increasing to \$1,500 by 2026. Industry leaders and Republican lawmakers have strongly opposed the rule, arguing that it acts as a punitive tax on natural gas production, hampers technological innovation, and raises energy costs for American consumers.

LEGISLATIVE PUSH FOR REPEAL

Rep. August Pfluger (R-Texas), the lead sponsor of H. J. Res. 35, has criticized the methane fee for discouraging investment in energy production and innovation, stating that it “handicapped technological innovation, reduced supplies of affordable energy, and increased both costs and emissions.” His resolution, introduced on February 4, has gained support from 16 Republican cosponsors and was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

In the Senate, an identical measure, S. J. Res. 12, was introduced by Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.), with 25 Republican cosponsors. Using CRA procedures, the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee discharged the resolution on February 20, allowing it to move forward.

Republican lawmakers have also included a repeal of the methane fee provision in their broader budget resolution, advancing the effort through reconciliation. The Senate's passage of S. Con. Res. 7 on February 21 signals continued momentum, with the House set to vote on its budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) the week of February 24.

Congressional Review Act and Industry Support

The CRA provides Congress with the authority to overturn federal regulations through a joint resolution of disapproval, which requires passage in both chambers and the president's signature. Given President Biden's commitment to the me-

thane fee, a veto is likely, making repeal efforts more viable in the event of a future administration change.

Major industry organizations, including the American Exploration & Production Council (AXPC), American Petroleum Institute (API), and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), strongly support the repeal. Anne Bradbury, CEO of AXPC, emphasized that the CRA offers a critical opportunity to “negate these punitive regulatory requirements now, while we work to undo the underlying statute.”

OPPOSITION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Environmental organizations such as Earthworks, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Sierra Club oppose the measure, arguing that methane emissions contribute significantly to climate change. Mahyar Sorour, director of beyond fossil fuels policy at the Sierra Club, stated that “responsible companies will never be subject to the charge: technology to



monitor and stop leaks is readily available and easy to implement, so only wasteful, careless corporations will face a fee for excessive methane pollution.”

LOOKING AHEAD

The House Rules Committee met February 24 to determine the terms of floor debate for H. J. Res. 35. A simple majority vote is required for passage in both chambers. While a presidential veto is expected, industry advocates remain committed to pursuing all available legislative and legal avenues to eliminate the methane fee, ensuring continued investment in domestic energy production and innovation.

TRUMP NOMINATES KATHLEEN SGAMMA TO LEAD BLM AND BRIAN NESVIK TO HEAD FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

President Donald Trump has nominated Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, to lead the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), according to the Congressional Record. Sgamma's nomination signals a significant shift in leadership and policy direction for the agency overseeing 245 million acres of public land.

A longtime advocate for the oil and natural gas industry, Sgamma has been a prominent voice on Capitol Hill, representing independent energy producers in the West. Her vision aligns with Trump's broader energy agenda to maximize domestic oil and gas production. Trump's commitment to



reducing regulatory barriers is expected to shape the BLM's approach under her leadership.

In a recent interview, Sgamma emphasized the need to return to a more predictable regulatory environment for energy development. "Moving forward with lease sales, moving forward with permitting on federal lands, moving forward with completing environmental analysis," she said. "We would expect the Trump administration to move forward and get those leases issued and development proceeding on them."

She also criticized the Biden administration's emphasis on renewables, arguing that it created instability in the nation's electric grid by undermining reliable baseload power sources such as coal and natural gas. "If you take out base load coal and natural gas power and replace it with intermittent solar and wind, you can get a situation of grid instability," she warned. "That is the situation we see particularly in the Midwest, Northeast, and the West Coast."

Sgamma's nomination follows Trump's previous attempt to install a Coloradan at the helm of the BLM, when he selected William Perry Pendley during his first term. Pendley ultimately withdrew due to a lack of Senate support. Sgamma's nomination will likely face strong opposition from environmental groups, which have already voiced concerns over her longstanding opposition to federal leasing restrictions and environmental regulations.

Her appointment, along with that of Brian Nesvik to lead the Fish and Wildlife Service, underscores Trump's commitment to expanding energy production, increasing grazing lands, and reducing regulatory hurdles. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum recently unveiled executive orders aimed at advancing the administration's "energy dominance" agenda, including the rollback of Biden-era regulations on endangered species and migratory bird protections.

Sgamma and the Western Energy Alliance have been vocal critics of the Biden administration's regulatory approach. Last year, the alliance joined petroleum associations in New Mexico, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah in a lawsuit challenging the BLM's new leasing rules, which increased royalty rates, minimum bids, rental rates, and bonding requirements for oil and gas development on federal lands. "This is another rule by the Biden administration meant to deliver on the president's promise of no federal oil and natural gas," Sgamma stated in May 2024 when announcing the lawsuit.

Her leadership at the BLM is expected to prioritize energy development, balancing land use policies in favor of expanded oil and gas leasing while reducing regulatory roadblocks. As environmental groups mobilize to challenge her nomination, industry leaders see her as a necessary force in restoring balance to federal land management and ensuring that domestic energy production remains strong.

Sgamma has led the Western Energy Alliance in Denver since 2006. Previously, she spent eleven years in the Information Technology sector, including establishing the European consulting practice and a German subsidiary for a software vendor. She was an Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Army who led a platoon of thirty soldiers deployed for the Persian Gulf War. After redeploying the system from Saudi Arabia, she led a platoon of fifty soldiers and managed a \$20



million intelligence system supporting military commands throughout Europe.

She holds a B.S. in Political Science/Defense and Arms Control Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an M.S. in Information Technology from Virginia Tech.

Similarly, Brian Nesvik’s nomination to lead the Fish and Wildlife Service highlights the administration’s emphasis on practical, field-based leadership. Nesvik, the former Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, has a long history of wildlife management and conservation. In July 2023, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies elected him as President. Prior to that, he served two terms as WAFWA Vice President and was a member of the Executive Committee for two years.



A Brigadier General in the National Guard, Nesvik previously commanded the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery in Kuwait. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management and an M.S.S. from the U.S. Army War College in Strategic Studies.

His nomination has been referred to the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee, marking the first step in the confirmation process before a full Senate vote.

Nesvik has been a strong advocate for connecting future generations to outdoor sports and wildlife conservation. In a speech around the time of his Game and Fish retirement, Nesvik emphasized the importance of introducing children to hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. “I think that one of the most important things we do is provide opportunities for kids to have that experience that we all had at some point that got us hooked,” Nesvik said in September. “I am extremely proud because I really believe that that’s where you have an impact 30 years down the road. We’ve gotta have people that care in 30 years.”

Together, the nominations of Sgamma and Nesvik illustrate a shift in federal land and wildlife management toward policies favoring resource development and local control. While both will face scrutiny from conservation groups, they are widely seen as strong advocates for energy, land-use, and wildlife policies that align with Trump’s broader vision for American energy independence.



A REINDUSTRIALIZATION OF AMERICA CONT'D FROM PAGE 5

With this new direction, America is poised to reclaim its role as the world’s leading energy powerhouse, ensuring a stable future for domestic producers and consumers alike.

Below is the transcript from Chris’ interview:

“One of the things we are doing is looking at all the projects that are out there. Where are the commitments? Where are the uncommitted funds? What’s the best use to grow the supply of affordable, reliable, secure American energy? Tremendous opportunities there.

So there's upside here as well.

But one thing I will say, Brian, *what we will not do is follow the German model*. And I think the last administration wanted to go down that road.

Germany spent half a trillion dollars, made their electricity two to three times more expensive, and they produce 20 percent less electricity today than they did 15 years ago. We're not going to go down that road. We want affordable, reliable, secure energy and *a reindustrialization of America, not deindustrialization of America.*”

PFLUGER INTRODUCES BILL TO REPEAL BIDEN'S NATURAL GAS TAX

Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11) has introduced the **Natural Gas Repeal Act** to eliminate the Natural Gas Tax imposed under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act. This tax increases costs for energy producers, ultimately driving up household energy bills—disproportionately impacting lower-income Americans.

