



DRILLER

DEPA REPORT ON INDUSTRY, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND ENERGY REGULATION

NEW SCIENTIFIC PAPER CHALLENGES NET ZERO ASSUMPTIONS AND URGES REPEAL OF BIDEN-ERA CLIMATE RULES

A new white paper released June 7, 2025, by the CO₂ Coalition and authored by renowned physicists Dr. Richard Lindzen and Dr. William Happer, presents a fundamental challenge to the scientific premises underpinning Net Zero emissions policies and regulations. The paper, *GHGs and Fossil Fuels Climate Physics 2025*, argues that U.S. environmental regulations based on the “Net Zero Theory” are scientifically flawed, economically destructive, and legally vulnerable under existing Supreme Court precedents.

CARBON DIOXIDE: MISUNDERSTOOD AND ESSENTIAL

The authors begin by reminding readers that carbon dioxide (CO₂) has two core properties: it is essential to life through its role in photosynthesis, and it functions as a greenhouse gas (GHG). They note that increasing atmospheric CO₂ boosts agricultural productivity—asserting that a doubling of current CO₂ levels from 420 ppm to 840 ppm could result in a 40% increase in global food production, with minimal effect on global temperatures.

SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF NET ZERO CALLED INTO QUESTION

The paper takes direct aim at the climate rationale for Biden Administration policies. The authors argue that the IPCC’s claim that CO₂ is the “main driver” of climate change is not supported by robust scientific evidence. They assert that the foundational assumptions of the EPA’s Endangerment Finding and subsequent Net Zero regulations have ignored or dismissed critical aspects of climate science—particularly those related to radiation physics and heat flow in the atmosphere.

In their professional opinion, these rules fail two key tests under the Supreme Court’s *State Farm* standard:

1. The failure to consider important aspects of the problem, such as the benefits of CO₂ and fossil fuels.
2. The reliance on factors not intended by Congress, such as speculative climate models or “consensus” science.

“POLICIES BUILT ON FALSE SCIENCE ARE NOT JUST BAD SCIENCE, THEY ARE BAD GOVERNANCE.”

Dr. William Happer,
Professor Emeritus of Physics,
Princeton University

The CO₂ Coalition was established in 2015 as a 501(c)(3) for the purpose of educating thought leaders, policy makers, and the public about the important contribution made by carbon dioxide to our lives and the economy. The Coalition seeks to engage in an informed and dispassionate discussion of climate change, humans’ role in the climate system, the limitations of climate models, and the consequences of mandated reductions in CO₂ emissions.



TRUMP ADMINISTRATION RESPONDS

On April 9, 2025, President Trump issued a *Memorandum on Directing Repeal of Unlawful Rules*, instructing agencies to dismantle any regulation based on faulty science or whose costs outweigh public benefits. The authors of the CO₂ Coalition paper strongly support this move and argue that Net Zero regulations meet both criteria for repeal.

COSTS WITHOUT BENEFITS

The paper goes further to allege that the Biden-era climate agenda imposes enormous economic costs while delivering no tangible climate benefits. From limiting fossil fuel infrastructure to subsidizing unreliable energy sources, the authors argue that these policies harm American families, undermine national security, and worsen global poverty.

CALL TO ACTION: RESTORE SCIENCE AND COMMON SENSE

The authors advocate for a new Executive Order requiring all federal regulations based on scientific claims to adhere to the scientific method—validating theories through real-world observation, not through consensus, peer review, or unverified climate models. They urge repeal of all federal climate laws and subsidies tied to the Net Zero agenda.

The report concludes with a stark warning: misguided climate policies are undermining Western economies, harming the working class, and emboldening adversaries abroad. Instead of centralized planning, the authors call for energy decisions to be left to markets and individuals.

“Let people and the market decide, not governments.”

You can find the [full report](#) on the CO₂ Coalition website.



EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HAROLD HAMM
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

JOHN SCHMITZ
CHAIRMAN

JERRY SIMMONS
PRESIDENT/CEO

ROCK ZIERMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

PATRICK MONTALBAN
SECRETARY/TREASURER

DAN BOREN
STEPHANIE CANALES

ED CROSS

RON GUSEK

RON NESS

BEN SHEPPERD

BROOK SIMMONS

BILL STEVENS

DEPA STAFF

PETER REGAN
CONGRESSIONAL AND
ALLIANCE LIAISON

DAVID CRANE
LOBBYIST

CYNTHIA SIMONDS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER

MISTY SANDLIN
BOOKKEEPING

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.*

PO Box 33190 TULSA, OK 74153 405-669-6646 INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG



DR. WILLIAM HAPPER

Co-Founder and Chair of the CO2 Coalition, Dr. William Happer, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Physics at Princeton University, is a specialist in modern optics, optical and radiofrequency spectroscopy of atoms and molecules, radiation propagation in the atmosphere, and spin-polarized atoms and nuclei.

Dr. Happer received a B.S. degree in Physics from the University of North Carolina in 1960 and a Ph.D. degree in Physics from Princeton University in 1964. He began his academic career in 1964 at Columbia University as a member of the research and teaching staff of the Physics Department.

While serving as a Professor of Physics, he also served as Co-Director of the Columbia Radiation Laboratory from 1971 to 1976, and Director from 1976 to 1979. In 1980 he joined the faculty at Princeton University. On August 5, 1991, he was appointed Director of Energy Research in the Department of Energy by President George Bush. While serving in that capacity under Secretary of Energy James Watkins, he oversaw a basic research budget of some \$3 billion, which included much of the federal funding for high energy and nuclear physics, materials science, magnetic confinement fusion, environmental and climate science, the human genome project, and other areas.

