

CLAY GASPAR TAKES THE HELM AT DEVON ENERGY

Devon Energy Corporation (NYSE: DVN) announced at the end of the year it's CEO Rick Muncrief, would be retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of Directors, effective March 1, 2025. Clay Gaspar, Devon's then Chief Operating Officer, was selected to succeed Muncrief in both roles.

Muncrief's retirement marked the end of a distinguished 45-year career in the oil and gas industry. Since the merger with WPX Energy in 2021, Rick's leadership has been instrumental in delivering significant value to Devon shareholders. His influence, however, extends far beyond Devon. Rick has long been a recognized leader across the energy sector, serving in technical and management roles for multiple companies and holding key positions in numerous industry trade groups and civic organizations.

Among those leadership roles, Rick has also been a dedicated and long-serving member of the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) Board of Directors. For many years, he has supported DEPA's mission in Washington, D.C., advocating for the needs and interests of independent oil and gas producers across the country.

"Rick has been a trusted voice and a steady hand in our organization, and we are incredibly grateful for the time, insight, and leadership he's given to DEPA," said Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of DEPA. "We congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and thank him for his decades of service to the oil and gas industry. Rick's presence will certainly be missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire us."

As part of this transition, DEPA is also pleased to announce that Clay Gaspar will be stepping into Rick's seat on the Board of Directors. Clay has already been deeply involved with DEPA for many years, most recently through his valua-

ble service on our ESG committee. His thoughtful, solutionsoriented leadership will be an asset as we continue our work on behalf of domestic energy producers

Reflecting on his career, Muncrief said, "It has been an honor to lead Devon over the last four years and WPX Energy for the seven years prior as well. I believe the company is nicely positioned for the future. Our portfolio of assets is second to none and I am confident our experienced leadership team and talented employees will take the company to greater heights in the future. Clay is a proven leader with significant experience in all aspects of our business and I couldn't be more excited about Devon's future with him in the CEO role."



RICK MUNCRIEF

CLAY GASPAR

Gaspar responded, "I am excited and humbled for the opportunity to

lead such an outstanding organization. I want to thank Rick for his leadership and mentorship. We will remain focused on operating excellence across our portfolio of assets to deliver competitive and sustainable returns for our shareholders. Devon's strategic objectives will remain the same while we leverage this opportunity to raise the bar."

DEPA congratulates both Rick and Clay as they take the next steps in their careers and looks forward to working closely with Clay as he brings his leadership and insight to our Board.



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PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER DEFENDS U.S. ENERGY SECURITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

New Action to Rein in Overreach by States Bolsters American Energy Dominance

On April 8, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued a sweeping Executive Order aimed at restoring the primacy of federal authority over energy policy and eliminating unlawful state-level obstructions to domestic energy production. In a bold move to reaffirm the role of traditional energy sources in American prosperity and security, the order directs the U.S. Attorney General to identify and challenge burdensome state laws and policies that unconstitutionally restrict energy development and drive up energy costs for all Americans.

The order underscores a central tenet of the President's energy agenda: "Americans are better off when the United States is energy dominant." The statement affirms the Administration's intention to remove illegitimate impediments to the identification, development, siting, production, investment

bon trading scheme, which places a crushing economic burden on energy providers and consumers alike.

Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of the Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance (DEPA), issued the following statement in strong support of the Executive Order:

The Executive Order mandates that the Attorney General, in coordination with relevant federal agencies, report within 60 days on illegal state-level actions and take all appropriate legal steps to stop them. This includes evaluating state laws focused on climate-related financial disclosure mandates, carbon penalties, and ESG-driven investment restrictions that create hostile environments for traditional energy development.

Jerry Simmons, DEPA President and CEO issued the following statement in strong support of the Executive Order:

"This action by President Trump is a clear and decisive step in defense of American energy producers, American jobs, and American families. For too long, politically driven state policies have attempted to override the constitutional balance of federalism and impose unjust burdens on domestic oil and gas. By reaffirming the essential role of fossil fuels in national security and economic stability, this order sends a powerful message: America's energy future will not be dictated by fringe ideologies or out-of-state lawsuits — it will be built by American producers, for the American people."

in, or use of domestic energy resources — including oil, natural gas, coal, hydropower, geothermal, biofuels, and nuclear.

In a direct rebuke of what the order describes as "climate change extortion laws" and ideologically motivated ESG initiatives at the state level, the Administration is now mobilizing federal legal resources to halt enforcement of these actions where they are deemed unconstitutional or preempted by federal law. Notable examples cited in the order include efforts in New York and Vermont to retroactively fine energy producers for global emissions, and California's car-

This is a watershed moment for the U.S. energy sector. If implemented effectively, the Executive Order will create a more stable investment environment, empower producers with regulatory certainty, and ensure that American energy policy remains grounded in national interest — not political theater.

As always, DEPA will remain engaged with the Administration and key federal agencies to support the full implementation of this order and advocate for policies that unleash American energy potential.



PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY FROM STATE OVERREACH

Executive Orders

April 8, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

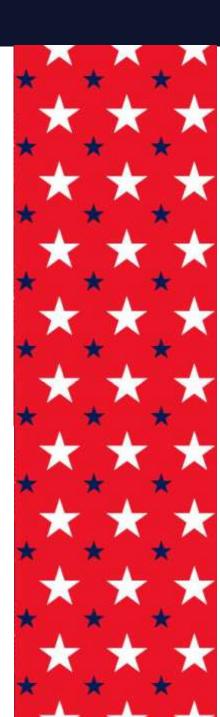
Section 1. Purpose.

My Administration is committed to unleashing American energy, especially through the removal of all illegitimate impediments to the identification, development, siting, production, investment in, or use of domestic energy resources — particularly oil, natural gas, coal, hydropower, geothermal, biofuel, critical mineral, and nuclear energy resources. An affordable and reliable domestic energy supply is essential to the national and economic security of the United States, as well as our foreign policy. Simply put, Americans are better off when the United States is energy dominant.