The former administration pushed policies that undermined domestic energy production, Pfluger's bill represents a critical effort to protect affordable energy for American households and businesses and undo some of the damage done.

Industry leaders, have voiced strong support for the bill:

Rep. August Pfluger (TX-11):

"President Biden's promise to end fossil fuels—coupled with policies designed to cripple American energy—are directly harming American families. I am proud to stand up for the Permian Basin and introduce legislation to strike this harmful natural gas tax, which will only make energy more expensive and inflation worse."

Ben Shepperd, President of PBPA:

"Congressman Pfluger continues to fight for American energy security, our economy, and consumers. Global demand for natural gas is growing, and ensuring strong domestic production benefits not only the U.S. economy but also the world's environment. The Natural Gas Repeal Act is a crucial step in supporting American energy leadership."

Jerry Simmons, CEO & President of DEPA:

"The Natural Gas Tax is yet another unnecessary burden on American energy producers that will ultimately raise costs for consumers. At a time when reliable and affordable energy is more critical than ever, policies that discourage domestic production are not only harmful but also shortsighted. We appreciate Congressman Pfluger's leadership in fighting to repeal this tax and protect American energy security, jobs, and economic stability."

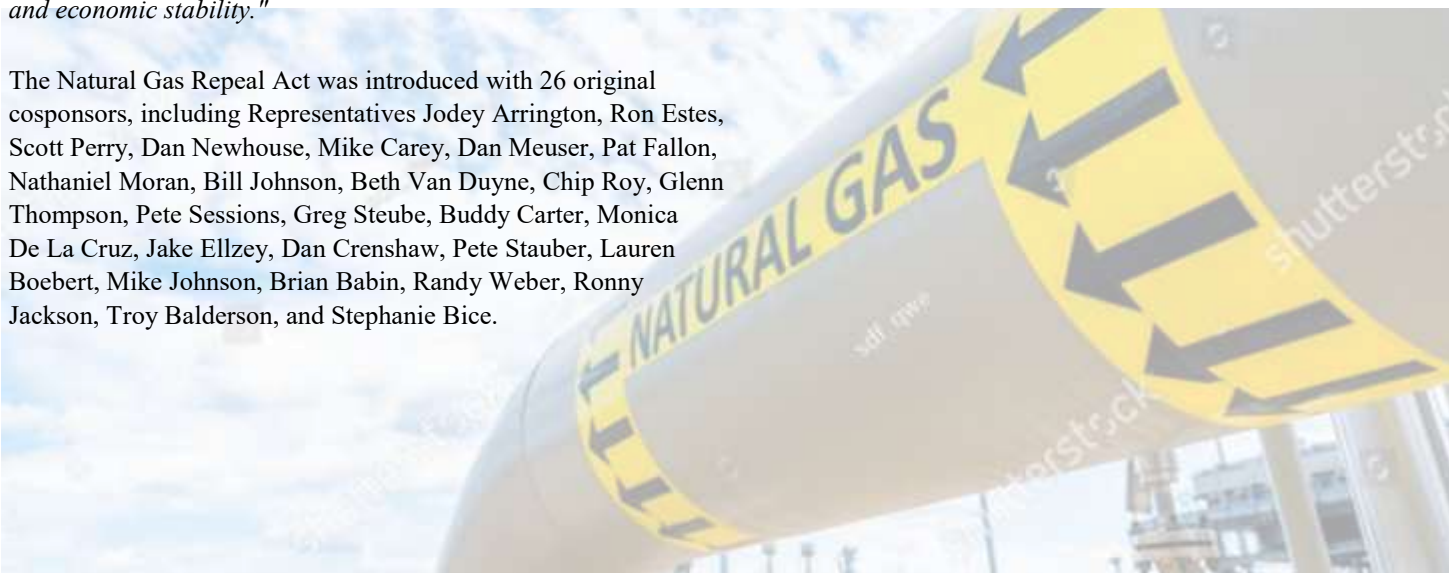
The Natural Gas Repeal Act was introduced with 26 original cosponsors, including Representatives Jodey Arrington, Ron Estes, Scott Perry, Dan Newhouse, Mike Carey, Dan Meuser, Pat Fallon, Nathaniel Moran, Bill Johnson, Beth Van Duyne, Chip Roy, Glenn Thompson, Pete Sessions, Greg Steube, Buddy Carter, Monica De La Cruz, Jake Ellzey, Dan Crenshaw, Pete Stauber, Lauren Boebert, Mike Johnson, Brian Babin, Randy Weber, Ronny Jackson, Troy Balderson, and Stephanie Bice.



Serving his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman August Pfluger represents 20 counties in Texas' 11th congressional district, including Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Killeen, Brownwood, and Llano.

Congressman Pfluger grew up in San Angelo before graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He served twenty years as a decorated fighter pilot, later as an advisor on the National Security Council, and still serves as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

In Congress, Rep. Pfluger is the first Member to represent Midland and Odessa on the Energy and Commerce Committee. He also serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security, and co-founded the MACH 1 Caucus and the Texas Ag Task Force.



SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE: A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, AND INDEPENDENCE

BY ED CROSS, CEO ILLINOIS OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION AND DEPA BOARD DIRECTOR

Debate continues across the country on our nation's energy future. What is our best energy policy going forward?

Several factors contribute to a higher standard of living, but one of the most important is access to reliable and inexpensive energy. Affordable energy is essential for almost every aspect of our modern lives. Without it, we wouldn't have many of the things we often take for granted. Affordable energy is needed to run the hospitals and laboratories that improve our health. It's required to deliver electricity to our homes and put fuel in our vehicles. It also supports the millions of jobs associated with all of these things.

Over the past four years, attempts were made to shift energy policy away from fossil fuels and some expected this thinking to be the wave of the future. But, that kind of thinking is a threat to economic development in the U.S. and around the world.

Nothing is more essential to economic growth than reliable, affordable and abundant energy. To lose that advantage is not in anybody's best interest.

Energy is an input for practically everything in the economy. The last thing anyone wants to see is more upward pressure on costs that are felt by every family and business.

America should not be in the position of asking for foreign

energy supplies, especially when we have abundant resources produced to standards that are among the highest in the world, right here at home. Instead, we should be leading, as the world's top producer of oil and natural gas.

We need not look further than the situation in Europe to see what happens when nations depend on energy production from suppliers that have agendas of their own. The problem is that when certain foreign governments control your energy, they have the power to use it for their own purposes – not yours. We don't want to learn that lesson the hard way.

Against this backdrop, here in our country, we reject efforts to scale back domestic energy development. So, the question becomes more urgent: As a country, do we really want to stay the course from the last four years and continue the path of restricting production and returning to the days of dependence on foreign sources? That is short-sighted energy policy and we must consider those it's impacting.

At a time of persistent inflation and geopolitical instability, the American people need more affordable energy and less political gamesmanship. Reliable, affordable energy policy will support American families and businesses in the fight against inflation. Yet misguided policies and heavy-handed regulations, particularly over the past four years, threatened to undermine our existing energy advantage, potentially in-





creasing costs and jeopardizing a key pillar of American leadership. Our national energy policy the past four years was based on insufficient information and a lack of perspective.

President Trump and his administration, as well as policymakers on both sides of the aisle, can support leveraging America's energy resources to help protect consumers and cement U.S. energy leadership. I encourage policymakers to support actions to secure American energy leadership, protect consumers, and help reduce inflation. Such actions include supporting policies that protect consumer choice, restore the role of American energy in bolstering our geopolitical strength, leverage our abundant natural resources, reform the regulatory policies that increase certainty and unleash private investment, and advance sensible tax policy.

The oil and gas industry has shown there is a better way. Just a few years ago, no one would have imagined the U.S. could increase production of oil and natural gas while cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which are now near 25-year lows. Here's a key point: When a country becomes the leading producer of oil and natural gas and has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 70% in 10 years and reduced methane emissions from oil and natural gas operations by 37% since 2015, it is clearly doing many things right.

The most pressing issues facing the U.S. economy in the foreseeable future are not those arising from climate or an energy transition. Rather the factors to watch are inflation, rising energy costs, and national security.

