

WHY DIGITAL TRADE AND IP POLICY MATTERS TO U.S. OIL AND GAS PRODUCERS

At first glance, a House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee hearing on digital trade and intellectual property (IP) rights might seem far removed from the day-to-day concerns of U.S. oil and natural gas producers. But testimony delivered under President Trump’s renewed push for pro-American trade policy makes clear that digital trade rules and IP enforcement now sit squarely at the center of America’s energy competitiveness, supply-chain resilience, and national security.

Witnesses at the hearing consistently praised the Trump Administration’s shift away from what one called the Biden Administration’s “abandonment of digital priorities in trade,” and toward a more aggressive defense of American innovation. That pivot has direct consequences for domestic producers and service companies whose competitive edge increasingly depends on proprietary technology, data analytics, automation, and digital platforms deployed globally.

DIGITAL TRADE IS ENERGY TRADE—BY ANOTHER NAME
Modern oil and gas development is no longer defined solely by rigs, pipe, and steel. It is driven by software, seismic modeling, AI-assisted drilling, emissions monitoring systems, advanced logistics platforms, and proprietary operational processes. Each of these tools is protected by IP—and increasingly delivered through digital channels.

As Trade Subcommittee Chairman Adrian Smith (NE-03) explained, in the January 16 hearing, foreign taxes and restrictions on innovation ripple well beyond Silicon Valley:

“When we create an environment conducive to innovation, all sectors succeed... When trading partners unnecessarily target American innovation and technology, the trickle-down effect is similarly felt throughout the economy.”

For oil and gas operators, that “trickle-down effect” shows up as higher costs for digital services, weaker protection for proprietary drilling and production technologies, and reduced ability for U.S. service companies to compete overseas. Digital trade barriers act as a hidden tariff on American efficiency.

The “Global Free Riding” Problem Hits Energy Hard
One of the clearest warnings came from Andrei Iancu,



former USPTO Director and now Co-Chair of the Council for Innovation Promotion. He described a systemic “global free riding problem,” where foreign governments benefit from American innovation without bearing the costs of developing it.

“The cost of creation and innovation is borne disproportionately by the American consumer... because other countries do not have equally robust intellectual property regimes.”

For the energy sector, this problem is especially acute. U.S. producers and service companies invest billions annually in R&D—improving recovery rates, lowering emissions, and enhancing safety. When foreign governments weaken IP protections or force disclosure of proprietary algorithms, they effectively transfer that value to foreign competitors, including state-owned enterprises.

That erodes the return on innovation and ultimately discourages further investment—precisely the opposite of what’s needed to maintain U.S. energy leadership.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT PROTECTS ENERGY SUPPLY CHAINS

The Trump Administration’s emphasis on enforcing trade commitments, including the elimination of discriminatory digital services taxes like Canada’s DST, is not just about fairness—it’s about protecting U.S. supply chains.

Digital platforms now underpin everything from equipment maintenance scheduling to cross-border energy trading and shipping

logistics. When foreign governments impose digital taxes or discriminatory regulations, they reduce scale, increase compliance costs, and shrink the revenue base that funds continued U.S. innovation.



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As Nigel Cory, a leading digital trade expert, put it “Digital trade barriers are, in essence, a tax on scale. They reduce the market that thereby funds the next wave of American innovation.”

For oil and gas service companies operating globally, scale is what allows them to reinvest in new technologies that improve productivity at home. Limiting that scale ultimately weakens U.S. producers relative to foreign competitors.

SOUTH KOREA: A CASE STUDY IN TRADE COMMITMENTS IGNORED

Testimony highlighted South Korea as a cautionary example. Despite commitments under the U.S.–Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) and a November 2025 Strategic Trade and Investment Deal pledging to avoid “unnecessary barriers” to digital services, South Korea’s National Assembly has advanced legislation that targets U.S. firms.