American energy dominance is threatened when State and local governments seek to regulate energy beyond their constitutional or statutory authorities. For example, when States target or discriminate against out-of-State energy producers by imposing significant barriers to interstate and international trade, American energy suffers, and the equality of each State enshrined by the Constitution is undermined. Similarly, when States subject energy producers to arbitrary or excessive fines through retroactive penalties or seek to control energy development, siting, or production activities on Federal land, American energy suffers.

Many States have enacted, or are in the process of enacting, burdensome and ideologically motivated "climate change" or energy policies that threaten American energy dominance and our economic and national security. New York, for example, enacted a "climate change" extortion law that seeks to retroactively impose billions in fines (erroneously labelled "compensatory payments") on traditional energy producers for their purported past contributions to greenhouse gas emissions not only in New York but also anywhere in the United States and the world. Vermont similarly extorts energy producers for alleged past contributions to greenhouse gas emissions anywhere in the United States or the globe.

Other States have taken different approaches in an effort to dictate national energy policy. California, for example, punishes carbon use by adopting impossible caps on the amount of carbon businesses may use, all but forcing businesses to pay large sums to "trade" carbon credits to meet California's radical requirements. Some States delay review of permit applications to produce energy, creating de facto barriers to entry in the energy market. States have also sued energy com-





panies for supposed "climate change" harm under nuisance or other tort regimes that could result in crippling damages.

These State laws and policies weaken our national security and devastate Americans by driving up energy costs for families coast-to-coast, despite some of these families not living or voting in States with these crippling poli-

cies. These laws and policies also undermine Federalism by projecting the regulatory preferences of a few States into all States. Americans must be permitted to heat their homes, fuel their cars, and have peace of mind — free from policies that make energy more expensive and inevitably degrade quality of life.

These State laws and policies try to dictate interstate and international disputes over air, water, and natural resources; unduly discriminate against out-of-State businesses; contravene the equality of States; and retroactively impose arbitrary and excessive fines without legitimate justification. These State laws and policies are fundamentally irreconcilable with my Administration's objective to unleash American energy. They should not stand.

Sec. 2. State Laws and Causes of Action.

- (a) The Attorney General, in consultation with the heads of appropriate executive departments and agencies, shall identify all State and local laws, regulations, causes of action, policies, and practices (collectively, State laws) burdening the identification, development, siting, production, or use of domestic energy resources that are or may be unconstitutional, preempted by Federal law, or otherwise unenforceable. The Attorney General shall prioritize the identification of any such State laws purporting to address "climate change" or involving "environmental, social, and governance" initiatives, "environmental justice," carbon or "greenhouse gas" emissions, and funds to collect carbon penalties or carbon taxes.
- (b) The Attorney General shall expeditiously take all appropriate action to stop the enforcement of State laws and continuation of civil actions identified in subsection (a) of this section that the Attorney General determines to be illegal.
- (c) Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Attorney General shall submit a report to the President, through the Counsel to the President, regarding actions taken under subsection (b) of this section. The Attorney General shall also recommend any additional Presidential or legislative action necessary to stop the enforcement of State laws identified in subsection (a) of this section that the Attorney General determines to be illegal or otherwise fulfill the purpose of this order.

Sec. 3. 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, 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.



DOI'S EMERGENCY PERMITTING PLAN A GAME-CHANGER FOR U.S. ENERGY INDUSTRY

In response to President Trump's declaration of a National Energy Emergency, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced April 23rd, sweeping new emergency permitting procedures that will dramatically accelerate the approval of domestic energy and critical mineral projects.

This landmark move will reduce what has traditionally been a multi-year permitting process to as little as 14 to 28 days, depending on the level of environmental review required. The expedited procedures will apply to the full range of energy development activities—identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, and generation—and cover a wide variety of energy sources, including crude oil, natural gas, uranium, coal, biofuels, and geothermal, as well as critical minerals essential to the nation's infrastructure and defense.

"This is exactly the kind of bold, decisive leadership the U.S. energy sector needs right now," said Jerry Simmons, President of the Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance. "These streamlined permitting procedures will allow America's independent producers to do what they do best—develop our abundant domestic resources safely and efficiently, while strengthening the economy and securing our nation's energy future. We applaud the Department of the Interior for recognizing that delays in energy development are not just bureaucratic hurdles—they are threats to national security."

The Department will invoke emergency authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act to allow for dramatically shortened review times. Environmental assessments, which normally take up to a year, will now be completed within approximately 14 days. Environmental impact statements, often a two-year process, will be completed in just 28 days.

Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum emphasized the urgency behind the policy shift. "President Trump has made it clear that our energy security is national security," Burgum stated. "We are cutting through unnecessary delays to fast-track the development of American energy and critical min-

erals—resources that are essential to our economy, our military readiness, and our global competitiveness."

For the domestic oil and gas industry, this initiative presents a rare opportunity to move forward with projects that have been stalled by regulatory red tape. The accelerated permitting process not only boosts production potential but also sends a strong signal to global markets that the United States is serious about achieving energy dominance.

National Environmental Policy Act: The Department will be adopting an alternative National Environmental Policy Act compliance process to allow for more concise documents and a compressed timeline.

- Projects analyzed in an environmental assessment, normally taking up to one year, will now be reviewed within approximately 14 days.
- Projects requiring a full environmental impact statement, typically a two-year process, will be reviewed in roughly 28 days.

Endangered Species Act: An <u>expedited Section 7 consultation process</u> will be implemented, which involves the appropriate bureau notifying the Fish and Wildlife Service that it is using emergency consultation procedures. Following such notification, the appropriate bureau can then proceed with deciding whether to approve the action.