He remained at the DOE until May 31, 1993, to help the Clinton Administration during the transition period. He was reappointed Professor of Physics at Princeton University on June 1, 1993, and named Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics and Chair of the University Research Board from 1995 to 2005. From 2003 until his retirement in 2014, he held the Cyrus Fogg Brackett Chair of Physics.

From 1987 to 1990 he served as Chairman of the Steering Committee of JASON, a group of scientists and engineers who advise agencies of the Federal Government on matters of defense, intelligence, energy policy and other technical problems. He was a trustee of the MITRE Corporation from 1993 to 2011, he is the Chair of the Board of the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, and the Chair of the Board of the Marshall Institute. From 2002 to 2006 he chaired of the National Research Council's Standing Committee on Improvised Explosive Devices that supported the Joint Improvised Explosive Devices Defeat Organization of the Department of Defense. He was a co-founder in 1994 of Magnetic Imaging Technologies Incorporated (MITI), a small company specializing in the use of laser polarized noble gases for magnetic resonance imaging. He invented the sodium guide star that is used in astronomical adaptive optics to correct for the degrading effects of atmospheric turbulence.

From September 2018 to September 2019, Dr. Happer served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director of Emerging Technologies on the National Security Council.

He has published over 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. He was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship in 1966, an Alexander von Humboldt Award in 1976, the 1997 Broida Prize and the 1999 Davisson-Germer Prize of the American Physical Society, and the Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award in 2000.



DR. RICHARD LINDZEN

Richard Lindzen, Ph.D. is Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Meteorology, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at MIT.

He has made major contributions to the development of the current theory for the Hadley Circulation, which dominates the atmospheric transport of heat and momentum from the tropics to higher latitudes, and has advanced the understanding of the role of small scale gravity waves in producing the reversal of global temperature gradients at the mesopause, and provided accepted explanations for atmospheric tides and the quasi-biennial oscillation of the tropical stratosphere.

Lindzen is a recipient of the AMS's Meisinger, and Charney Awards, the AGU's Macelwane Medal, and the Leo Huss Walin Prize. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society. He is a corresponding member of the NAS Committee on Human Rights, and has been a member of the NRC Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate and the Council of the AMS.

He has also been a consultant to the Global Modeling and Simulation Group at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and a Distinguished Visiting Scientist at California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

DOE SECRETARY CHRIS WRIGHT DEFENDS BOLD VISION FOR ENERGY INNOVATION AMID BUDGET SCRUTINY



June 10th Secretary of Energy Chris Wright appeared before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy to testify on the Department of Energy’s fiscal year 2026 budget request—facing sharp criticism and political posturing from committee Democrats who seemed more focused on theatrics than solutions.

“We are focused on energy addition, versus subtraction or even replacement. As government leaders, we need to be of the mindset that more is better; replacing energy sources does not add to the finite energy supply that American families, businesses, and innovators are competing for.” - Chris Wright

Secretary Wright laid out a clear vision for the DOE: one that centers on revitalizing American energy dominance, strengthening national security, and fueling innovation across domestic energy sectors. “Our priorities for the department are clear,” Wright stated. “The president’s fiscal year 26 budget will ensure taxpayer resources are allocated appropriately and cost effectively.”

Wright’s testimony highlighted efforts to streamline a bloated agency, emphasizing that DOE staffing levels had surged over 20% under the prior administration, without any commensurate increase in energy supply or affordability for American families. “Clearly, that’s a trajectory we don’t want to go on,” he said.



REP. KATHY CASTOR

But while Republicans focused on fiscal responsibility and performance-based metrics, committee Democrats—particularly Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)—turned the hearing into a partisan spectacle. Rep. Castor repeatedly interrupted Secretary Wright’s responses, berating him with accusations of “intentionally sabotaging America’s progress,” while offering little substantive policy insight herself.

Ranking Member Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) even went so far as to accuse the DOE of being “taken over” by Elon Musk and “his DOGE minions,” a line that left many observers questioning the seriousness of the committee’s oversight function.



REP. FRANK PALLONE

Despite the politically charged atmosphere, Secretary Wright maintained composure and transparency, defending his agency’s restructuring efforts. “We have followed a careful, thoughtful way to look at how we’re going to reorganize the department,” Wright said. He clarified that nearly all staffing changes have been made voluntarily, with generous incentives and internal realignments to ensure mission-critical offices remain supported.

Wright’s testimony is a clear signal to the U.S. energy sector that this administration is serious about cutting bureaucratic waste and refocusing the DOE on outcomes—not ideology. His call for reinvesting in coal, nuclear, and next-generation energy infrastructure was a welcome departure from the policy drift that has dominated recent years.

As oil and gas professionals committed to powering America’s economy, we should continue to push back against obstructionist rhetoric and support the DOE’s efforts to align staffing and spending with performance. Secretary Wright’s leadership is a needed course correction for an agency that should serve as a catalyst—not a barrier—to American energy production.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE PROPOSES BIG WINS FOR CARBON CAPTURE AND EOR

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee just took a big step forward for carbon capture, and it could mean real opportunities for producers and service companies across the oil patch—especially small to mid-sized players.

In a recent markup session the committee proposed two major improvements to the carbon capture tax credit known as 45Q:

1. RESTORING TRANSFERABILITY OF 45Q CREDITS

Right now, the 45Q tax credit helps companies that capture and either store or use carbon dioxide. But the House-passed version of a major tax bill would **eliminate the ability to transfer those credits after 2027**. That’s a problem—especially for smaller companies that don’t have big tax bills of their own.

WHY IT MATTERS:

If you’re a small producer or a service company, you might not have enough tax liability to use the credit yourself. Transferability means you can sell the credit to someone who can, helping fund your carbon capture project. Without it, the number of businesses that can benefit shrinks, and investment dries up.

The Senate’s version would **keep transferability in place**, giving all types of companies—big and small—a better shot at participating in this space.