These measures would require disclosure of proprietary algorithms and restrict product bundling—rules that would directly undermine IP protections. Rep. Carol Miller (WV-01) underscored the stakes *“For the first time ever, countries are specifically agreeing not to discriminate against United States tech firms in bilateral trade deals negotiated by President Trump... It’s duly important... that these agreements are enforced.”*

For energy companies, the implications are clear— if digital trade commitments are not enforced in sectors like technology, they won’t be enforced for energy-related digital services either. Today’s platform fairness bill becomes tomorrow’s forced disclosure of drilling or emissions-monitoring technologies.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Digital trade is growing faster than physical trade, and the integration of AI into energy operations will only accelerate that trend. Left unchecked, discriminatory digital policies abroad will

- Undermine returns on U.S. energy innovation
- Increase costs for domestic producers and service companies
- Strengthen foreign competitors, including state-backed firms
- Reduce reinvestment in U.S. R&D and high-paying jobs

The Ways and Means hearing made clear that protecting digital trade and IP rights is no longer a niche technology issue—it is a foundational economic and energy security priority.

For U.S. oil and gas executives, the message is straightforward: defending American innovation abroad is inseparable from defending American energy production at home.

You can watch this full hearing on [YouTube](#).





SUMMARY OF YEAR ONE ACTIONS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF THE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

In his first year back in office, President Trump delivered transformative support for America's domestic oil and gas industry through bold, decisive actions that unleashed unprecedented energy production and economic opportunity.

From day one, historic Executive Orders such as "Unleashing American Energy" and declarations of a National Energy Emergency swept away regulatory roadblocks, dramatically accelerating permitting and unlocking vast domestic resources. Drilling permits on federal lands surged by 55%, while the Bureau of Land Management conducted 22 lease sales that generated over \$356 million—exceeding the entire prior administration's four-year total—alongside a revived and expansive offshore leasing program and plans for up to 34 new sales covering billions of acres.

These efforts, combined with streamlined environmental reviews, the disapproval of burdensome methane rules via Congressional Review Act, extensions on costly compliance deadlines, reduced royalty rates, permanent tax incentives like 100% bonus depreciation, and restored noncompetitive leasing, fueled record-breaking U.S. oil production near 13.9 million barrels per day, soaring natural gas output, surging LNG exports, and billions in projected industry savings. By prioritizing reliable fossil fuels, challenging restrictive state policies, rescinding anti-energy public lands rules, and promoting energy dominance as a cornerstone of national security and economic growth—including vital support for powering AI and data centers—the administration restored American energy

leadership, lowered costs for consumers, created jobs, and positioned the United States as the world's premier energy superpower.

- **Signed key Executive Orders on Day One (January 20, 2025):** President Trump issued orders including "Unleashing American Energy," "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential," and "Declaring a National Energy Emergency." These directed agencies to review and remove burdensome regulations, expedite permitting, declare an energy emergency to bypass bottlenecks, and prioritize oil, natural gas, and other domestic resources.
- **Dramatic increase in drilling permits on public lands:** Oil and gas drilling permits approved on federal lands rose by roughly 55% since January 2025, contributing to faster development and supporting lower energy costs and U.S. dominance.
- **Expanded onshore leasing and sales:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) held 22 lease sales in 2025, leasing over 165,000 acres across multiple states and generating \$356.6 million in revenue—more than the entire Biden administration's four years combined.
- **Revived and expanded offshore leasing:** Held the first Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease sale since 2023 in December 2025 (under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which mandates 30 sales), generating over \$300 million in high bids. Proposed a new expansive 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2026–2031) with up to 34 sales covering ~1.27 billion acres, including areas off California, Florida, and Alaska.
- **Streamlined permitting and regulatory rollbacks:** Directed agencies to expedite environmental reviews, reduce timelines for fossil fuel projects, delay or eliminate methane emission limits,

and roll back climate-era regulations to boost production and exports.