National Historic Preservation Act: Bureaus will follow alternative procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for proposed undertakings responding to the energy emergency, which include notifying the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties like-



ly to be affected by a proposed undertaking and affording them an opportunity to comment within seven days of the notification. Following that notification and comment period, the appropriate bureau will take into account any comments received and then decide whether to approve the proposed undertaking.

The National Energy Emergency declaration states: "Our Nation's current inadequate development of domestic energy resources leaves us vulnerable to hostile foreign actors and poses an imminent and growing threat to the United States' prosperity and national security." Accordingly, the Department of the Interior is acting swiftly to reduce these vulnerabilities by facilitating the rapid permitting of energy and critical mineral projects that are vital to the nation's economic resilience and energy independence.

The Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance will continue to monitor the implementation of these emergency procedures and work closely with DOI and congressional leaders to ensure independent producers can fully leverage this new pathway to responsible development.

ELECTRIFIED ASSUMPTIONS: MOST OF OUR ENERGY STILL ISN'T ELECTRIC

By Leen Weijers, VP Engineering at Liberty Energy

In some recent polling during presentations, I found that most students think that about half of all their primary energy needs are delivered through electricity.

This is WAY off. In the United States (), only about 18% of all our end-use energy comes from electricity. In the world, as per <u>OurWorldInData.org</u> (<u>https://lnkd.in/evPqbKsa</u>), it is 19% and in the "electrify everything" EU-27 it is a whopping 21%. My native Holland is only at 14%.

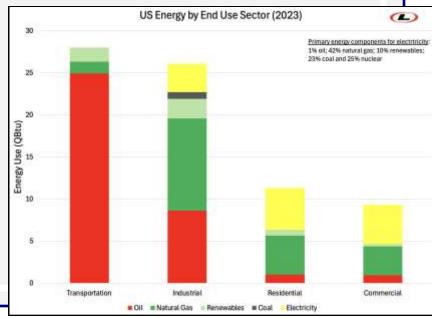
It is not very surprising that people are so far off. First, sloppy media reporting often equates primary energy with electricity. Ignoring other major uses of energy makes the renewable share look bigger, showing more apparent

progress and growth.

But the renewable share of the primary energy pie remains tiny (https://lnkd.in/ewx7ai8J). Despite \$trillions in taxpayer handouts, often at ridiculous multiples of the market cost of carbon, wind and solar represent less than 3% of the energy end-use pie. Renewables simply do not have the versatility of fossil fuels to contribute to other end-uses beyond electricity.

Secondly, a source of confusion is that electricity barely contributes to the two biggest end-use sectors that we tend to forget when we think about our "domestic" energy use: almost

CONT'D ON PAGE 9





In a recent letter to Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), four key Republican senators—Lisa Murkowski (AK), John Curtis (UT), Thom Tillis (NC), and Jerry Moran (KS)-voiced strong opposition to a full-scale repeal of energy tax credits, including those enacted under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. Their message? Maintaining a stable and predictable tax framework is essential for continued investment in domestic energy production and infrastructure—traditional and renewable alike.

The letter, sent as Congress April 10th works through potential budget reconciliation measures, cautions against wholesale elimination of existing energy credits. While the lawmakers acknowledge the importance of fiscal responsibility and tax reform, they emphasize that abrupt changes to tax provisions would "create uncertainty, jeopardizing capital allocation, long-term project planning, and job creation."

"As our discussions on budget reconciliation continue, we urge you to consider each existing tax credit for its ability to: (1) spur new domestic manufacturing and investment;

(2) reduce utility bills for consumers, especially in rural remote communities: and

(3) ensure certainty for businesses that have already made meaningful U.S. investments based on the current credit structure.'

Summary of Key Points from the Senators' Letter:

• Support for an All-of-the-Above **Energy Strategy:**

The senators underscored that the U.S. produces some of the cleanest and most efficient energy globally. They advocate for a balanced approach that supports both traditional fossil fuels and renewable sources.

• Tax Credit Stability **Encourages Investment:**

Many energy producers and infrastructure developers have made significant long-term investments based on the current tax code. Repealing these credits midstream risks derailing projects and deterring future capital commitments.

• Protecting Consumers:

Some tax credits directly reduce utility bills, particularly in rural and remote areas. Eliminating these credits could lead to higher energy costs for American families.

• Economic & National **Security Impact:**

Repealing credits that incentivize domestic energy production could harm U.S. efforts to strengthen supply



chains, restore manufacturing, and reduce reliance on foreign energy.

• Call for Targeted Reforms, Not Blanket Repeals: The senators are not rejecting reform altogether. They are asking for a "targeted, pragmatic

approach" that balances budget goals with the need for investment certainty and economic competitiveness.

Implications for U.S. Consumers and the Fossil Fuel Industry

A sudden repeal of energy tax credits—particularly those that pass benefits directly to ratepayers—could result in higher utility bills. This would disproportionately affect lower-income households and rural Americans who already face energy access challenges. It could also slow the growth of domestic energy supply, potentially increasing prices further due to constrained capacity.

While some credits in question were designed to promote low-carbon or renewable energy, several tax provisions within the IRA and previous legislation also benefit fossil fuel producers—for example, incentives for carbon capture, pipeline infrastructure, and domestic manufacturing related to oil and gas development. A full-scale repeal could:

• Disrupt capital investment planning and delay infrastructure upgrades.

- Undermine the certainty investors need to back major drilling and refining projects.
- Put U.S. producers at a disadvantage in the global energy market.
- Slow job creation and economic development in energy-producing states.

At a time when global energy demand is surging and geopolitical instability threatens supply chains, the U.S. must maintain its leadership in responsible energy production. That requires policy stability and clear signals from Washington—not sweeping rollbacks that spook investors and slow innovation.

This pushback from four Republican senators—potential swing votes in budget negotiations—may prove decisive. It also echoes earlier warnings from 21 House Republicans, indicating a growing coalition in support of preserving at least some energy tax credits.