2. EQUALIZING THE CREDIT FOR PERMANENT SEQUESTRATION AND ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY (EOR)

Until now, 45Q has offered a **higher credit for permanent CO₂ storage** (like deep saline injection) than for **using CO₂ in EOR**. That made EOR projects less competitive—even though they still reduce net emissions and help produce American oil.

The Senate proposal would **level the playing field** so both uses of captured CO₂ get the **same tax credit value**. This follows legislation pushed earlier this year by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), a long-time advocate for oil and gas producers.

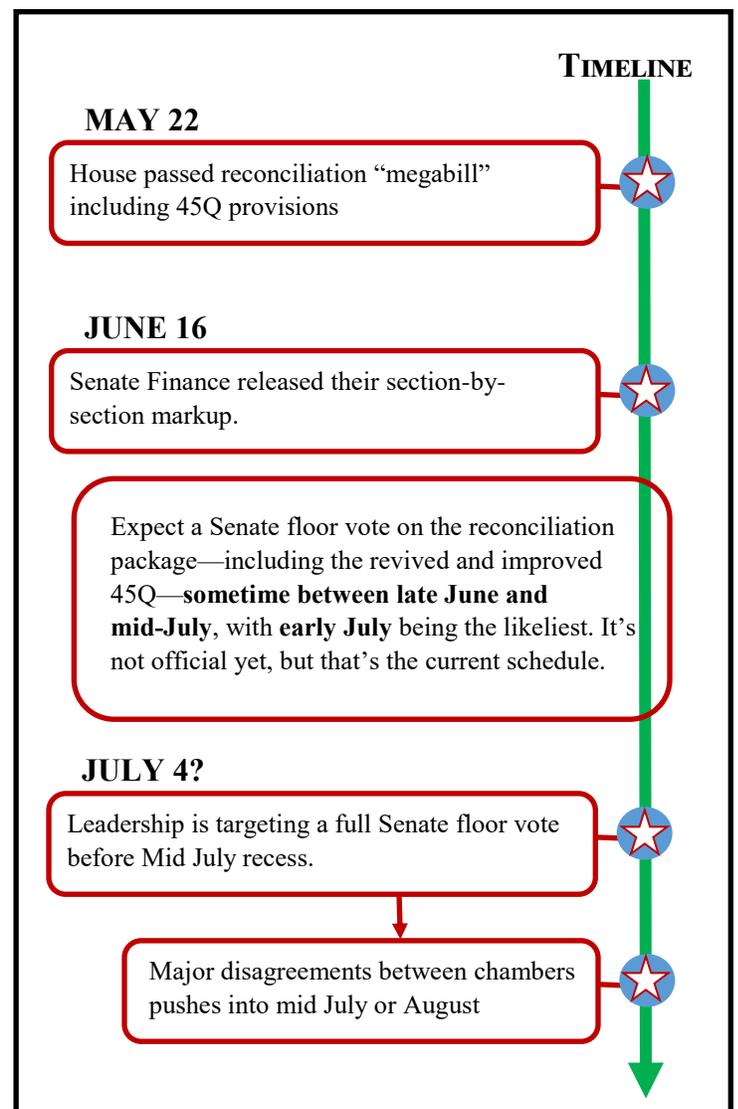
WHY IT MATTERS:

If you use CO₂ for EOR, this change means you’ll finally get the **same tax incentive** as companies storing it underground without production. That makes EOR more attractive and could spur more investment and activity, especially in areas like the Permian and Williston basins.

BOTTOM LINE:

These Senate Finance Committee changes—**keeping transferability and equalizing EOR credits**—are **wins for small producers, service companies, and anyone interested in low-carbon oil production**. It’s not law yet, but this markup puts it on the path. If passed, it could unlock more deals, more technology deployment, and more barrels from U.S. fields using CO₂.

Stay tuned as this bill moves through Congress. If you’ve ever looked at 45Q and thought, “this isn’t for me”—that might be changing soon.





NEW INTERACTIVE NEPA TOOL HELPS ENERGY PROJECT TEAMS NAVIGATE COMPLEX REGULATIONS

A new interactive resource developed by TrueComply AI is helping energy professionals better understand how recent changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and key Supreme Court decisions are reshaping the permitting landscape for American energy projects.

The tool, titled [“NEPA’s Impact on American Energy Projects.”](#) explores how a law originally designed to promote environmental responsibility has, over time, introduced layers of procedural complexity that often delay or derail critical infrastructure.

This free online community is designed for regulatory professionals and frontline workers in industries such as process safety, pipeline safety, and environmental compliance. The project mission is to create a collaborative, spam-free, and algorithm-free environment where professionals can connect, share insights, and navigate the complexities of regulatory compliance with confidence.