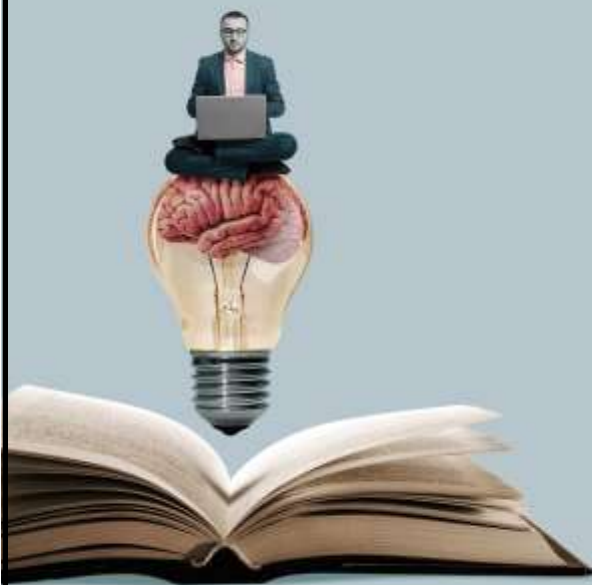
An American energy policy that values innovation over regulation can turn energy policy challenges into great opportunities for economic growth and energy security. This approach is not just good business, it's good stewardship and a much better strategy for improving the quality of life for all.

Going forward, policymakers at the state and federal level should prioritize advancing American energy leadership with policies that encourage development of responsibly produced energy here at home. These policies should recognize the volatile world we live in and the long-term impacts of returning to the days of foreign energy dependency.

In addition, we should craft regulatory policies that increase certainty, unleash private investment, and build on progress made in the past. By focusing on more efficient use of energy, it is possible to lower emissions without imposing even more environmental restrictions.

The key going forward is to avoid placing unnecessary political or legal obstacles in the way of innovation and expansion. We need energy policy to be based on science, the free market, and entrepreneurial spirit. Those who act on our behalf at all levels of government should use those principles as the foundation for their energy policy decisions.

SCHOLARSHIP!



To encourage students to continue their education in the field of Earth Sciences, Petroleum Engineering, Chemical Engineering or Geology majors the Indiana Oil and Gas Association (INOGA) is expanding its scholarship to be available to residents of IN, IL or KY and attending any accredited college and non- IN, IL or KY residents attending an Indiana accredited college

INOGA has a rich history of involvement in the exploration and development of hydrocarbons in the State of Indiana. An all-volunteer organization formed more than 60 years ago, INOGA members include representatives from oil and gas exploration and development companies (operators) as well as companies and individuals working in the following sectors: pipeline, refinery, land acquisition, service, supply, legal, engineering, and geologic services.

In 2024, we awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to students who were attending four-year colleges and pursuing degrees in the oil & gas career path.

For more information and to see the application, visit the INOGA Scholarship History and Scholarship Landing Page:

<https://www.indianaoga.org/scholarship.html>

CHAIRMAN LATTA: UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE



Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Chairman Bob Latta (OH-05) opened the recent hearing, *Powering America's Future: Unleashing American Energy*, with a strong critique of the Biden administration's energy policies and a call for a renewed focus on American energy independence. Latta emphasized that energy demand in the United States is growing rapidly, with record electricity consumption projected for 2024 and 2025. He noted that the expansion of data centers and the rise of artificial intelligence will further strain the grid, making it critical to maintain a reliable and affordable energy supply.

Latta underscored the importance of an “all-of-the-above” strategy that prioritizes a mix of energy sources, including fossil fuels, nuclear, hydropower, and renewables. He warned that regulatory burdens like the Clean Power Plan 2.0 threaten to drive out essential baseload power sources, jeopardizing grid reliability and economic stability.

The Chairman also addressed national security concerns, criticizing the Biden administration's LNG export ban and policies that, in his view, have emboldened adversaries such as China. He highlighted the need for permitting reforms to unlock America's vast energy resources, as well as the importance of strengthening the nation's electric grid against cyber and physical threats.

Looking ahead, Latta reaffirmed the Subcommittee's commitment to advancing next-generation energy solutions, including small modular nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel security. He stressed that maintaining North American energy dominance will require decisive action to ensure that America—not China—leads the global energy transition and AI revolution.

As the Energy and Commerce Committee continues its work, Latta made it clear: the future of American energy security, economic prosperity, and global leadership depends on smart, forward-thinking policies that unleash, rather than restrict, domestic energy production.

Subcommittee Chairman Latta's opening statement as prepared for delivery:

Welcome to today's hearing 'Powering America's Future: Unleashing American Energy.'

Today, we are discussing the state of our nation's energy system, reviewing Biden administration actions that have undermined our economic and national security, and, importantly, looking forward to how our subcommittee will meet our ever-expanding need for more energy.

"In the last Congress, I asked our witnesses: do we need more or less energy? Every witness responded by saying "we need more energy, and we need it now. The U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that the United States will consume record amounts of electricity in 2024 and 2025. The Department of Energy's Berkeley Lab estimates that U.S. data center load growth, which already encompasses half the data centers in the world, is projected to double or triple by 2028.

Last Congress, we heard extensive testimony from grid experts and operators about the impacts of burdensome regulations like the Clean Power Plan 2.0 that will drive out resources that are essential to keeping the lights on and our economy flowing.

Households and businesses alike continue to struggle under high energy prices that have followed excessive federal spending and anti-fossil fuel policy decisions of the Biden administration.

In 2008, House Republicans first showcased the "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that supports this diverse mix of energy sources without the government picking winners and losers – which is better for meeting demand and better for the environment. Intermittent energy sources, such as solar and wind, have a role to play in a diverse energy mix. However, we must maintain our baseload power that is delivered from fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydropower.

While resources are strained, the next generation economy will require massive amounts of reliable, affordable, and abundant energy. My district in Ohio is home to over 86,000 manufacturing jobs and is seeing the data center energy demand arrive.

When it comes to winning the AI race, all energy solutions need to be on the table: small modular nuclear reactors, traditional nuclear power, intermittent renewables, batteries, natural gas, and fuel cells, just to name a few. But our nation's energy future is at a turning point, and the world is not waiting for us."

Maintaining Global Leadership

Adversarial nations actively seek to exploit our energy demand to undermine our position on the world stage. Unfortunately, misguided actions from the Biden administration, like the LNG export ban, handicapped diplomatic tools of energy abundance. Instead, the Biden administration's "electrification or nothing" and "rush to green" approach has only emboldened adversaries like communist China who manipulate critical mineral markets and limit exports of key materials for our manufacturing sector and defense industrial base.

Meanwhile, China is doubling down on their efforts to gain a leadership position in the global race for AI development and the next generation economy.

Here's the good news: it's a new day in America and President Trump has led a necessary reset of our national energy strategy. As we look to the future of our nation's energy needs, this subcommittee will be essential to ensure our electric grid is secure against physical and cyber-attacks and natural disasters. We will unlock our

abundant resources through permitting reforms that can ensure innovations and advancements are happening here in America.

We will build on the bipartisan success of the ADVANCE Act and the Nuclear Fuel Security Act to usher in next generation nuclear, discuss innovative solutions for spent fuel like recycling and storage, and expand America's nuclear fuel infrastructure to restore our global nuclear leadership.

This committee must address the growing energy demand, and all of the issues that come with it. I look forward to the constructive dialogue today as we embark on a path to reassert North American energy dominance.

Watch the chairman's comments on YouTube [Here](#)

The Committee on Energy and Commerce is the oldest standing legislative committee (established 1795) in the U.S. House of Representatives and is vested with the broadest jurisdiction of any congressional authorizing committee. The Energy and Commerce Committee is at the forefront of all issues and policies powering America's economy, including our global competitive edge in energy, technology, and health care. The committee is led by E&C Chairman Brett Guthrie (KY-02) and E&C Ranking Member Frank Pallone (NJ-06). The Subcommittee on Environment is led by Chairman Bob Latta (OH-05) and Ranking Member Kathy Castor (FL-14).

THE PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT PASSES IN THE HOUSE

Speaker Johnson and Republican Study Committee Chairman Pfluger released the following statements after the House passed [H.R. 26](#), *The Protecting American Energy Production Act*.