- **Supported record or near-record production levels:** U.S. oil production reached highs around 13.9 million barrels per day in 2025 (surpassing prior records), with natural gas output also hitting unprecedented levels (107–109 billion cubic feet per day on average). Exports surged, with projections for 4 billion more cubic feet per day of natural gas exports in 2026 (a 33% increase over 2024).
- **EPA Waste Emissions Charge (WEC) Rule –** Disapproved via CRA, signed by President Trump on March 14, 2025 (P.L. 119-2). This eliminated the implementing rule for the IRA's methane tax, including calculation methods and payment deadlines. Note: The underlying IRA statutory tax requirement was not repealed by CRA; OBBBA separately delayed the WEC to emissions year 2034.
- **BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) –** Congress used CRA in late 2025 to overturn RMPs in Alaska, Montana, and North Dakota. This was the first time CRA was ever used to strike down land management plans, setting a significant precedent for future challenges to restrictive RMPs.
- **Additional fiscal and policy benefits:** Legislation and actions reduced royalties paid by companies on federal lands (estimated \$6 billion benefit), delayed methane penalties (~\$1.5 billion benefit), and created a more favorable capital environment for industry investment.
- **Expanded LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) Exports**
 - Approved new LNG export licenses and terminals**
The Department of Energy approved new LNG export permits and resumed approvals that had been delayed, increasing export capacity.
 - Promoted LNG as a foreign policy tool**
U.S. energy exports were framed as advancing national security and supporting allies, creating stable demand for domestic natural gas production.
- **Expanded Fossil-Fuel-Based Energy for AI and Data Centers**
 - Promoted gas and coal as necessary for AI infrastructure
 - Express enthusiasm for developing AI technology
 - Revoked climate and environmental justice executive orders**
Rescinded orders related to climate crisis response and environmental justice that could restrict fossil fuel development.
- **Section 401 Clean Water Act reform**
Restricted states' authority to block pipelines and energy

projects using water-quality certifications

- **Pullback on Renewables in Favor of Fossil Fuels**
 - Curtailed offshore wind development**
Paused or canceled offshore wind leasing and permitting efforts.
 - Reduced federal support for clean energy deployment**
Shifted policy priorities away from renewables toward fossil fuel reliability.
- **"Protecting American Energy from State Overreach"**
 - Challenged state climate laws and carbon penalties**
Executive directed the Department of Justice to push back against state-level climate litigation and carbon pricing policies targeting fossil fuel companies.
 - Limited state authority over national energy policy**
Asserted federal supremacy to prevent state environmental restrictions on fossil fuel production and sales.
- **BLM Public Lands Rule Rescission**
On September 10, 2025, Interior announced proposal to rescind the Biden-era Conservation and Landscape Health Rule ("Public Lands Rule"). The rule had made conservation a co-equal use of BLM lands alongside energy development, potentially blocking access to hundreds of thousands of acres. Rescission restores focus on energy, mining, grazing, and timber development on 245 million acres of public lands.
- **BLM Flaring and LDAR Deadline Extensions**
In December 2025, BLM extended compliance deadlines for measurement devices and sampling for medium-volume flares (1,050-6,000 mcf/month) to December 10, 2026. LDAR program submission deadlines also extended to December 10, 2026. These extensions align with the administration's energy policy under Executive Orders 14154 and 14156.
- **PHMSA Pipeline Safety Regulatory Easing**
Biden-era CO2 pipeline safety rule withdrawn per January 20, 2025 regulatory freeze. In August 2025, PHMSA issued 3 advance notices of proposed rulemaking to ease pipeline safety rules. In January 2026, PHMSA finalized rules easing class location requirements and hazardous materials transport rules, generating an estimated \$600 million in annualized cost savings. New enforcement policy allows deferred compliance in supply-constrained regions (West Coast, Northeast, Alaska).
- **EPA Quad O / OOOOb/c Methane Rule Compliance Extensions:** On March 12, 2025, Administrator Zeldin

announced reconsideration of the Biden-era OOOOb/c methane rules. EPA issued an Interim Final Rule on July 28, 2025, and finalized the rule on November 26, 2025, extending compliance deadlines by 18 months for control devices, equipment leaks, storage vessels, process controllers, covers/closed vent systems, state plan submissions for existing source methane emissions, and the "super emitter" program. This action impacts hundreds of thousands of oil and gas sources nationwide and saves an estimated \$750 million over 11 years in compliance costs.