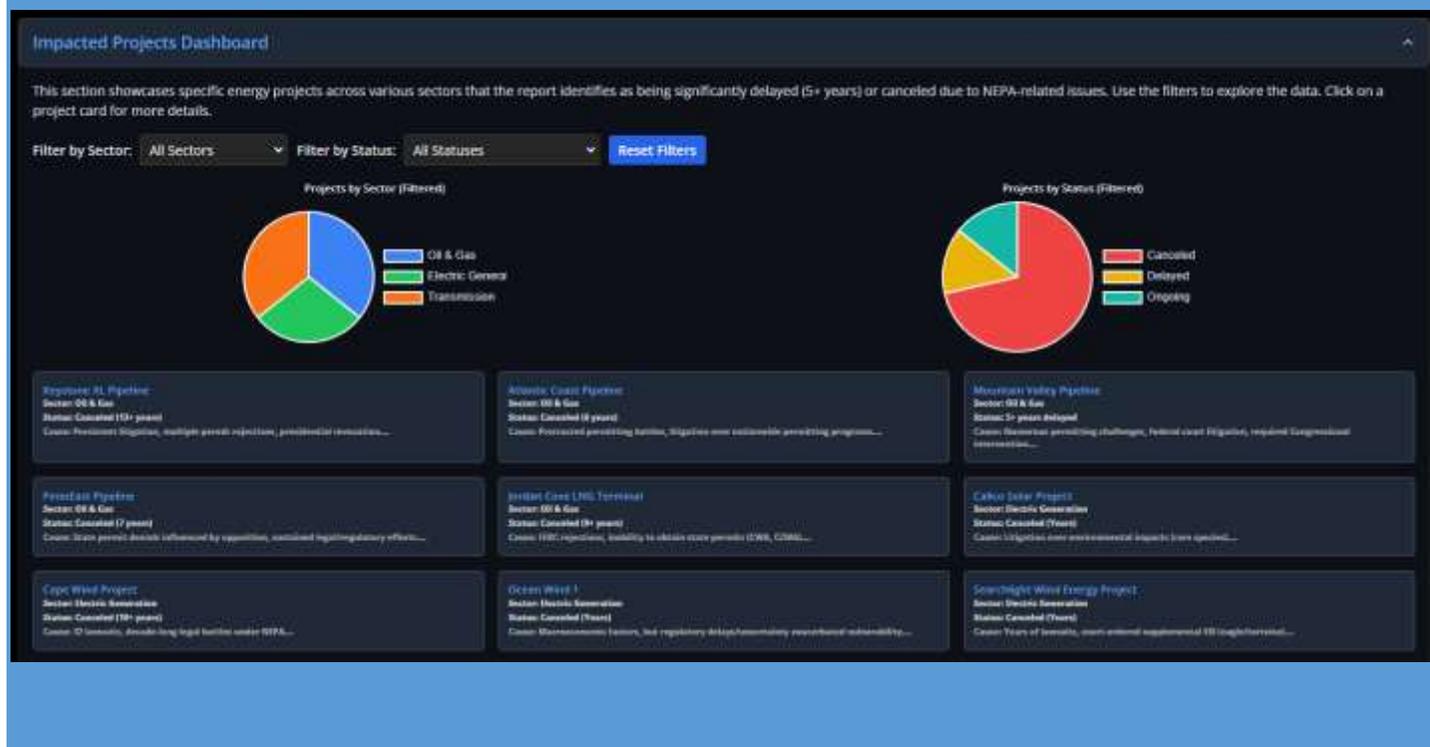
According to research presented within the tool, the average NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) now takes **4.5 years** to complete. If litigation is involved, projects can see another **4.5 years** added to their timeline. In total, many proposed oil and gas, electric generation, and transmission projects have faced delays of **five years or more**, with some ultimately canceled.

Key Features of the Tool

Rather than offering a static report, TrueComply’s resource is designed to be interactive and dynamic, making it especially useful for project teams navigating evolving policy:

- **Visual Context for Legal Changes:** Users can explore how recent Supreme Court rulings—particularly the May 29, 2025 decision limiting NEPA reviews to *direct* environmental impacts—affect various project types.
- **Policy Timeline:** The tool walks users through major federal milestones including the Trump Administration’s Energy Dominance agenda, CEQ guidance roll-backs, and recent judicial precedents.
- **Scenario-Based Learning:** From pipeline construction to renewable energy siting, users can simulate project scenarios and see which level of NEPA review now applies—EIS, Environmental Assessment (EA), or categorical exclusion.
- **Project Lifecycle Insights:** By clarifying what impacts agencies are legally obligated to review, the tool helps reduce uncertainty, limit litigation exposure, and accelerate compliance planning.
- **Legal and Regulatory Tracking:** With the CEQ withdrawing national NEPA regulations and federal agencies adopting their own frameworks, the tool serves as a centralized source for monitoring current standards.

“NEPA’S IMPACT ON AMERICAN ENERGY PROJECTS”, DASHBOARD



Spotlight: California’s Energy Crossroads

One of the case studies within the tool examines California’s strategic shift away from in-state oil production in favor of imported sources. It explores how the state’s climate policies have contributed to supply constraints, increased dependence on foreign crude, and impacts on refining and consumer costs. This analysis provides a broader look at how environmental policy can influence—not just delay—infrastructure development and energy availability.

Built for the Energy Compliance Community

The tool is hosted on TrueComply’s well-established platform, known for its collaborative HSE and regulatory compliance resources. For those involved in permitting, legal analysis, or strategic project planning, the tool offers a practical way to interpret complex policy shifts and Supreme Court rulings in a visual, digestible format.

Why It Matters

As federal NEPA standards give way to agency-specific interpretations and litigation continues to shape the scope of reviews, understanding what is legally required—and what’s not—is more critical than ever. Tools like this help bring clarity to an often-murky permitting environment and offer a roadmap for proactive, compliant energy development.

CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRINCIPLED LEADERS: CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS LAUNCHES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Former Congresswoman and long-time energy advocate Cathy McMorris Rodgers has announced the launch of the *Cathy McMorris Rodgers Leadership Institute* (CMRLI), a new nonprofit foundation focused on inspiring a rebirth of freedom, faith, and foundational values in America's next generation of leaders. For those in the oil and gas industry who understand the deep connection between strong leadership, sound policy, and American energy independence, this is a development worth watching.

McMorris Rodgers, who represented Eastern Washington for nearly two decades and served as Chair of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, brings a proven track record of championing reliable, domestic energy and free market principles. Now, through CMRLI, she aims to extend her legacy by mentoring emerging leaders who will carry forward the values that have long underpinned American success: freedom, faith, and individual responsibility.