As oil and gas professionals, we know that our industry thrives on long-term planning, consistent regulatory signals, and fair tax treatment. Sweeping policy reversals risk undermining the very foundation of America's energy strength.

The Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance will continue monitoring developments and advocating for policies that protect American energy producers and consumers alike.

ELECTRIFIED ASSUMPTIONS CONT'D FROM PAGE 7

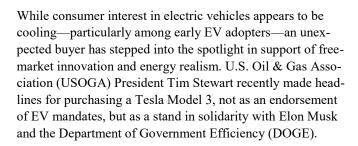
nothing to transportation and a fraction (13%) to industrial use. Our residential and commercial use are simply more visible to us as energy we consume. And indeed, for residential and commercial, electricity represents about half of our use, while the other roughly half is natural gas.

To summarize in the graph (on page 7), here is a simple stupid split in end use for all our US energy needs. About a third of our energy end use is for transportation; another third for industrial use to make "stuff"; and, the final third for commercial and residential use, roughly split in sixths between natural gas heating and electricity.

Electricity is a secondary energy source that comes mostly from natural gas. Beyond that, it should now be clear that Electricity \neq Primary Energy.

USOGA PRESIDENT MAKES HEADLINES WITH TESLA PURCHASE

BACKS NATURAL GAS-POWERED TRANSPORTATION CHOICE



"This is about protesting the protesters," Stewart told Fox Business in a recent interview. His comments come amid a wave of backlash from activists who are targeting Tesla vehicles and picketing Musk-affiliated businesses, objecting to the DOGE initiative's staffing cuts and broader government streamlining efforts. Critics argue that Musk's influence over public policy is inappropriate given his companies' federal contracts.

Stewart pushed back hard: "We're seeing a veritable army of morons who squeal like a stuck pig any time the government is held to a standard of accountability or efficiency," he said. His solution? "I'm opening my wallet. And since it'll be charged with electricity generated by natural gas—it makes



sense to give it a shot."

The nod to natural gas is no accident. Stewart's remarks highlight an important but often overlooked truth: most EVs on U.S. roads today are powered—indirectly—by domestic natural gas. With over 40% of U.S. electricity still generated from natural gas, his Tesla is, in effect, running on American energy.

The move may raise eyebrows in some circles, but Stewart says his aim is pragmatic. "As the EV transition unfolds, we need voices from our industry participating in the conversation. This isn't about abandoning oil and gas—it's about holding policymakers accountable and reminding them where electricity really comes from."

This isn't Stewart's first foray into EV ownership. He previously purchased a Volkswagen ID.4 in 2022, which he described as a frustrating experience due to software issues and supply delays. "The only real value in that experience is being able to complain about it whenever I'm on TV," he quipped.

EV TAX CREDITS REVAMPED UNDER SPENDING BILL 33,885.59

The Tesla purchase comes at a moment when climate politics, EV subsidies, and federal contracting are deeply intertwined. USOGA, which advocates for exploration and production policies that support domestic oil and natural gas producers, continues to use its platform—including Musk-owned X—to push back on flawed narratives around energy policy and climate alarmism.

For Stewart, the message is clear: the EV market doesn't have to be anti-oil and gas. In fact, without natural gas, it doesn't move at all.

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RARE VINTAGE GAS GLOBES SHINE AT UPCOMING AUCTION

For those in the oil and gas industry who appreciate the rich legacy of American petroleum marketing, a rare opportunity is fast approaching. The <u>Annual Spring Big Boy Toy Auction</u>, set for May 2–3 in French Lick, Indiana, will feature a selection of highly collectible gas pump globes from the prestigious **Dennis Curlee Gas Globe & Root Art Collection**—a name well known among petroliana enthusiasts.

Leading the lineup are three exceptional vintage gas globes, each capturing the visual identity of fuel brands that once defined the American roadside. These milk glass and porcelain pieces are more than nostalgic décor—they're physical reminders of the early branding strategies that helped build public trust in fuel quality and station reliability during the formative years of the oil and gas industry.

Among the featured pieces:

• Super Shell Ethyl Gas Pump
Globe: A bold 18" x 18" two-sided
milk glass globe with 11" depth,
showcasing the classic red and yellow Shell branding.
Its vivid color and excellent condition are expected to
draw strong bidding.

• Red Crown Ethyl Globe: This 17" square globe offers clean lines and striking red-on-white Standard Oil imagery. Once associated with premium fuels, the Red Crown name reflects a time when refining quality and brand loyalty went hand in hand.



• Gold and Red Crown Globe:

At 16" square, this rare piece highlights a unique color palette and early 20th-century design. It's a standout for collectors seeking high-impact historical visuals from the dawn of modern petroleum marketing.

These globes, known for their originality and preservation, aren't just relics—they're curated artifacts of

our industry's evolution, showcasing how early fuel retailers communicated trust, performance, and identity through powerful visual branding.

The Spring Big Boy Toy Auction is expected to draw seri-

ous collectors and industry professionals alike, with more than 500 lots of classic cars, vintage signage, and automobilia, many of which will sell **at no reserve**. The event will be held **indoors at the French Lick Resort**, making it a comfortable and accessible destination for bidders from across the Midwest and beyond.



Whether you're a collector, a nostalgic gearhead, or simply someone who appreciates the heritage of oil and gas, this auction offers a rare chance to own a piece of petroleum history.

Once tossed aside as junk, old gas station signs, branded oil cans, and even employee uniforms and customized employee recognition

from long-gone companies like Skelley Oil, Standard Oil, Phillips, Sinclair, and Conoco are now hot commodities in the world of collectors. What was once everyday industry gear is now nostalgic gold, with some items commanding hundreds—or even thousands—of dollars at auctions and antique shows

This surge in interest reflects more than just vintage appeal. For many, it's a way to honor the legacy of the American energy industry and preserve a tangible piece of history. Rusty pump globes, enamel signs, and grease-stained maps tell the story of a nation built on oil, grit, and innovation.