- **EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) Proposed Repeal:** On September 12, 2025, EPA proposed eliminating the GHGRP for 46 of 47 source categories. Only petroleum and natural gas systems would be retained (due to WEC requirements, now delayed to 2034). If finalized, this would end 15 years of mandatory GHG emissions reporting for most industries, saving an estimated \$303 million per year (\$2.4 billion over 10 years).
- **EPA Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration:** On March 12, 2025, EPA announced reconsideration of the Biden-era RMP rule, which imposed costly requirements on oil and gas refineries and chemical facilities. EPA plans to roll back to 2019 Trump-era standards, eliminating requirements for safer technology assessments, third-party audits, and public data availability that raised national security concerns. Litigation is being held in abeyance while EPA completes rulemaking, with final rule expected late 2026.
- **EPA Power Plant GHG Rules Repeal:** In June 2025, EPA proposed to stop regulating carbon emissions from coal and gas-fired power plants. Final repeal expected early 2026.
- **Delay of increased bonding requirements on federal leases:** The Biden-era rule had raised minimums from \$10,000 to \$150,000 for individual lease bonds and from \$25,000 to \$500,000 for statewide bonds. BLM extended the statewide bond compliance deadline to June 22, 2027 and the individual lease bond phase-in to June 22, 2027. Additionally, OBBBA requires BLM to reduce bonding requirements going forward, making it easier for operators to secure leases for drilling on public lands.
- **Improved access to EPA Regional Administrators and offices:** EPA Regional Administrators have made themselves and their staff accessible to oil and gas industry personnel to address state and regional issues. In particular, permitting in the UIC program.

Additional OBBBA Tax and Regulatory Benefits:

- **100% Bonus Depreciation Made Permanent:** Allows immediate deduction of costs for qualifying assets such as rigs, well equipment, pipelines, and processing facilities.
- **Section 199A Deduction Made Permanent:** 20% deduction for qualified business income for pass-through entities.
- **R&D Expensing Restored:** Domestic research and development costs fully deductible on a permanent basis.
- **IDC Treatment Under AMT:** OBBBA aligned intangible drilling cost treatment under corporate alternative minimum tax (CAMT), allowing IDC deduction in computing adjusted financial statement income.
- **Federal Royalty Rate Reduction:** OBBBA rolled back IRA's increased royalty rates, restoring 12.5% minimum for new onshore federal leases (down from 16.67%).
- **Noncompetitive Leasing Restored:** OBBBA reinstated the noncompetitive leasing provision allowing parcels that receive no competitive bids to be acquired for a \$75 administrative fee.
- **Expression of Interest (EOI) Fee Eliminated:** OBBBA eliminated the \$5/acre EOI fee for nominating parcels for lease sales.
- **Access and Commingling Improvements:** BLM must now approve reasonable access across federal surface lands for development of non-federal minerals. Operators may place well pads on non-federal surface to access federal minerals. Commingling of federal and non-federal production expressly permitted.
- **Increased 45Q for EOR:** Equalized the rates for carbon sequestration and enhanced oil recovery under the 45Q tax credit setting a single value of \$85 per metric ton for point-source capture projects

OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) / Regulatory Relief:

Trump administration regulatory freeze halted Biden-era OSHA rulemakings including proposed PSM standard revisions that would have expanded scope to include oil and gas well drilling/servicing and resumed enforcement at oil and gas production facilities. Heat safety rule and walkaround rule under review. DOGE-driven staffing reductions expected to reduce inspection activity.



THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT!

HOUSE ENERGY & COMMERCE COMMITTEE KICKS OFF 2026 WITH MAJOR PERMITTING REFORM PUSH



The House Energy and Commerce Committee has begun its first full committee markup of 2026, signaling an aggressive start to the legislative year with a focus on permitting reform, American energy production, and public safety.

Committee leadership highlighted a productive 2025, during which the House passed 62 Energy and Commerce bills, 17 of which were signed into law. The committee also held more than 60 hearings and markups and spent over 80 hours formally debating and refining legislation. That groundwork now carries into 2026, beginning with consideration of 11 bills aimed at modernizing environmental permitting and improving infrastructure reliability.

WHAT IS A COMMITTEE MARKUP—AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

For those less familiar with the congressional process, a *committee markup* is one of the most important steps in turning an idea into law.

After a bill is introduced in the House, it is referred to the committee with jurisdiction over that subject matter—here, the Energy and Commerce Committee. During a markup, committee members debate the bill line by line, offer amendments, make changes to the text, and ultimately vote on whether to advance the legislation to the full House for consideration.