Empowering a New Kind of Leader

The mission of the Institute is clear: to educate, equip, and inspire leaders who are morally grounded and deeply committed to the American experiment. Through fellowships, college programs, publications, and research initiatives, the Institute will cultivate individuals with the clarity and conviction to lead with strength—both in government and in private industry.

Programs like *United in Prayer*, *The Good American Project*, and the *Issue Advocacy & Research Center* are designed to elevate civic virtue and restore a national conversation grounded in principle—not partisanship. For energy professionals, this kind of leadership pipeline couldn't come at a better time.

“The genius of America has always been the creativity and hard work of freedom loving Americans. As Representative, I witnessed every day the very best of Eastern Washington and our nation, along with the vital role American leadership plays on the global stage,” said McMorris Rodgers. “For nearly 250 years, America has stood as a beacon of hope and freedom to the world. For this light to endure, we must cultivate leaders who understand the power of freedom, the conviction of faith, and possess the moral clarity to confront today’s challenges with strength and courage.”

Why It Matters for Energy

American energy leadership is rooted in more than engineering and economics—it depends on public servants and private-sector professionals who believe in markets, innovation, and national sovereignty.

McMorris Rodgers has long understood that America's ability to produce energy is directly tied to its ability to lead globally. Her new institute reflects that same philosophy: cultivate leaders who value liberty and accountability, and a healthier, more secure energy future will follow.



CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

CMRLI's support for free markets and Constitutional values aligns closely with the principles that drive the energy sector. The oil and gas workforce is filled with Americans who understand what it means to work hard, think independently, and solve problems with grit and integrity. The Institute's vision is to support these qualities at every level—from college campuses to Capitol Hill.

Get Involved

The Institute is headquartered in Spokane, Washington, and led by Kristina Sabestinas (Executive Director) and Dawn Sugasa (Senior Advisor), both of whom served closely alongside McMorris Rodgers during her time in Congress. Their experience in public policy, community leadership, and advocacy will help guide CMRLI's mission with focus and resolve.

To learn more about the Institute's programs or to get involved, visit www.CMRLI.org.

U.S. LNG SECURES MAJOR WIN WITH JERA AGREEMENTS, BOLSTERING JOBS AND GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY

In a landmark announcement on June 12, the Department of Energy and Department of the Interior unveiled a series of 20-year LNG purchase agreements between U.S. producers and Japan's JERA Co., Inc., marking a decisive step forward for America's energy dominance strategy.

JERA, the world's largest buyer of LNG, has finalized agreements with four major U.S. LNG companies — **NextDecade Corporation, Commonwealth LNG, Sempra Infrastructure, and Cheniere Marketing LLC** — to purchase **up to 5.5 million tons per year** of U.S.-sourced LNG. These long-term contracts are projected to support over **50,000 American jobs** and generate more than **\$200 billion in GDP**, according to analysis from S&P Global.

"Today's announcement of investments in American energy that will unlock nearly a quarter trillion dollars in U.S. GDP is a massive milestone," said Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, crediting the progress to President Trump's regulatory reforms and focus on American energy leadership.

JERA Chairman **Yukio Kani** emphasized the geopolitical and economic importance of the deal, calling it a "win-win" that solidifies the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Japan while reaffirming the United States' central role in the global LNG market.

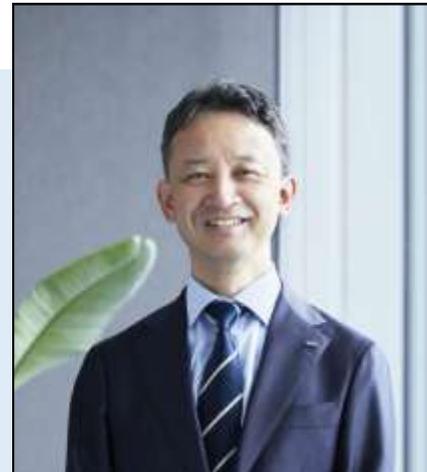
What It Means for the U.S. LNG Industry:

- **Long-Term Demand Locked In:** These 20-year commitments reflect strong global appetite for American LNG and help provide long-term certainty for domestic producers and infrastructure developers.
- **Job Creation and Economic Impact:** With 50,000+ jobs expected to be supported and a GDP boost of \$200 billion, the downstream benefits for communities, states, and the national economy are substantial.
- **Regulatory Reforms Paying Off:** Under President Trump, the Department of Energy resumed review of non-FTA LNG export applications and rescinded restrictive Biden-era policies. To date, the DOE has approved more than **106 mtpa** of non-FTA export capacity—more than many global competitors' entire capacity.

JERA was created through the consolidation of the fuel and thermal power departments of the Tokyo Electric Power Company and the Chubu Electric Power Company.

The company was established with the concurrent aims of creating an energy company capable of competing in the global energy market and providing a stable supply of globally competitive energy, all while increasing corporate value.

"At JERA, we believe that the energy challenge facing Japan is to create new platform capable of delivering clean energy that is dependable and economical under any circumstances. JERA is committed to leading the way with a strong sense of social responsibility and the power of imaginative innovation." Hisahide Okuda, JERA President, Director, CEO and COO



YUKIO KANI
JERA GLOBAL CEO AND CHAIRMAN

- **Offshore Growth in the Gulf of America:** The Department of the Interior is doubling down on energy development in the Gulf, reporting a 22.6% increase in remaining recoverable reserves and implementing a new bonding assurance rule to unlock capital for exploration and production.
- **Permitting Progress Ahead:** The administration's "One Big Beautiful Bill" aims to fast-track critical infrastructure projects, including new LNG terminals needed to meet growing global demand.