"House Republicans are putting an end to the Democrats' war on American energy. Today's passage of the Protecting American Energy Production Act helps restore American energy dominance and protects the jobs of hardworking men and women," **said Speaker Johnson**. "This bill ensures fracking will remain an essential tool in our nation's energy production, allowing us to harness regions like the Permian Basin rather than turning to foreign adversaries for our energy needs, and helping to fully unleash America's energy potential."

"The Biden Administration spent the last four years attacking the American energy industry – going as far as attempting to shut it down by banning almost all new U.S. offshore drilling projects on their way out of office. This is why the first piece of legislation I introduced in the 119th Congress was the Protecting American Energy Production Act, and I am thrilled to see its passage through the House today," **said Chairman Pfluger**. "This legislation will protect the American energy industry and its consumers from the federal government by preventing any federal moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing. I am blessed to represent America's most prolific oil and gas producing region and am committed to unleashing energy in the Permian Basin this Congress."

ENHANCING ENERGY RECOVERY ACT: AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD ENERGY SECURITY

U.S. Senators John Barrasso (R-WY), James Lankford (R-OK), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), John Hoeven (R-ND), Jim Justice (R-WV), and Tim Sheehy (R-MT) have introduced the Enhancing Energy Recovery Act (S. 425), a bill designed to create parity in carbon capture incentives under the Section 45Q tax credit. This legislation ensures equal treatment for carbon captured for enhanced oil recovery (EOR), utilization, and sequestration.

Supporting American Energy Production

Senator Barrasso emphasized Wyoming's leadership in carbon capture, highlighting the benefits of utilizing CO₂ for energy production while reducing emissions. "Using carbon for enhanced oil and natural gas recovery has proven to significantly increase energy production while reducing carbon emissions," Barrasso stated. "Our bill will fix this policy and ensure equal treatment for energy production, utilization, and sequestration."

Senator Cassidy pointed to the economic benefits for Louisiana, noting that investment in carbon capture infrastructure will create jobs and attract billions in additional investment. Senator Hoeven also underscored North Dakota's leadership in CCUS technologies, stressing that equalizing tax incentives will spur further technological advancements and economic growth.

Industry and Stakeholder Support

The bill has garnered strong industry support from organizations such as the Wyoming Energy Authority, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Carbon Utilization Research Council (CURC), and the Independent Petroleum Association of

America (IPAA). These groups recognize the bill's potential to enhance domestic energy security, boost economic growth, and promote carbon management solutions.

"At a time when energy demand is soaring, ensuring a level playing field for CO₂ utilization is more important than ever," said Rob Creager, Executive Director of the Wyoming Energy Authority. "This bill is a crucial piece of legislation to support America's energy workers and maintain reliable energy for all."

Jerry Simmons, DEPA President & CEO, also voiced strong support for the bill: "The Enhancing Energy Recovery Act is a critical step toward ensuring American energy security. By providing equal tax treatment for CO₂ utilization, this bill supports innovation in carbon management while bolstering domestic oil and gas production. We thank Senator Barrasso and his colleagues for their leadership in advancing policies that strengthen our industry and drive us toward energy dominance."

Key Provisions of the Bill

- Increases the value of the 45Q tax credit for carbon used in EOR and utilization to match the \$85/metric ton incentive currently available for sequestration.
- Establishes equal treatment for carbon captured through Direct Air Capture (DAC), raising its EOR and utilization incentive from \$130/metric ton to \$180/metric ton, in line with sequestration credits.

This legislative effort aligns with ongoing initiatives to secure America's energy future by encouraging investment in CCUS technologies and bolstering domestic energy production. Industry professionals and stakeholders eagerly anticipate the bill's progress and its potential impact on the nation's energy landscape.



JOHN BARRASSO (R-WY)



JAMES LANKFORD (R-OK)



BILL CASSIDY (R-LA)



JOHN HOEVEN (R-ND)



JIM JUSTICE (R-WV)



TIM SHEEHY (R-MT)



UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY: NEW LEGISLATION TO SECURE ENERGY DOMINANCE

The United States stands at a pivotal moment in energy policy. Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and John Hoeven (R-ND), alongside their colleagues, have introduced two critical bills aimed at strengthening America’s energy production, reducing bureaucratic barriers, and supporting local economies. The **Supporting Made in America Energy Act** and the **Restoring State Mineral Revenues Act** are designed to reinforce the nation’s energy independence, promote economic growth, and ensure that domestic resources are utilized efficiently.

Expanding Oil and Gas Lease Sales

The **Supporting Made in America Energy Act** addresses a long-standing issue in federal leasing policy. By mandating regular lease sales—four annual onshore sales in top-producing states, two offshore sales in the Gulf of Mexico, and six offshore sales in Alaska’s Cook Inlet over ten years—this legislation ensures a stable and predictable leasing process. Such measures are essential to sustaining and growing domestic oil and gas production, providing much-needed certainty for operators and investors.

Consistent leasing not only fuels energy production but also strengthens supply chains, keeps fuel prices competitive, and secures well-paying jobs across multiple sectors. At a time when energy demand continues to rise, this bill provides a framework for long-term resource development that benefits both producers and consumers.

Ensuring Fair Revenue for Local Communities

The **Restoring State Mineral Revenues Act** aims to remove the 2% administrative fee imposed on federal oil and gas royalty payments to state and local governments. This fee diverts funds that should be supporting essential public services such as infrastructure, schools, and emergency response efforts in communities that host energy development.

Restoring full royalty payments ensures that states and municipalities receive the resources they need to reinvest in their economies. Eliminating this fee represents a necessary step in making sure that energy-producing regions are not unfairly burdened by federal bureaucracy.



Strengthening America's Energy Future

These legislative efforts align with a broader strategy to solidify America's energy leadership on the global stage. The U.S. oil and gas industry plays a crucial role in maintaining economic stability, protecting national security, and ensuring energy affordability for American families. Dependable domestic production reduces reliance on foreign energy sources, insulating the country from geopolitical instability and price volatility.

By cutting unnecessary administrative costs and ensuring consistent lease opportunities, these bills reaffirm the role of American energy producers in meeting both domestic and international demand. They encourage continued investment, innovation, and job creation across the industry, securing a reliable energy future for generations to come.

As these bills progress through Congress, they serve as a reminder that sound energy policy is not just about production—it's about economic prosperity, national security, and the strength of communities across the United States. The push for energy dominance is not just about keeping the lights on today; it's about ensuring a future where American energy remains a cornerstone of global stability and economic success.

"President Trump recognizes the power of American energy and innovation, especially in North Dakota, where we've demonstrated that it's possible to produce more energy while upholding the highest environmental standards," said Hoeven. "These bills help unlock American energy and encourage global leadership so that our country is not just energy independent but energy dominant."

"Now that we have a President who supports our energy industry instead of pushing a radical environmental agenda, it's time to get to work on real change to unleash American energy and ensure that we remain dominant on the world stage. These bills will have a huge impact on creating Montana jobs, boosting our economy and protecting our national security, and I'll work with my colleagues every step of the way to get them over the finish line," said Daines.

*"These two pieces of legislation from Senators Daines and Hoeven, **Supporting Made in America Energy Act** and the **Restoring State Mineral Revenues Act** are exactly the kind of policies we need to secure our nation's energy future. By ensuring consistent lease sales and eliminating unnecessary administrative fees, this legislation removes barriers that have hindered domestic oil and gas production for too long.*

American energy producers are ready to meet demand, create jobs, and keep our nation energy secure—Congress must act now to make these reforms a reality.

We appreciate the leadership of Senators Daines, Hoeven, and their colleagues in advancing these vital efforts to sustain our industry and support energy-producing communities across the country."

-Jerry Simmons
DEPA CEO \ President



SPOTLIGHT ON TECHNOLOGY

FRANK STEPIC, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIST, SABEL TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS

2025 WILL BE A TREMENDOUS YEAR, HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY HELP?

To date, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been the popular topic, gathering all the headlines for information technology and beyond but there are other advancements that may help your efforts sooner. While your organization should include AI in its planning, automation and data consistency have the potential to improve and expand your business more quickly with new technologies and clearer concepts.