Keep an eye out—what's gathering dust in your garage might just be a collector's treasure. Don't underestimate the logo note pads and silly conference swag that never made it out of the box when you changed jobs. There might have some real value in those items; If not now, then later.

Equally what you might consider trash when cleaning out your parent garage certainly has a resale market, oil can, unused items in their original packags

GREEN GROUPS SUE US GOV'T OVER WEBSITE CHANGES: HERE IS THE REST OF THE STORY

The Bush and Obama administrations both made extensive changes to EPA websites and data repositories in response to their differing priorities on energy development and environmental protection. The 2021 transition under President Biden also saw widespread changes to government websites and reimplementation of previously archived environmental justice tools—raising no legal complaints from those now suing the Trump administration.

A group of environmental organizations, led by the Sierra Club, recently filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration over the removal of various environmental and climate justice tools from federal agency websites. Their

complaint, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, alleges that tools like EJScreen, a Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, and several others were removed unlawfully in violation of the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Administrative Procedure Act.

While environmental groups are calling the removals a dangerous rollback of public access to climate data, there's a different side to the story—one that raises serious questions about the neutrality, purpose, and use of these tools and whether the federal government should be promoting them at all.

remained focused on the core missions of each agency.

Critics of the tools have long raised concerns about the lack of transparency in the development and application of tools like EJScreen. **These tools often rely on unverified model-**

ing assumptions and composite indices that can misrepresent the true causes of environmental or economic burdens. They may also be used to justify disproportionate regulatory enforcement or halt infrastructure projects based on subjective or shifting environmental justice criteria.

EJSCREEN Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.3)

This is an unofficial copy of EJScreen hosted by the Public Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on an example of the Environmental Data Partners. We are working on the Environmental Data Partners. We are workin

"They're often wielded as political weapons by advocacy groups to block energy development and infrastructure expansion. The tools may be presented as scientific, but they're built on highly selective data inputs and activist-driven assumptions." "EJScreen and similar tools are not neutral," says a policy advisor to a national oil and gas trade association. "They're often wielded as political weapons by advocacy groups to block energy development and infrastructure expansion. The tools may be presented as scientific, but they're built on highly selective data inputs

and activist-driven assumptions."

layers of complexity to the permitting process for energy

infrastructure projects. Understanding and proactively ad-

project success and community well-being.

dressing environmental justice considerations is essential for

encies comtal justice

While environmental justice tools can play a role in promoting equitable development, they also introduce additional

Why Were the Tools Removed?

The Trump administration, early in its tenure, undertook a broad effort to review and revise how federal agencies communicate about climate change and environmental justice. According to senior officials at the time, several web resources were removed not as an act of censorship but as part of a broader effort to ensure that public-facing tools and data sets met specific quality standards, were not politicized, and

Influence on Permitting Decisions

- **Screening for Environmental Justice Concerns:** EJScreen is utilized to identify communities that may be disproportionately affected by proposed projects. This initial screening helps agencies determine if further environmental justice analysis is necessary. US EPA
- Informing Public Participation: The data from environmental justice tools guide agencies in enhancing public involvement, especially in communities identified as vulnerable. This ensures that affected populations have a voice in the permitting process. US EPA
- Guiding Mitigation Measures: When environmental justice concerns are identified, agencies may require project proponents to implement mitigation strategies to address potential adverse impacts on affected communities. Energy Infrastructure Council

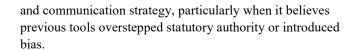
Implications for Energy Projects

- **Extended Timelines:** The incorporation of environmental justice analyses can lengthen the permitting process, as additional studies and community consultations may be required. American Bar Association
- **Increased Scrutiny**: Projects in or near vulnerable communities may face heightened examination, potentially leading to modifications in project design or even denial of permits.
- **Legal Challenges**: Failure to adequately address environmental justice concerns can result in legal disputes, causing further delays and financial implications for project developers.

Has This Happened Before?

Yes. It's not unprecedented for federal agencies to revise, archive, or remove online tools and pages—especially when a new administration takes office. Previous administrations

have also archived or replaced data sets and policy guidance when making shifts in regulatory priorities. This is standard practice and reflects the reality that each administration is entitled to set its own policy agenda



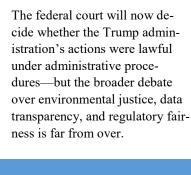
For example, the Bush and Obama administrations both made extensive changes to EPA websites and data repositories in response to their differing priorities on energy development and environmental protection. The 2021 transition under President Biden also saw widespread changes to government websites and reimplementation of previously archived environmental justice tools—raising no legal complaints from those now suing the Trump administration.

What's at Stake?

This lawsuit is about far more than a handful of federal websites. It's part of a broader fight over how the federal government frames energy development, risk, and regulation. Allowing third-party groups to develop, influence, or enforce regulatory screening tools—especially without rigorous peer review—creates uncertainty for project developers and undermines the principles of fair and lawful permitting.

Moreover, the removal of these tools did not eliminate any underlying data. Most of the raw data sets—air quality, demographics, industrial emissions—remained publicly accessible through other federal databases. The issue is not about transparency, but about how that data is packaged, presented, and politically leveraged.

Oil and gas professionals should be aware that the lawsuit over these website removals is not simply a matter of public access to information. It is a challenge to the federal government's right to reassess tools it deems politically motivated or methodologically flawed. While environmental groups frame the issue as a loss of transparency, others see it as a necessary reset on tools that have been used to stall energy development and create regulatory uncertainty.