Bottom Line for U.S. Producers:

This announcement underscores a resurgent era for U.S. LNG—one powered by regulatory clarity, global demand, and presidential support for energy abundance. It also highlights the unique position American natural gas holds on the world stage: **cleaner, more reliable, and geopolitically stabilizing.**

The U.S. LNG industry is not only back—it's leading.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION RENEWS PUSH TO SELL PUBLIC LANDS

What It Means for the Oil and Gas Industry

As part of its broader energy dominance agenda, the Trump administration is reviving long-thwarted efforts to sell off or transfer federally owned public lands—a policy shift that could have sweeping implications for the U.S. oil and gas sector.

A recent *Yahoo News* article highlighted the administration’s interest in reigniting proposals that would move millions of acres of federal land—particularly in the West—into private hands or under state control. These efforts, historically stymied by bipartisan resistance and public concern over access to recreational lands, are once again gaining traction under the premise of boosting economic development, strengthening state-level autonomy, and cutting federal bloat.

While this conversation often centers around property rights and conservation concerns, it is critical to assess what this renewed momentum means for domestic energy producers.

Unlocking Development Potential

Federal lands currently account for nearly **25% of U.S. oil and gas production**, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. However, leasing and permitting processes on federal land are often slow, politically volatile, and vulnerable to sudden regulatory reversals by future administrations. Shifting ownership or management to states—or selling parcels outright—could significantly streamline permitting, reduce red tape, and provide greater certainty for long-term development projects.

States like **Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada**, where vast portions of land are federally owned, stand to benefit from increased control over resource-rich acreage. State officials in **New Mexico** and **Colorado** have also expressed frustration with inconsistent federal leasing practices, especially under previous administrations that prioritized conservation over development.

In many cases, state-led management has proven more efficient and more responsive to local economic needs. By transferring land out of federal hands, oil and gas operators could gain access to new drilling opportunities currently off-limits due to federal restrictions or environmental litigation.

Balancing Conservation and Development

Opposition to these efforts remains strong among environmental groups, outdoor recreation advocates, and some tribal leaders, who fear privatization could erode public access and damage ecologically sensitive areas. However, supporters argue that responsible development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive—and point to the success of state-managed trust lands, which often balance multiple-use mandates more effectively than their federal counterparts.

“Public land policy must evolve to reflect modern energy needs. Transferring land to states or responsible private hands can unlock opportunity, reduce bureaucracy, and empower local communities.”

— Energy Policy Analyst,
Western States Coalition

“For too long, excessive federal control over public lands has hindered responsible energy development and economic growth. DEPA supports commonsense reforms that put land management decisions back into the hands of states and local communities—those who best understand the value of these resources. It’s time to unleash America’s full energy potential.”

— Jerry Simmons
President & CEO, DEPA

It's also worth noting that **private landowners tend to be more open to mineral leasing** and are typically less bound by federal environmental reviews. As such, a well-structured land transfer initiative could shift valuable acreage into the hands of entities more aligned with energy development goals, while still allowing for conservation easements and oversight.

What's Next

While no sweeping land sales have yet been finalized, the policy groundwork is being laid. Executive branch agencies are reviewing past land inventory reports and identifying parcels that could be sold, transferred, or leased under updated rules. Congressional Republicans in several Western states are already signaling support.

If implemented strategically, these efforts could represent a game-changing opportunity for the oil and gas industry—unlocking access to untapped reserves, reducing regulatory burdens, and giving states the tools to better manage energy assets.

Industry leaders should monitor these developments closely and begin engaging with both federal and state stakeholders to help shape the future of land management policy in ways that support energy security and economic growth.

Bottom Line:

The Trump administration's renewed push to sell or transfer public lands could reshape the energy development landscape. For the oil and gas sector, it's a moment to lean in—advocating for access, certainty, and state-driven solutions that can deliver real results for America's energy future.



QUICK NEWS

SUPREME COURT CLARIFIES EPA LAWSUIT JURISDICTION

On June 18, the Supreme Court issued two key rulings establishing which Federal Circuit court hears EPA rule challenges under the Clean Air Act

- **National rules** (e.g. biofuel mandates) go to the **D.C. Circuit**.
- **Regional/state-specific** actions (e.g., Good Neighbor smog plans) move to geographically relevant circuits like the **10th Circuit**.

Why It Matters:

- Alters legal footing: forum matters greatly, especially as industry groups tailor defenses or challenges.
- Prevents plaintiffs from “forum shopping”—strategic venue selection based on favorable precedent.
- Impacts ongoing biofuel-exemption and smog-control litigation—oil & gas firms must adjust legal strategy accordingly.

SUPREME COURT TIGHTENS NEPA SCOPE Less Environmental Oversight, Faster Pipelines

In **Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County** (decided May 29, 2025), SCOTUS ruled 6–3 that NEPA environmental reviews only require analysis of environmental impacts *within agencies' regulatory authority*, not the broader upstream/downstream effects—like pipeline-linked CO₂ from oil transport or refining. Justice Kavanaugh wrote that agencies deserve large deference, signaling a shift away from more expansive impact reviews.

Why It Matters:

- Removes judicial pressure to stretch NEPA reviews to cover greenhouse gas emissions from linked refining or shipping.
- Likely leads to faster approvals for pipelines, terminals, and midstream facilities—shorter timelines, lighter review burdens.
- Sets a firm precedent for industry permitting strategies and public comment tactics: narrower scope, fewer delay risks.

NAMIBIA'S OIL & GAS FUTURE REMAINS OPEN TO U.S. AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT —DESPITE VIRAL MISINFORMATION



In recent weeks, social media platforms have been flooded with viral claims that Namibia has canceled all oil and gas deals with the United States in favor of fully state-owned operations. The reality? Those claims are **completely false**—and Namibia continues to be a country of growing opportunity for international energy investment.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE RUMORS?

The rumors gained traction shortly after **President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** took office in March 2025. One particularly viral X post from May 30 falsely claimed that the Namibian government had "ended the Oil & Gas contract with the US" and had told the U.S. to stop all mining operations. This misinformation was repeated across TikTok, Facebook, and blogs.