For the past few months, I have been identifying and evaluating software technologies for a new product line from inception, performance requirements, design, all the way to manufacture and test. This has included over 30 different solutions that can now be brought together to speed the release of the product while improving the quality of the experience (this is an incredible combination). For many years, it seemed like technology was advancing at a steady clip, allowing you and your business to move steadily into these new capabilities. However, if someone was starting from scratch today, they may have a large advantage over a successful organization that's existed for decades. Plants and large-scale operations that now employ 10,000+ people may be replaced by low 1,000's or even hundreds. Time to launch may be reduced to its square root in months. In this article, we'll recommend a path for these new technologies and then suggest some simple ways to plan and execute in 2025.

FROM THOUGHTS AND NEEDS TO FINISHED PRODUCT

As mentioned, I recently evaluated over 30 digital technologies that have the ability to use low-level complex engineering calculations to aggregate simulations pulling data from 100's of sources. Previously, data silos and different solutions made it difficult to inter-operate, leading to great solutions for specific functions but a lot of work in bringing insights and interfaces together. Data Fabric and application data definitions (typically defined in Application Programmable Interfaces (APIs)) have solved this problem. Another challenge is that many leaders and functional managers want to solve just the 'point-to-point'

issues. The problem with this approach is that the software suites to remake your enterprise are not cheap and the ROI typically requires a wider view for the innovation to justify the investment. I'll lay out the path that can be considered *in total*:

1. **IDENTIFY YOUR GROWTH PLAY:** Identify and quantify the need and expected benefits for a new product or new generation of product
2. **DEFINE REQUIREMENTS and FUNCTIONS:** Evaluate designs and compare expected results to needs
3. **SIMULATE THE POSSIBILITIES:** Optimize and digitally simulate the design
4. **OPTIMIZE LOGISTICS AND EFFICIENCY:** Design workstations, plants, locations, logistics for asset characteristic(s)
5. **PLAN TO EXECUTE:** Design and optimize asset ecosystem based on existing and new infrastructure
6. **CONSTANT ROI AND SCHEDULE:** Monitor progress throughout, always relating back to the needs and benefits

Theoretically, the software to support all of these items could be conducted by one person or team, that's how powerful these solutions are. Realistically, it still requires subject matter experts to define and execute but imagine putting these capabilities in the hands of your best people and you'll picture faster speeds to complex solutions, fewer meetings, fewer metric reviews, higher quality outputs and a constant, complete record of how you got there.

WHAT ABOUT AI?

AI is powerful technology and is definitely supporting these solutions. Its contribution is going to grow, possibly even paving the path from your ideas for growth to a fully automated solution. Currently, subject matter experts and resources are still the best way to execute. The good news is that any work done in getting there will only help as AI advances.

HOW SOON DO I NEED TO ACT?

In prior discussions, 3-5 years would seem reasonable for noticeable change in functions, processes and roles. But this technology exists today and multiple players (including open-source) are making headway. The horizon is now closer to 1-3 years, similar to the landscape in 1998-2010 when those that embraced web technology achieved a noted advantage over those that did not. Then, eliminating paper in processes was a big focus. In this round, the focus will be more meaningful as organizations want to model and simulate possible future states using their own information without spending massive amounts with large consulting houses. Advancing in any selected area will show results for productivity, workforce considerations, and more. Consider if instead of a focus on fulfillment, your key labor resources focused on predictability and risk management. Sounds great but this is a different type of business than the traditional market-demand-driven output-focused economy from the past hundred years.

SUGGESTIONS

Consider the impact and timing above. This seems like a lot, how do you need to think differently if your operation is going to survive and thrive. Consider these ideas:

- If you want to launch 10 new wells next year, ask how you could do 1000!
- If you maintain the sales of 100 concurrent wells and associated transactions today, ask how you could maintain 20,000.
- More tactically and personally, if you are planning to stay in your job for the next 5 years, investigate how your role could and will pay more dividends. Start searching for the latest innovations in your field and ask what that would look like for your day-to-day a month, a year, and 2 years from now. Take these ideas to your manager and other leaders.
- Take time at lunch and ask your workmates their thoughts, things they've seen at other companies, what they've heard on the latest social media.
- I know several people who now use ChatGPT or similar tools as their first go-to for writing documentation, conducting research, and solving issues. I would recommend selecting a task and trying it out. It may or may not yield an insight but you will learn the tool and understand how it could work in the future.

This is not to cause you stress but to let you know that if you're not thinking about how to do this, your competitors are. If our country is not concerned or willing to advance these aggressive goals, rival countries will. This is only the

first step toward the cultural and workplace changes that are coming. Welders may become workstation subject matter experts, supervisors may become risk management officers, security guards may become situation and optical recognition users.

Most articles you will find on the internet will tell you that your focus should be AI and AI is the biggest disruptor. A larger disruption will be caused by data relating across your business enterprise and the automation associated with that data and your processes. Simulation (which has AI underpinnings) is available on a scale never seen before, not just for a specific part and related engineering studies but for your entire operation on levels everyone in your group will understand. In summary, take advantage of these new capabilities where it makes sense for your business, understand the value, and be flexible to another round of evolving business methods.

Please reach out with any questions, I'm happy to discuss and help you on this path. Since meeting with some key Energy sector leaders 10 years ago, I have been blessed to hear and understand your stories and challenges. My goal is to keep sounding the possibilities and ways to advance on a large scale, making US Energy the number one producer and go-to choice because of its efficiency, quality and predictability.

If you are interested in exploring these topics further, please contact Frank on LinkedIn, email or by phone at 512-992-5760 and good luck with your goals this year!



Frank Stepic is currently the Chief Technology Strategist for Sabel Systems, supporting alignment of new technologies and capabilities with clients in multiple industries including Energy, Defense, and Aviation. Mr. Stepic has over 30 years of experience in strategic digital concepts and their implementation in high-tech manufacturing, strategic digital mergers and acquisitions, and enterprise technology planning.

The bulk of his career of 20 years was spent at General Electric where he served in roles comprising manufacturing quality, data architecture, digital transformation, mergers & acquisitions, program management, six sigma, operations, and business development.

He is currently focused on the use of technology to improve innovation in the Energy, Aviation, Additive & Organic Manufacturing, and Medical industries with the use of leading-edge technologies and the development of advanced metrics and methods.

Mr. Stepic graduated from the University of Cincinnati, with a B.S. in Aerospace Eng in 1991 and an M.S. in A/E Propulsion and Structural Analysis in 1998.

TRUMP VOWS TO REVIVE CONSTITUTION PIPELINE AND PROMISES MAJOR ENERGY SAVINGS

President Donald Trump has pledged to revive the long-stalled Constitution Pipeline, a project that would transport natural gas from Pennsylvania to New York, claiming it could slash energy prices in the northeastern United States by as much as 70%.

"We are going to get this done, and once we start construction, we're looking at anywhere from nine to 12 months, if you can believe it," Trump told reporters on Valentine's Day after signing an executive order on energy in the Oval Office. "It will bring down the energy prices in New York and in all of New England by 50, 60, 70%."

Originally planned by Williams Cos., the pipeline was scrapped in 2020 after New York state blocked the project over water-quality concerns. While it remains unclear whether the pipeline would reduce energy prices as drastically as Trump suggested, it would alleviate supply constraints in a region where limited infrastructure has restricted access to abundant natural gas reserves.