BURIED DOE REPORT EXPOSES FLAWS IN BIDEN LNG PAUSE JUST AS PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD NEARS END

"I was extremely disappointed to see what was done. In fact, last night I was reading the original report on LNG prepared by the Department of Energy in 2023 that clearly showed it was in America's interest to grow our LNG exports, and it wouldn't impact domestic prices and, in fact, it would lower greenhouse emissions," - Secretary of Energy Chris Wright

A long-shelved Department of Energy (DOE) study, recently uncovered is raising new questions about the Biden administration's controversial pause on U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) export approvals. The internal DOE analysis—completed in September 2023 but never made public—contradicts key claims used to justify the moratorium. The study found that expanding U.S. LNG exports would have only modest effects on domestic gas prices and may actually *reduce* global greenhouse gas emissions.

By contrast, a second DOE report—released in December 2024 to accompany the pause—warned that more LNG exports could significantly raise wholesale gas prices and increase global emissions. The existence of two conflicting studies has intensified industry concerns that science was selectively used to justify political decisions, not policy grounded in fact.

"Calling LNG a climate villain ignores the reality that American natural gas has been the single most effective tool in reducing power-sector emissions over the last decade," said Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of the Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance (DEPA). "We now know that even the Department of Energy's own data didn't support the Biden administration's narrative."

The unpublished DOE draft, dated Sept. 5, 2023, reportedly found that in all modeled scenarios, residential natural gas prices rose by less than 4%—a far cry from the 30% price spike projected in the later study. Even more significantly, the first report showed that in multiple scenarios, U.S. LNG exports would lead to *lower* global greenhouse gas emissions by displacing dirtier coal in other countries.

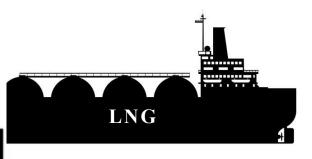
These findings were withheld from the public and Congress for nearly a year, drawing sharp criticism from lawmakers. "The Biden Department of Energy withheld key data from both the American people and Congress in order to push forward their radical environmental agenda," said Rep. James Comer (R-KY), Chair of the House Oversight Committee.

"I was extremely disappointed to see what was done. In fact, last night I was reading the original report on LNG prepared by the Department of Energy in 2023 that clearly showed it was in America's interest to grow our LNG exports, and it wouldn't impact domestic prices and, in fact, it would lower greenhouse emissions," Energy Secretary Chris Wright Said March 19, in an interview with Stuart Varney on the "Varney & Co" Fox Network show.

The public comment period for the second, more pessimistic DOE study closed March 20. Industry advocates argue that the contradictory findings prove that the methodology and assumptions behind the December 2024 assessment deserve a thorough reevaluation.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump—on his first day back in office—revoked the pause and approved new export licenses for Commonwealth LNG LLC and Venture Global LNG Inc., both of which had been stalled under Biden's freeze.

DEPA applauds Secretary of Energy Chris Wright's leadership in signing LNG export approvals and restoring the flow of American energy to our allies. His quick action is a clear signal to the world that the United States is back in the business of supplying clean, reliable energy.



Still, the shadow of the suppressed 2023 analysis looms over current LNG policy. Because federal law requires export licenses be approved only if they serve the "public interest," critics of expanded LNG infrastructure may attempt to use either study as legal ammunition in court battles to come.

For American oil and gas professionals, the revelations surrounding the Biden administration's handling of LNG exports highlight a deeper issue: politicized decision-making is undermining U.S. energy security, investment certainty, and global climate progress.

As Simmons put it: "LNG isn't the enemy—it's part of the solution. The administration's own research confirms what we've known all along: American natural gas is critical to lowering emissions, ensuring energy security, and supporting working families at home and abroad."

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS?

If a government agency like the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issues a report, and that report is later found to have been suppressed or manipulated for political reasons, and policy actions were based on an alternate version more favorable to the administration's goals, there are several possible legal, administrative, and political consequences — but reversing a policy when this sort of thing happens is, surprisingly, not automatic. It is a series of hearings, investigations, reports and committee work.

So far the Trump administration's DOE has undertaken several actions to address and rectify what it perceives as misinformation and policy missteps related to LNG exports from the previous administration.

1. RESCINDING THE LNG EXPORT COMMENCEMENT POLICY

In early April 2025, the DOE rescinded a Biden-era policy that imposed stringent criteria on LNG exporters seeking to extend their project commencement dates. The previous policy required projects to be under construction and to demonstrate extenuating circumstances beyond their control to qualify for an extension. The Trump administration has reverted to a case-by-case review process, aiming to reduce regulatory barriers and expedite LNG project development

2. LIFTING THE FREEZE ON LNG EXPORT PERMITS

On January 22, 2025, President Trump lifted a moratorium on LNG export permits that had been imposed by the Biden administration to study environmental and economic impacts. This decision enabled companies such as Cheniere Energy, Commonwealth LNG, and Energy Transfer to advance their LNG projects in Texas and Louisiana, with plans to increase capacity by nearly 100 million metric tons by 2031.

3. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY OF DOE STUDIES

The Trump DOE has made efforts to release previously unpublished studies that suggest LNG exports have minimal impact on domestic gas prices and may reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by displacing coal in other countries. This move has been praised by lawmakers who criticized the prior administration for withholding such information.

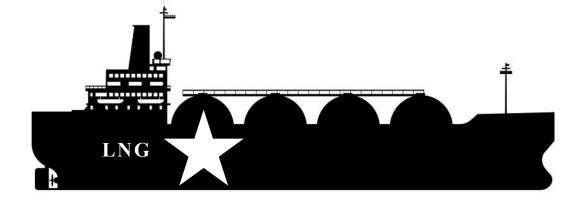
4. FAST-TRACKING LNG PROJECT APPROVALS

The administration is actively fast-tracking export permits for LNG terminals. While this initiative aims to bolster U.S. energy exports, it faces challenges such as rising costs, labor shortages, and difficulties in securing long-term customers.