In truth, no contracts have been canceled, and Namibia's government has publicly and unequivocally called the rumors "fake news." On June 4, the Namibian presidency confirmed to AFP Fact Check that "it is not the policy of the government to cancel contracts that are binding." The U.S. State Department also debunked the claims, saying on June 11 that the reports are "false."

WHAT DID CHANGE?

President Nandi-Ndaitwah placed Namibia's oil and gas sec-

tors under direct presidential control, removing them from the Ministry of Energy and Mines. This restructuring was not a rejection of foreign investment—it was a strategic move intended to accelerate economic growth, better manage national resources, and increase transparency at the highest level.

She emphasized that the oil and gas sector has the potential to transform Namibia's economy within five years by securing energy supplies and creating jobs.

ONGOING U.S. AND GLOBAL ENERGY ACTIVITY

Despite the social media noise, U.S. and international companies remain active and invested in Namibian energy development:

- Chevron continues exploring offshore opportunities, particularly in the Walvis Basin, despite an earlier dry hole in the Orange Basin.
- ExxonMobil is investigating prospects in the Namibe Basin.
- Shell and TotalEnergies remain engaged, with the latter exploring options to manage high gas content and keep production costs below \$20/barrel.

- NAMCOR, Namibia’s national oil company, holds a 10% stake in key exploration ventures alongside TotalEnergies, QatarEnergy, and Impact Oil & Gas.

Additionally, Namibia is looking to further develop its energy portfolio, announcing plans in April to begin discussions around building its first nuclear energy plant, leveraging its position as one of the world’s top uranium producers.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR U.S. OIL & GAS PROFESSIONALS

If you’re watching Africa for future opportunity, Namibia remains a bright spot. The shift to presidential oversight signals tighter national management—but **not nationalization or a retreat** from the private sector.

Namibia offers:

- A stable and democratic government
- A proven track record of honoring international contracts
- Shared investments with major IOCs (international oil companies)
- A clear need and desire for energy development partners

The Namibian oil and gas market is still very much open for business, including to U.S. firms. Don’t let social media rumors distort the facts. Namibia is tightening its control, but not closing its doors.



Namibia occupies 318,772 square miles (825,615 square kilometers) along the Atlantic coast of **southwestern Africa**. The country borders Angola to the north, Zambia to the northeast, Botswana to the east, and South Africa to the south



FERC GREENLIGHTS GAS PROJECTS EVEN AMID LEGAL CHALLENGES

On June 18, 2025, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) quietly adopted a game-changing policy: it will now allow natural gas infrastructure projects to proceed even while they’re tied up in courtroom disputes. The move includes raising the cost threshold for streamlined blanket certificates by over 50%, making many mid-sized projects eligible.

Developers can now move ahead on construction—even if opponents file lawsuits—potentially shaving up to **150 days** off project timelines. Raising the cost threshold means more pipelines and boosting facilities can qualify for **blanket certificates**, reducing paperwork and compliance hurdles.

FERC framed this as essential to meet rising power demand—particularly from data centers and gas-fired generation—aligning with broader industry calls for dispatchable energy

UNLEASHING AMERICAN ENERGY: FULL COMMITTEE ADVANCES 13 CRITICAL BILLS

Congressman **Brett Guthrie (R-KY)**, ranking as Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, led a full-committee markup advancing **13 energy bills** designed to drive domestic energy production, streamline infrastructure permitting, and secure baseload power to support emerging needs like AI and data centers.

BROADER THEMES & INDUSTRY CONSEQUENCES

FERC as Grid Reliability Arbiter Guthrie emphasized reaffirming FERC's authority to ensure reliable power generation and integration of dispatchable sources—a move likely to benefit gas-fired baseload and peaker plants amid the grid's transition.

1. **Regulatory Streamlining & Infrastructure** Several bills target permitting efficiency—particularly for refining, pipelines, cross-border projects, and LNG exports—potentially reducing costs and project timelines for oil and gas businesses.
2. **LNG Export Neutrality** The LNG bill seeks to maintain unfettered export flow, decoupling DOE's approval role. As Congressman Pfluger stated, "LNG exports unequivocally benefit our economy, domestic prices, our security, and partners and allies"
3. **Enhanced Sector Oversight** By reinvigorating FERC's role and codifying coal and baseload oversight (e.g. National Coal Council act), the committee underscores a clear pivot toward reliability and resilience, which oil and gas entities can leverage for project certainty.

Coming Up: Outlook & Industry Strategy

- **Next Stop: Full House Floor & Senate** – Most bills enjoy strong GOP support but limited bipartisan backing Passage in the House seems likely; Senate fate is less certain.
- **Critical Timing** – With AI/data center demands mounting, urgency is high. Guthrie stressed, "Time is of the essence" Look for expedited FY26 action.

Industry Preparations:

- **Gas & LNG Producers:** Position for export expansion and invest in pipeline interconnection readiness.
- **Midstream & Pipelines:** Engage FERC-supported frameworks to fast-track approvals.
- **Refiners:** Monitor implementation of REFINER Act insights to streamline project planning.

Chairman Guthrie's markup signals a policy shift toward bolstering U.S. baseload capabilities—good news for natural gas, pipelines, and refining. The coming weeks will determine whether these provisions advance in the House, survive Senate scrutiny, or become entangled in broader reconciliation dynamics. For oil and gas professionals, it's a pivotal moment to advocate for practical policy measures that domestically strengthen energy and support global competitiveness in AI.