In practical terms, the markup is where legislation is shaped into something workable. It is where technical problems are addressed, unintended consequences are debated, and compromises are negotiated. Without this step, bills would move forward without vetting, increasing the risk of legal uncertainty, regulatory confusion, or implementation challenges down the road.

If a bill passes out of committee, it is sent to the House floor, where all members can debate and vote on it. If it fails in committee, it typically goes no further.

WHY PERMITTING REFORM IS FRONT AND CENTER

At this markup, the committee is considering a package of bills focused largely on reforming the Clean Air Act and streamlining federal permitting processes—areas that many policymakers argue have not kept pace with economic and technological realities.

Committee leaders noted that it has been 35 years since the Clean Air Act was meaningfully updated. In that time, outdated provisions and regulatory layering have contributed to permitting gridlock, slowing infrastructure development and discouraging investment.

Among the issues addressed in the bills under consideration:

- **Foreign air emissions:** Preventing states and local communities from being penalized for pollution originating outside the United States.
- **Modernizing air quality standards:** Updating National Ambient Air Quality Standards to reflect current science and practical implementation realities.
- **Reducing permitting delays:** Streamlining Clean Air Act permitting and the New Source Review process to reduce uncertainty and lengthy approval timelines.
- **Supporting critical minerals and advanced manufacturing:** Providing alternative pathways for essential manufacturing facilities to meet permitting requirements.
- **Eliminating duplicative reviews:** Reducing overlapping NEPA reviews that add cost and time without improving environmental outcomes.

According to the committee, the current regulatory framework threatens nearly \$200 billion in economic activity and puts more than one million jobs at risk—concerns that resonate strongly across the energy, manufacturing, and

infrastructure sectors.

Addressing Wildfires, Power Reliability, and Public Safety

The markup also includes legislation to ensure states are not penalized for wildfire mitigation efforts such as prescribed burns and brush clearing—activities that can temporarily affect air quality but are critical for long-term environmental and public safety outcomes.

To support reliable and affordable electricity, committee members are examining bills to extend hydropower licensing timelines for projects nationwide, helping preserve existing generation capacity.

Finally, several bipartisan public safety communications bills are under review, including updates to the emergency alert system. One proposal, known as *Lulu's Law*, would codify the option to use emergency alerts in specific situations such as shark attacks, ensuring timely and flexible communication during emergencies.

WHY THIS MATTERS GOING FORWARD

Committee markups may not generate headlines, but they are where durable policy is built. The decisions made during this process determine whether legislation is practical, enforceable, and capable of supporting economic growth while meeting environmental and public safety goals.

DID YOU KNOW...

The **House Committee on Energy and Commerce** isn't just another congressional panel — it's *the* powerhouse committee that most people don't realize shapes huge swaths of everyday life. In fact, it's the **oldest standing committee in the U.S.**

House of Representatives, created on **December 14, 1795**, originally to oversee burgeoning commerce as the young nation began to trade more actively both domestically and abroad.

Over more than two centuries of continuous operation, it has held *broader jurisdiction* than almost any other House committee — touching everything from energy markets and public health to telecommunications and consumer protections. Its name changed a few times over that history, reflecting how its role expanded: from the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, to Commerce, then Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and finally to today's name in 1981 to underscore its central role in energy policy.

That wide reach isn't just bureaucratic window-dressing — it means the committee has had a hand in some major developments people might not connect with its name:

- **Communications and technology policy:** Long before “tech policy” was a buzzword, the Energy and Commerce Committee shaped the landmark *Communications Act of 1934* and later major telecommunications reforms like the *Telecommunications Act of 1996*, which helped reshape phone, cable, and internet markets.
- **Transportation oversight:** In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the committee helped craft the regulatory apparatus for transportation — from shipping and railroads to aviation — including early federal agencies designed to oversee fair practices.
- **Health and safety laws:** Its jurisdiction extends into public health, food and drug safety, and consumer protection — mean-

ing legislation affecting everything from the FDA's authority to evolving biomedical research support has passed through this panel.

- **Energy and environmental law:** The committee has been central to crafting energy policy, often acting as the House's lead on national energy strategy, including major legislation like the *Energy Policy Act of 1992* — a foundational energy law that pushed efficiency, conservation, and cleaner energy incentives nationwide.