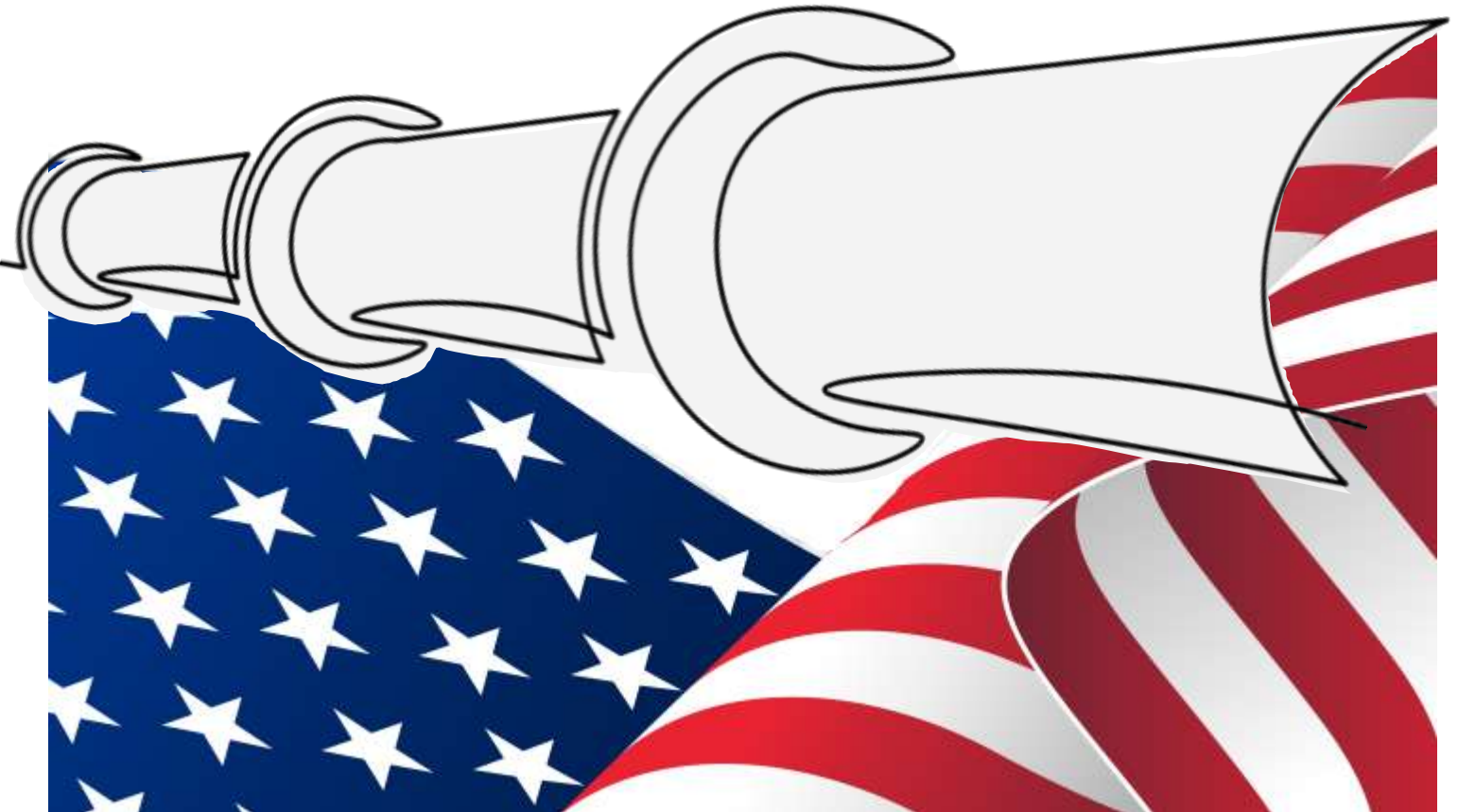
Trump is making a push for the project's revival, stating that he would meet with state governors to move it forward. "We have most of the permits — almost all of the permits," Trump said. "All of the governors want this to happen, and I think it's going to happen. It's now going to happen."

This is not the first time Trump has supported the Constitution Pipeline. During his first term, his administration sought to limit state authority under the Clean Water Act, which was used to block the pipeline. The project has become a symbol for energy advocates frustrated with state-level opposition to oil and gas infrastructure.

While Trump did not specify how the pipeline would gain approval or whether Williams Cos. would still be involved, he pointed to his recent executive order declaring an energy emergency in the U.S. as a potential avenue to push the project forward. That order, issued just hours after Trump took office last month, specifically cited energy shortages in the Northeast.

Trump also floated the possibility of using eminent domain if necessary. "We'd rather not have to go eminent domain," he said. "We'll do that if we have to, but hopefully we won't have to do that."

If completed, the Constitution Pipeline would provide a critical supply route for Appalachian gas, potentially stabilizing energy costs in a region often burdened by high prices during peak demand seasons. However, regulatory hurdles and environmental opposition could pose challenges to the project's revival.



WHY IS THE OIL INDUSTRY SO SCARED?

BY GALEN DILLEWYN



Galen Dillewyn is Vice President for Business Development with NUTECH – Visionary Reservoir Intelligence.

Galen joined NuTech in 2009. Currently, he serves as Vice President, Business Development for the Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Louisiana markets.

He graduated from Texas Tech University in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering.

You can find Galen on [Linked-In](#).

Looking around the oil and gas industry over the last couple of years and I have noticed an alarming trend. Most companies and people are scared. I was not sure what it was for a while but it is obvious that it is fear now. Fear of failure, fear of inadequacy, fear of being the bad guy, fear of screwing someone over, fear of letting down our families, fear of providing for our children, fear of the government overreaching, fear of the government not doing enough, fear of investors, fear of risk, fear of being wrong, fear of perfection, fear of not being perfect, fear of environmentalists, fear of many, many, things.

I do blame some of the unconventional and shale mind set in this. How many in our industry have never drilled a dry hole. How many run the statistics game on pad development. How many teams, full of talented people, ignore the data they have because this is what we were told to do.

When we tell stories of the great pioneers and people in our industry do you think that they were not scared? I had a conversation with a young man the other day at a scouting event and I asked him what point of the scout law he embodied. He mentioned bravery (very unusual). I asked him to define bravery. He said that it was not "not being scared" but to do what needed to be done even after weighing the risk.

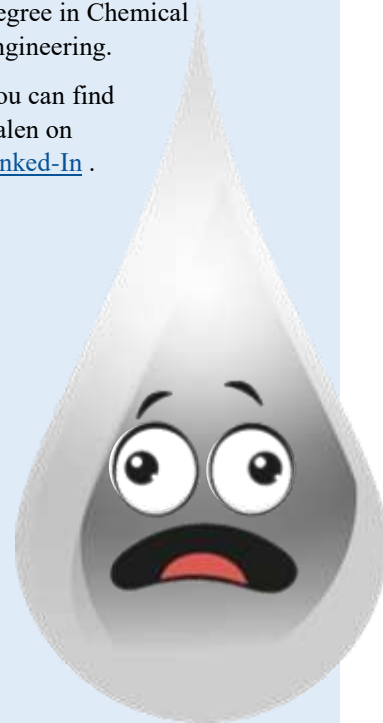
Fear does not just keep us doing the safe choice, it quite often sees us doing nothing. We don't get in trouble from nothing. We can't be wrong if we do nothing. And we also don't win if we do nothing. How many conversations are held around the NAPE floor of I had acreage in Karnes county in 200x and I couldn't get it done. I knew the oil was there, now look at it.

George Mitchell knew it and changed our entire industry. Now I am not advocating recklessness. We have some of the brightest people in the country working. I would put our hands out in the field at being able to accomplish almost any task. The things I have learned from my connections here and friends in the patch have enriched my life so many times over.

We need to act. Together. Oil is over \$70/bbl as of this morning and has been over \$65 since 2021. We have never had such stable prices. (I am not going to talk about gas). Let's make smart choices.

Do you have an idea you think would work, a well you want to try and drill? Maybe you want to invest? I would be glad to have a discussion with any of you and try to match you up. I think it is time our people get a bit of their swagger back and realize that the world runs on oil and energy.

Time to make the world better.



DEPA JOINS COALITION IN URGING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO UNLEASH AMERICAN ENERGY



DEPA is proud to stand alongside six other leading oil and gas trade associations in signing a letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, offering our full support in implementing President Trump’s Unleashing American Energy and Declaring a National Energy Emergency Executive Orders.