Breakdown of bills in this markup with potential downstream effects:

BILL & SPONSOR	SUMMARY	INDUSTRY IMPACT
H.R. 3616 – Reliable Power Act (Rep. Balderson)	Requires FERC to evaluate and remove unnecessary reliability regulations.	Could reduce constraints on dispatchable and thermal generation, benefiting gas-fired assets.
H.R. 1047 – GRID Power Act (Rep. Balderson)	Fast-tracks interconnection of dispatchable resources by FERC .	Accelerates pipeline-to-generator projects and integration of gas-fired plants.
H.R. 3632 – Power Plant Reliability Act (Rep. Griffith)	Enables stakeholders to contest early retirements of baseload plants .	Provides a lifeline to aging gas and coal plants facing closure.
H.R. 3657 – Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act	Introduces clear timelines and oversight Into FERC’s hydro relicensing .	May influence gas demand during hydro downtimes; improved timeline predictability.
H.R. 3109 – REFINER Act (Rep. Latta)	Studies federal efficiency improvements for refining infrastructure .	Could reduce regulatory and operational friction, aiding refining and downstream gas feedstock operations.
H.R. 3062 – Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act (Rep. Fedorchak)	Streamlines FERC permitting for international oil, gas, and electric projects .	Enhances prospects for cross-border pipeline expansions with reduced delays.
H.R. 1949 – Unlocking Domestic LNG Potential Act (Rep. Pfluger)	Removes DOE from export approval—simplifying LNG export logistics .	Drastically raises U.S. LNG market reach and export capability.
H.R. 3668 – Improving Coordination for Pipeline Reviews (Hudson)	Mandates timely, inter-agency review of pipeline projects .	Could sharply cut down approval timeframes and inter-agency bottlenecks.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



Continental Resources

82,631 followers
2d • Edited •

Founder and executive chairman Harold Hamm is featured in this month's **Oil and Gas Investor** as the recipient of Hart Energy's 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award. The cover story highlights his visionary leadership in the oil and gas industry, including the development of the Bakken Shale.

This issue also marks the 25th anniversary of the first stimulated horizontal well in the Middle Bakken, a milestone that reshaped U.S. oil production.



California Independent Petroleum Association

849 followers
1w •

+ Follow

Killing California oil doesn't kill demand. It just invites more foreign oil tankers, increases emissions, and spikes gas prices. If we're going to use oil, produce it here, safely, cleanly, and responsibly. [#CaliforniaEnergy](#) [#Refining](#) [#OilAndGas](#) [#CaliforniaRefineries](#)



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

316,395 followers
1w •

America DOES NOT back down from big challenges or big builds.

That is why we are powering global AI leadership while meeting growing energy demands, prioritizing SECURITY, RESILIENCE, and AFFORDABILITY.



 **Chet Thompson** • 1st
President and CEO at American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM)
1w • 

Today, the U.S. Senate delivered a bipartisan victory for American consumers, manufacturers and our country's energy security by voting to overturn EPA's rule authorizing California's ban on gas-powered cars and trucks.

This vote was about preserving consumer choice, protecting jobs and reinforcing America's energy strength. California regulators should not have the authority to limit vehicle options for millions of Americans, and today's vote sends a clear message that vehicle choice should remain in the hands of consumers, not regulators.

Thank you to Leader Thune and Senators Barrasso and Capito for their steadfast leadership and commitment on this important issue. Their efforts were instrumental in achieving this positive outcome.

Let's continue advocating for sensible energy policies that benefit working families and ensure America's manufacturing and energy sectors can thrive.



 **Tricia McLaughlin** 
@TriciaOhio · Follow

Senator Padilla chose disrespectful political theatre and interrupted a live press conference without identifying himself or having his Senate security pin on as he lunged toward Secretary Noem.

Mr. Padilla was told repeatedly to back away and did not comply with officers' [Show more](#)

 **Gavin Newsom**  @GavinNewsom

.@SenAlexPadilla is one of the most decent people I know.

This is outrageous, dictatorial, and shameful.

Trump and his shock troops are out of control.

This must end now.



North Dakota Petroleum Council

7,230 followers
13m • 

Register your team or consider sponsoring the [Landman's Association of North Dakota \(LAND\)](#) golf tournament scheduled on July 24th.



Landman's Association of North Dakota (LAND)

258 followers
3w • 

[+ Follow](#)

Registration for the 2025 LAND Golf Tournament is now open! Visit our website to register! <https://lnkd.in/dkJHsCc>



WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS

DEPA 

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.

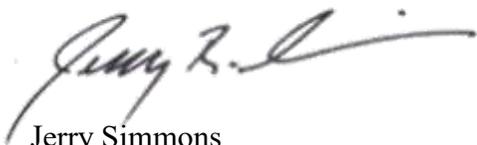
A pro-fossil fuel administration provides us with a unique opportunity to make meaningful strides, but it does not mean we can afford to sit back and relax. We must continue to engage, educate, and advocate to ensure that the foundation of our energy security remains strong for generations to come. Policies 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: _____ ZIP: _____

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
- OTHER: \$ _____

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

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

DEPA PAC Co-CHAIRMEN | DAVID LE NORMAN AND DAN BOREN

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.**



DEPA PAC

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

REQUIRED DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Amount of contribution: \$ _____

All contributions to the Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance PAC (DEPA PAC) are voluntary. You may refuse to contribute with reprisal. Contributions to the DEPA PAC are used for federal election purposes, and may be used in connection with state elections.

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

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

DONATION ENCLOSED

- \$10,000 CHAIRMAN'S COUNCIL
(JOINT CONTRIBUTION)
- \$5,000 DIRECTOR LEVEL
- \$2,500 ADVISOR
- \$1,000 FRIEND OF ENERGY
- \$500 SPONSOR
- \$_____ OTHER

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

Please send an electronic invoice.

**RETURN TO DEPA PAC:
PO Box 33190, TULSA OK 74153
INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG
405-669-6646**

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

**Paid for by the
Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance PAC**