5. STRATEGIC TRADE MEASURES

In a move to strengthen domestic LNG shipping, the Trump administration announced new tariffs on Chinese-owned and -built ships docking in U.S. ports. A second phase, set to take effect in three years, will impose restrictions on foreign vessels transporting LNG, favoring U.S.-built LNG carriers.



The Trump administration is taking clear steps to boost U.S. LNG exports, protect American energy jobs, and strengthen energy partnerships with our allies. By lifting the pause on export approvals and making the process faster and more efficient, the Department of Energy is working to reestablish the U.S. as a global energy leader.

HARD HATS AND GOODNIGHTS:

A TRIBUTE TO THE OIL PATCH FOR LITTLE ONES

Snuggle up to your loved ones and say goodnight to the oil patch!

As the sun goes down, join the car ride around the oilfield – from computer code to lease road - as it gets ready to call it a night. A story for all ages, this oilfield picture book is sure to leave you smiling!

An accomplished children's book author and illustrator, Kyle Wagner started Punkindooger Publishing,

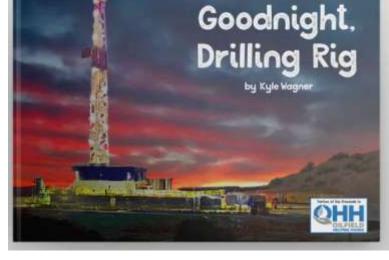
now PKD Publishing, to provide

literature to children that focuses on important people, events, and industries in our world.

He, his wife Cye, daughter Davis, and son Conrad live in Fort Worth, TX and are proud to actively serve their community, state, and country through many organizations, including board

Visit the website to purchase some of Kyle Wagner's books about our industry.

and leadership capacities at the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth and Kindness Duck Project.









Energy and Commerce:

THE CONGRESSIONAL POWERHOUSE THAT AFFECTS MORE THAN YOU THINK

If you're an oil and gas professional who only tunes into the House Energy and Commerce Committee when energy policy is on the agenda, you might be missing the bigger picture. The committee met, for example, on April 8, to consider legislation that spans far beyond pipelines, power grids, and environmental regulation. From lithium-ion battery safety and blockchain development to hotel fee transparency and romance scam prevention, the scope of this committee is remarkably broad—and intentionally so.

WHY SO MANY TOPICS?

At first glance, it's puzzling to see topics like the *Romance Scam Prevention Act* and the *American Music Tourism Act* being considered alongside legislation about telecommunications security and semiconductor supply chains. But the common thread is jurisdiction. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce, originally established in 1795, is one of the oldest standing committees in Congress and has grown to hold one of the broadest jurisdictions in the House.

The committee's reach includes not just traditional energy issues, but also:

- Commerce and consumer protection
- Telecommunications and broadband
- Health policy, including public health and drug safety
- Technology and cybersecurity
- Environmental matters under the Clean Air Act
- Trade and manufacturing



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRETT GUTHRIE

Congressman Guthrie represents Kentucky's Second Congressional. He was elected by his colleagues to serve as the Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for the 119th Congress.

He graduated from West Point and went on to serve as a Field Artillery Officer in the 101st Airborne Division – Air Assault at Fort Campbell. Guthrie later earned a Master's Degree from Yale University in Public and Private Management.

Following his military service, he joined Trace Die Cast, the Bowling Green, Ky., based manufacturing business that was started by his father.

First elected to public office in 1998, Guthrie represented the 32nd District in the Kentucky Senate until being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008.

That jurisdiction means that any legislation dealing with interstate commerce, innovation, healthcare, communications networks, or consumer transparency often winds up under the Energy and Commerce umbrella.

APRIL 8 AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

This hearing alone featured more than two dozen bills, including:

- H.R. 1442 Youth Poisoning Protection Act: Targeting child safety through packaging and product standards.
- H.R. 633 TAKE IT DOWN Act: Combating the spread of deepfakes online.
- H.R. 2480 Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act: Ensuring the U.S. remains competitive in critical chip manufacturing.
- H.R. 2444 Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act: Aimed at strengthening America's manufacturing backbone.
- H.R. 859 Informing Consumers About Smart Devices Act: Giving consumers transparency when devices include recording features.
- H.R. 866 ROUTERS Act: Addressing national security threats posed by foreign-manufactured telecommunications equipment.
- H.R. 2483 SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act: Funding programs that address substance abuse and mental health.

Many of these touch on national security, public safety, digital infrastructure, or transparency—issues that indirectly, yet meaningfully, affect the broader business and regulatory environment in which energy producers operate.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OIL AND GAS?

Energy policy doesn't live in a vacuum. Supply chain security, telecom infrastructure, and consumer safety are issues that often intersect with the business of producing and delivering affordable, reliable energy. The technologies that oil and gas companies rely on-whether it's for communications, AI applications, workforce health, or plant security—are often directly impacted by bills reviewed by this committee.

For example:

- Legislation about lithium-ion batteries can shape regulations for battery storage systems used in the field.
- Rural broadband legislation affects how connected remote operations and field offices can be.
- Healthcare-related bills can shape drug coverage, safety standards, and workforce wellness initiatives.

BOTTOM LINE

If you're not watching the Energy and Commerce Committee, you should be. The legislation they handle shapes the regulatory environment across multiple industries including oil and gas. From digital infrastructure and cybersecurity to consumer rights and public health, what happens in this committee can shape how American businesses operate and compete, both at home and on the global stage.

Who makes up the Energy & Commerce Committee?

There are 54 members of the Energy & Commerce Committee. 27 Democrats and 30 Republicans. Getting on a House committee is part personal strategy, part party politics, and part luck of the draw.