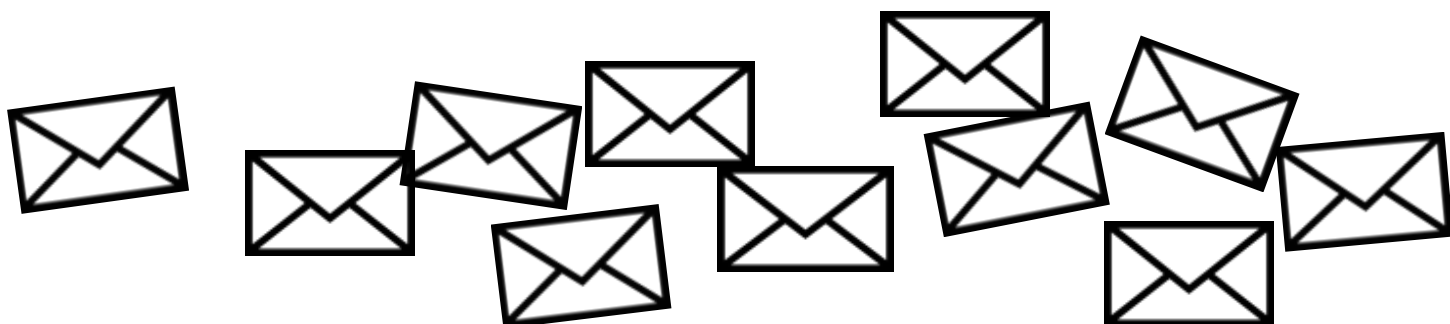
This coalition represents over 80% of domestic oil and gas production, and together, we are committed to reversing the regulatory overreach of the previous administration and ensuring that American energy producers can once again operate without undue burdens. The Biden Administration enacted more than 250 actions that directly targeted our industry, including restricting offshore leasing and making it more difficult for small- and mid-sized producers to contribute to America’s energy security. Despite these challenges, our industry remained resilient, and today, we have an opportunity to rebuild and expand domestic production.

Letters like this are critical in amplifying our collective voice and reinforcing our shared commitment to energy in-

dependence. By working together, we strengthen our ability to influence policy and ensure that the U.S. energy industry continues to thrive. We extend our sincere appreciation to our fellow associations—the Energy Workforce & Technology Council, Gulf Energy Alliance, Independent Petroleum Association of America, National Stripper Well Association, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, and U.S. Oil & Gas Association—for joining us in this effort.

DEPA will remain engaged in supporting regulatory reform efforts and advocating for policies that protect and promote the domestic energy industry. We look forward to continuing our collaboration to secure a strong future for American oil and gas production.

Read the full letter on the next page.



Dear Secretary Burgum:

We write to you today as a coalition of oil and natural gas trade associations representing over 80% of domestic production in the United States to offer our full assistance to fulfill President Donald J. Trump's goals for unleashing American energy.

We strongly agree with the President that the success of the American economy and the prosperity of Americans relies on the ability of our associations' members to prudently access and develop the abundant energy resources that our nation has generously been blessed with.

We are pleased that on day one, President Trump signed the Unleashing American Energy and Declaring a National Energy Emergency Executive Orders. His immediate call to reverse the damage of onerous regulations during the past four years is immensely welcomed. As the U.S. Department of the Interior carries out the President's mandate to "develop and begin implementing action plans to suspend, revise, or rescind all agency actions identified as unduly burdensome" within 30 days, our coalition has several important policy recommendations that fit that description and are blocking the way to unleashing America's full energy capabilities.

The previous administration undertook more than 250 actions targeting our industry and the reliable, affordable energy that it provides the nation and the world. As a result, the brunt of these regulatory actions impair the ability of small- and mid-sized companies to sustainably meet the energy demands of our nation's growing economy. At every turn, the Biden Administration attempted to shut down access to the Gulf of America, starting with President Biden's day one Executive Order "pausing" all new offshore oil and gas lease sales and ending with the Biden Administration's removing over 600 million acres from offshore oil and gas development along the East and West Coasts and parts of Alaskan waters. Indeed, it was only after being sued by Gulf States' Attorney Generals did the Biden Administration hold new

offshore oil and gas lease sales. Even after being legally compelled to act, the Biden Administration issued a Five-Year Program that called for the fewest number of offshore oil and gas lease sales in the history of the industry. Despite the open hostility to offshore oil and gas development shown by the Biden Administration, federal oil and gas production are at historic highs, thanks in large measure to the leases and authorizations issued during the first Trump Administration.

To undo that damage inflicted by the Biden Administration and to appropriately plan for the increasing energy demands of our country and the world, President Trump has rightly set the Interior Department on the path of *increasing* domestic oil and gas production. This coalition stands ready, willing, and capable of meeting President Trump's call for increasing domestic oil and gas production, especially in the abundant waters of the Gulf of America.

Our coalition welcomes the opportunity to work with the Interior Department to reverse the flawed Biden policies, which have jeopardized our industry and the tens of thousands of hard-working Americans that help us produce oil and gas in this country. The policy recommendations that follow are designed to help the agency undertake the Section 3 review of the Unleashing American Energy Executive Order. In addition, we welcome the opportunity to meet with any and all appropriate staff to discuss any of these recommendations in more detail and stand ready to assist in meeting President Trump's U.S. energy dominance goals.

Sincerely,

Domestic Energy Producers Alliance

Energy Workforce & Technology Council

Gulf Energy Alliance

Independent Petroleum Association of America

National Stripper Well Association Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

U.S. Oil & Gas Association

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



The federal war on gas stoves is over. States and cities might be finally getting the memo, too. It was technically over on January 20 when President Trump signed the executive order to “safeguard the American people’s freedom to choose from a variety of goods and appliances,” including [#naturalgas](#) stoves and water heaters.

But the nail in the coffin came last week with Secretary of Energy Chris Wright’s order to “promote affordability and consumer choice in home appliances,” including a directive that the [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#) will “pursue a commonsense approach that does not regulate products that consumers value out of the market.”

Contrary to what we read in the news, there was a deliberate federal effort to ban gas appliances. Many in the media refused to read between the lines, insisting there was “no ban” even as the Biden administration tried to phase out large numbers of appliances and funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to states and cities so they

could do it too. Thanks to social networks, podcasts, and other “nontraditional” media, people saw the truth in front of them. It was happening. But as Billy the Kid said at the end the 1988 classic *Young Guns*: “Now it’s over.”

The pendulum is also swinging back at the local level, where elected officials have been suckered into a “beyond natural gas” strategy that activists still insist is not only possible but will reduce costs. Once again, the truth is plain to see. Those policies are now raising families’ energy bills and threatening grid reliability, and many politicians are looking for an exit ramp.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul is dialing back some of the state’s restrictive policies. “Hochul approves project to bring more gas to New York City,” reads a recent headline. She also hit pause on the state’s cap and trade program as energy costs spiral out of control. Last week, the state legislature in Maryland introduced a bill to speed up permitting for new natural gas power plants as the state struggles with housing affordability and not having enough electricity. In his State of the State address last month, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont addressed rising energy prices for households and defended the continued use of natural gas, saying it’s “where most of our power comes from and will for the foreseeable future.” Last November, voters in Washington overwhelmingly approved an initiative protecting access to natural gas.

The City of Berkeley – yes, THAT Berkeley – even rejected a new tax on natural gas that would have been a de facto ban. To be clear, there are still local gas bans moving forward. Some state officials are doubling down to be the opposite of whatever the White House is doing. But if they were counting on federal dollars flowing to underwrite those bans, the spigot was just turned off.

Dan Haley • 1st
 Advocate for American energy and Colorado oil and natural gas. Executi...
 4d • 🌐

Energy is cool again. (Thanks Chris Wright!) It was nice to see the Denver Gazette's Luige Del Puerto, who has lived and worked in the Philippines, talk about the need for sustainable, efficient and affordable energy when he recently appeared on PBS12's Colorado Inside Out. (Like energy, CIO is also cool. Right, Tim Jackson?)
 #oilandgas #energy



Sean Wallentine • 1st
 VP of Government Affairs, CA Independ...
 1w • 🌐

#BigGovernment should stop #pricegouging #California consumers at the #gas pump with MASSIVE #taxes and fees. Instead, "Big Government CA Inc" points their finger at "big oil" and blames them. Don't fall for this tired trope. #wakeup

Joseph U. • 2nd
 President, AES Vietnam Chairman, American Cham...
 1d • 🌐

Last week, on his first day in the job, U.S. Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright, addressed the DOE workforce. He painted a clear vision and set expectations for the team. He did this without notes or a teleprompter.... He spoke from the heart about how all-of-the-above energy policy brings our fellow humans out of energy poverty. Of course, he delivered this message with his patent passion and humility.