Because of this breadth, the committee oversees *multiple Cabinet-level agencies and independent bodies* — from the Department of Energy and EPA to the Federal Communications Commission and the Food and Drug Administration.

What many people *don't realize* is that work out of Energy and Commerce isn't always flashy floor fights — a lot of it happens in detailed markups and oversight investigations that quietly shape policy. For instance, in recent years the committee has driven reforms in organ transplant system oversight and has launched reviews into how well federal systems are working in practice.

And while energy and permitting reform likely dominate headlines now, the committee simultaneously juggles dozens of other high-impact areas — including discussions around chemical safety laws, public health insurance affordability, and communications infrastructure — all of which affect daily life for millions of Americans.

Because it touches so many parts of the economy and public policy, Energy and Commerce often flies under the radar with the general public — yet its work to update regulatory frameworks, break logjams, and modernize laws can have *as much impact* on American families and businesses as more talked-about headline sweeping bills.



PROTECTING AMERICA'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE: ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING RECAP

As cyber and physical threats to America's energy systems grow more complex and coordinated, lawmakers are sharpening their focus on how best to protect the infrastructure that keeps the lights on and fuel moving. On January 13, 2026, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy convened a hearing titled "*Protecting America's Energy Infrastructure in Today's Cyber and Physical Threat Landscape*" to examine that challenge and review a slate of bipartisan legislation aimed at strengthening resilience across the energy sector.

The hearing underscored a central theme: America's energy security is inseparable from its national security. Cyber and physical threats are no longer theoretical, and adversaries are actively probing for weaknesses. By reviewing and advancing legislation that strengthens leadership, improves intelligence sharing, supports smaller utilities, and reinforces voluntary public-private partnerships, lawmakers signaled a commitment to staying ahead of those threats without undermining reliability or innovation.

As these bills move through the legislative process, the January 13 hearing made clear that protecting energy infrastructure is not a single-agency task or a short-term effort. It is an ongoing collaboration among Congress, federal agencies, states, and the energy sector itself, all working to ensure that America's energy systems remain secure, resilient, and reliable in an increasingly contested threat landscape.

The hearing was driven by an increasingly sobering threat environment. According to recent intelligence assessments, hostile nation states, including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, continue to target U.S. critical infrastructure. Of particular concern is the People's Republic of China, which intelligence officials describe as the most active and persistent cyber threat to U.S. government and private-sector networks. Recent campaigns, such as the widely reported "Volt Typhoon" operation, demonstrated how adversaries can infiltrate information technology systems and position themselves to disrupt operational technology that controls real-world energy assets.

These cyber risks are compounded by physical threats,

criminal activity, and ideologically motivated attacks, all of which place strain on an energy system that is vast, interconnected, and essential to national security and economic stability. Lawmakers emphasized that while the energy sector has made meaningful progress on reliability and security, evolving threats demand updated tools, clearer coordination among agencies, and sustained investment in preparedness, particularly for smaller and rural utilities.

WHO TESTIFIED

The hearing featured two panels that brought together federal leadership, industry representatives, and technical experts.

On the first panel, Alex Fitzsimmons, Acting Undersecretary of Energy and Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, outlined DOE's role as the Sector Risk Management Agency for energy cybersecurity. Fitzsimmons described DOE's responsibilities for coordinating across federal agencies, working with state and local governments, and partnering directly with energy owners and operators to identify vulnerabilities and respond to incidents.

The second panel represented a cross-section of the electric and energy security community:

- Scott Aaronson, Senior Vice President for Energy Security and Industry Operations at the Edison Electric Institute
- Adrienne Lotto, Senior Vice President of Grid Security, Technical and Operations Services at the American Public Power Association
- Dr. Nathaniel Melby, Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Dairyland Power, testifying on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- Rebecca O'Neil, Research Principal at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



ALEX FITZSIMMONS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S
OFFICE OF CYBERSECURITY



SCOTT AARONSON
EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE



ADRIENNE LOTTO
AMERICAN PUBLIC
POWER ASSOCIATION



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Together, the panelists provided perspectives from investor-owned utilities, public power, rural cooperatives, and the national laboratory system.