Each political party in the House of Representatives has a steering committee or a similar group that decides which of its members will serve on which committees. When a new member of Congress is elected, they usually fill out a form listing their top committee preferences. These preferences are based on, their background and expertise (e.g., a doctor might want Energy & Commerce for healthcare policy), District priorities (e.g., a rep from an oil-producing area would request Natural Resources or Energy & Commerce, Political ambitions (e.g., high-profile committees can be career boosters). More experienced members—especially those who've shown loyalty to party leadership or who've served effectively—often get priority for competitive or prestigious committee slots. Some committees (like Ways & Means, Energy & Commerce, or Appropriations) are known as "A" Committees, and they're more competitive to get onto. Party leaders often try to make sure committees represent a diverse mix of states, regions, and political leanings. They may also consider gender, race, or other representation goals. After the steering committee makes its selections, the assignments are voted on by the full party caucus (all House members of that party). Usually, these are rubber-stamp votes, but technically the whole caucus has to approve. If someone resigns, retires, or is promoted (say, to a leadership position), that can create openings. Members may also trade or request to be reassigned as their interests or their district's needs evolve.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS NEW TOOL TO CUT BURDENSOME ENERGY REGULATIONS



U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright is doubling down on the Trump administration's push to revitalize American energy production with a bold new initiative: a crowdsourced approach to deregulation. On April 10, 2025, Wright announced the launch of a public-facing website designed to collect input on energy regulations that stakeholders believe are overly restrictive or unnecessary.

"Under President Trump's leadership, we are bringing back common sense and removing the red tape standing in the way of American energy dominance," Wright said in a post on X.

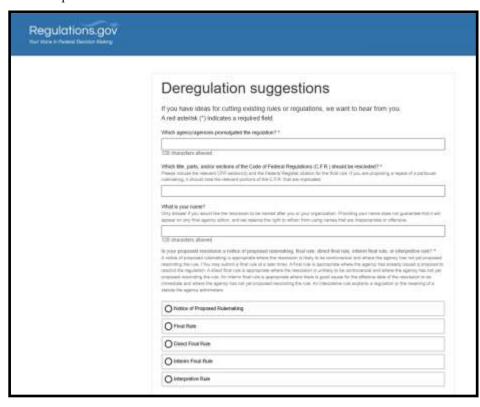
This digital platform allows citizens, industry professionals, and energy producers to flag specific regulations that they believe are hampering development. The site's submission form asks users to identify the nature of the regulatory burden—whether it relates to a notice of proposed rulemaking, a finalized rule, or another form of regulatory action—allowing for targeted rescission suggestions.

The move builds on a broader strategy of scaling back federal oversight to promote energy independence, job growth, and domestic investment. For the oil and gas industry, the opportunity to weigh in on unnecessary regulatory hurdles presents a chance to directly influence policy and streamline project permitting and development timelines.

While environmental advocates have raised concerns that loosening regulations could undermine efforts to address climate change, many in the oil and gas sector see this initiative as long overdue. Overly complex permitting processes, redundant compliance steps, and inconsistent federal-state requirements have long been cited as obstacles to energy infrastructure development.

Wright's announcement reinforces a key tenet of the administration's energy agenda: enabling American producers to meet demand at home and abroad by eliminating bureaucratic barriers. As international energy markets remain volatile and the need for reliable, affordable power grows, this regulatory reform initiative aims to give U.S. producers a competitive edge.

Industry leaders are encouraged to visit the site, review the submission criteria, and highlight specific rules that could be revised or repealed to support responsible development and innovation.











Great few days this week in the heart of #americanenergy the Permian Basin! Thanks to AKITA Drilling Ltd. for hosting me, Ted Cruz, and Lee Zeldin the new EPA Administrator. Fantastic rig and crew working within the city limits of Midland.

The IADC Permian Basin Chapter also hosted a fantastic (sold out) contractor forum. Amazing job by Barrett, Jeff Guess and the rest of crew.

Special thanks to Reggie the rig mascot and sorry about your shirt @danielgall special advisor to Mr Zeldin...it happens.

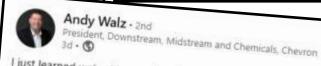




There's a few things that keep me up at night for the industry in general, throughout all companies. One of them is the retiring workforce leaving without sharing knowledge to the younger, upcoming workforce. The future and technology need to have the wisdom from folks who built this country. Their hard-earned insights forged through decades of problem-solving, innovation, and grit, are irreplaceable. If we don't create systems to capture and pass down this expertise, we risk losing the foundation that made our progress possible.

Industry needs mentorship programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and incentives for retirees to stay engaged as advisors. Technology can help: Al-driven documentation tools, virtual training hubs, or even simple video archives of their experiences. But it starts with recognizing the value of their wisdom and acting before it's gone. The next generation is eager to learn, but they need the chance to listen. Let's build that bridge.

Step back and think about it... these retirees most likely built the very pipelines you're operating, pieced together that plant or factory you're working at, or welded those storage tanks together. Their hands shaped the infrastructure we take for granted. The least we can do is take the time to buy them a coffee and just listen to their story. Their lessons could be the blueprint for our future.



+ Follow

I just learned we've hit a major milestone: more than 100,000 consumers at Chevron retail gas stations across California, Nevada and Arizona have sent letters to state lawmakers showing that they are fed up with reckless policies that threaten fuel supplies and drive up costs at the pump. Many thanks to all who have made their voices heard. We remain committed to our consumers and will continue to keep them aware of policymaker actions that affect fuel prices. I encourage you to continue to advocate and stay involved in the conversation.



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 energydominant future for our nation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Simmons

DEPA President/CEO

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WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

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"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

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The DEPA PAC works to ensure there is a loud, clear voice for the industry.

Reliable, clean, efficient, affordable, energy is vital to our country, and the world.

We are unapologetic about being the driver of economic growth and security across the globe.

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.

Please support American Energy Independence with your DEPA PAC Donation.

AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY IS NOT
A REPUBLICAN ISSUE OR A DEMOCRAT ISSUE.
IT IS AN AMERICAN PROSPERITY AND A LEADERSHIP ISSUE.





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