I'm very proud to have helped this team and excited to see what they will accomplish for America!

Texas Alliance of Energy Pro...
 14,417 followers
 5d • Edited • 🌐

Well, another Super Bowl has come and gone! But it's important to remember all the ways that oil and natural gas make our standard of living possible - including football!

SUPER BOWL 59: Forged by Oil & Gas

Petroleum-Based Products Bring the Modern Game to Life

- Umbrellas • Shoulder Pads • Jet Fuel • Gloves • Cell Phones • Medicines • Headphones • Beer Cans • Cameras • Cleats • Helmets • Jerseys • Footballs • Electricity • Socks • Hip Pads • Face Masks • Clipboards • Eyeglasses • Credit Cards • Gasoline • Clothes • Artificial Turf • Water Pipes • Drinking Cups • Candies & Gum • Deodorant • Floor Wax • Packaging • Ice Chests • Loudspeakers

Plus ~6,000 more products

Texas Alliance
 of Energy Professionals





Giacomo Prandelli • 2nd
Commodities Trader | Daily Insights on Global Commodity Markets
4d • 🌐

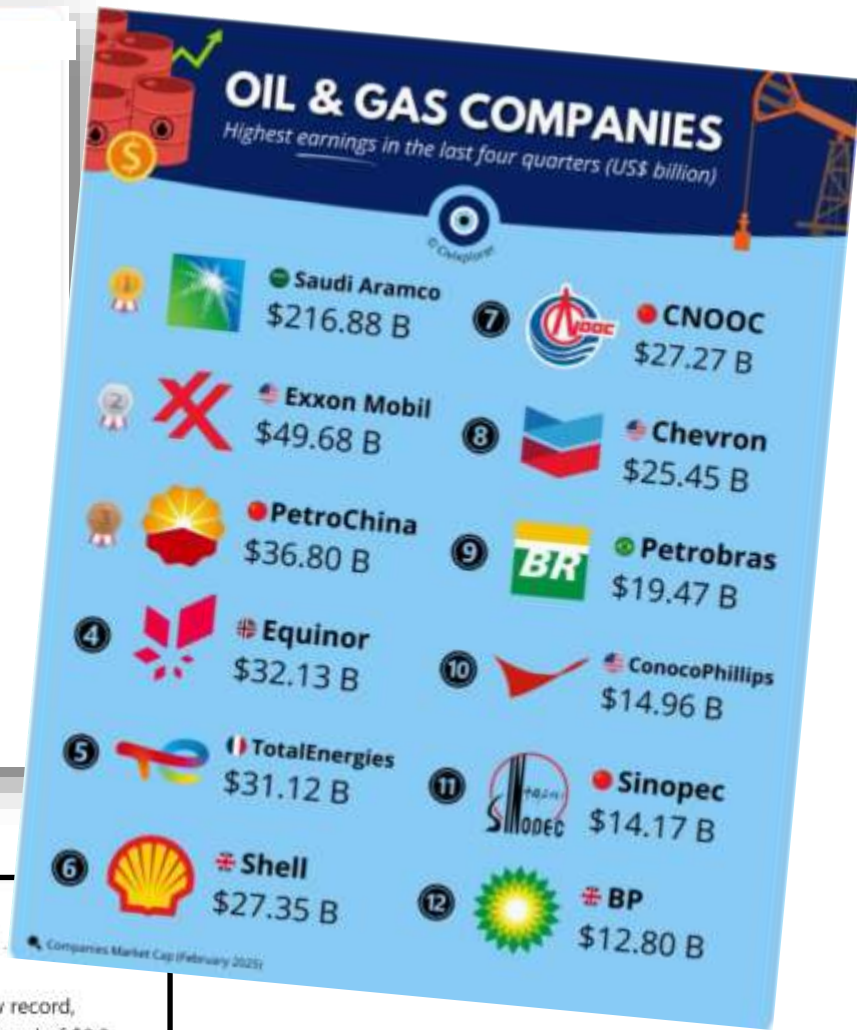
One company dominates them all 🏆 🔥

Saudi Aramco made \$216.88B in the last four quarters.
That's more than the next five companies combined.

Here's the full list of top oil & gas companies by earnings (US\$ billion):

- 1 aramco – \$216.88B
- 2 ExxonMobil Mobil – \$49.68B
- 3 PetroChina International – \$36.80B
- 4 Equinor – \$32.13B
- 5 TotalEnergies – \$31.12B
- 6 Shell – \$27.35B
- 7 CNOOC International – \$27.27B
- 8 Chevron – \$25.45B
- 9 Petrobras – \$19.47B
- 10 ConocoPhillips – \$14.96B
- 11 SINOPEC – \$14.17B
- 12 bp – \$12.80B

Big Oil is still booming.
And one company is miles ahead of the rest.



Gus Rivero • 2nd
Chief Ventures Officer at Efficient Markets: EnergyNet | Government
4d • Edited • 🌐

The latest North Dakota oil and gas lease sale has officially set a new record, generating \$13.6 million in high bids and surpassing the previous record of \$8.3 million from August 2019.

Key tracts saw intense bidding, with some leases fetching more than \$30,000 per acre. Major industry players, including Phoenix Energy One, dba Phoenix Energy, Incline Energy Partners, and Kraken Oil & Gas, made significant investments, signaling a bullish outlook for the region.

This sale follows Montana's recent \$5.4 million lease sale, reinforcing the growing demand for high-quality oil and gas assets in the region.

The full analysis, including the highest-grossing tracts, key players, and what this means for the market, is now available.

**Follow DEPA
on Linked-In**



James Lankford • Following
US Senator for Oklahoma
3d • 🌐

At 4:30 this morning the Senate finished the all-night votes - it was drama all night as Democrats tried to block us from starting the process to fund more border security, increase military defense and start more spending cuts. There are many more votes to go, but we won round one.



WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS



DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

The welfare of the U.S. and the world begins with energy. With the change in administration, we now have leadership that understands the importance of domestic oil and gas production in achieving energy dominance and strengthening our economy. However, our work is far from over.

A pro-fossil fuel administration provides us with a unique opportunity to make meaningful strides, but it does not mean we can afford to sit back and relax. We must continue to engage, educate, and advocate to ensure that the foundation of our energy security remains strong for generations to come. Policies and regulations can shift quickly, and it is vital that we stay vigilant and proactive in defending our industry against misinformation and unnecessary regulatory hurdles.

DEPA remains committed to bringing facts and clear thinking to the table where energy challenges are being discussed. Our presence in Washington, D.C., is critical to ensuring that lawmakers understand the real-world impact of their decisions and the essential role our industry plays in the lives of all Americans.

The most powerful way you can make a difference is by becoming a DEPA member or renewing your membership. Your support strengthens our ability to advocate for policies that protect and promote American oil and gas. But membership is just the beginning—you can amplify DEPA's impact by staying engaged, spreading the word to your network, and ensuring that industry voices are heard where it matters most.

Thank you for your dedication to DEPA and for everything you do to support our mission. Together, we can secure a strong, thriving, and energy-dominant future for our nation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Simmons

DEPA President/CEO

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS



DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

MEMBER INFORMATION:

MEMBER NAME: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PRIMARY EMAIL: _____

SECONDARY EMAIL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

SEND AN ELECTRONIC INVOICE

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

405-669-6646

INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG

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

“Let’s all check our desires to be fashionable or hip when we talk about energy. Energy is so critical to human well-being that we must speak honestly, candidly, and frequently to combat the increasingly damaging plague of energy ignorance that has taken over our country and much of the western world.”

- Chris Wright, Liberty Energy CEO and DEPA Board Member

DEPA PAC

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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 relations with the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government.

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