Much of the discussion centered on how existing public-private partnerships have improved threat detection and information sharing, and where gaps still remain. Witnesses highlighted the importance of programs like the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council and the Cybersecurity Risk Information Sharing Program, which allow utilities and government agencies to exchange timely threat intelligence without entangling security collaboration with regulatory enforcement.

The hearing also examined five pieces of legislation designed to build on that foundation:

- **Energy Threat Analysis Center Act of 2026**, which would reauthorize and clarify the Energy Threat Analysis Center, a public-private partnership that brings together government and industry experts to analyze emerging threats and strengthen collective defense.
- **Energy Emergency Leadership Act**, which would formally elevate energy security and emergency response responsibilities within DOE's leadership structure, ensuring sustained focus and coordination during crises.

- **Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act**, which would reauthorize and streamline grant and technical assistance programs to help smaller utilities harden their systems and participate in information-sharing efforts.
- **SECURE Grid Act**, which would update state energy security planning to account for local distribution systems, supply chain vulnerabilities, and weather-related risks, while clarifying DOE's role in plan approval.
- **Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness Act**, which would enhance coordination and voluntary cybersecurity efforts for pipelines and LNG facilities without creating new regulatory authority or altering existing agency roles.

Across panels, witnesses stressed that effective security depends on coordination rather than duplication, voluntary collaboration rather than one-size-fits-all mandates, and targeted support for entities that lack the resources of larger operators. Several noted that rural cooperatives and municipal utilities are often on the front lines of cybersecurity risk but face unique staffing and budget constraints.

ERIC MAHROUM NAMED DIRECTOR OF DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced the appointment of Eric Mahroum as director of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, a key office focused on supporting tribal energy development and economic self-determination.

“Eric Mahroum brings a strong understanding of both energy policy and the unique opportunities facing tribal communities,” said Jerry Simmons, DEPA President and CEO. “His experience working directly with tribes, managing significant funding programs, and engaging with energy stakeholders makes him well positioned to support responsible domestic energy development that benefits tribal nations and strengthens American energy security.”

Mahroum most recently served as director of DOE’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs, a role he assumed in January 2025. In that position, he oversaw programs that made hundreds of millions of dollars available to Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations, providing him with direct experience managing large-scale funding initiatives critical to tribal communities.

Mahroum first joined the Department of Energy in 2017 during the Trump administration, serving in several senior roles including assistant to the secretary and special advisor within the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. From 2018 to 2019, he served as senior advisor on minority business, followed by his role as director for the Department of Energy under the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative.

His federal service also includes work at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he served as an advisor to the regional administrator in Fort Worth, Texas. After returning to Texas, Mahroum led Mahroum Communications, LLC, before rejoining DOE.

In his new role, Mahroum emphasized that his experience overseeing programs that distributed significant funding to tribes and Alaska Native corporations, combined with his background in the energy sector, positions him to help tribes expand energy development in alignment with the Trump administration’s priorities. The Office of Indian Energy plays a critical role in supporting tribal sovereignty, energy security, and economic growth through responsible development of domestic energy resources.

Mahroum has also served on several advisory boards, including the American Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Advisory Committee for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. In 2022, he was appointed to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission by Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Wayne Christian, further underscoring his experience at the intersection of energy policy, economic development, and intergovernmental collaboration.

His appointment comes as tribes continue to pursue opportunities to develop domestic energy resources, strengthen local economies, and expand access to reliable, affordable energy.

You can sign up for Tribal Energy News from the DOE on their [website](#)



Republicans Want to Make It Easier for Companies to Use New Chemicals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In case you missed it, the Wall Street Journal recently highlighted that the House Committee on Energy and Commerce is leading efforts to modernize America’s chemical safety law through proposed legislation that would streamline approvals for new chemicals and strengthen U.S. competitiveness in advanced manufacturing.

In Case You Missed It:

Republicans on Capitol Hill are set to propose legislation aimed at helping companies to more quickly get the government’s blessing to use and sell many more new chemicals, from those used in heavy manufacturing to household disinfectants.

Draft legislation seen by WSJ Pro Sustainable Business would implement a series of changes to the Toxic Substances Control Act—a sprawling law covering the impact of thousands of chemicals on the environment and public health. The legislation, first enacted in the 1970s, tasks the Environmental Protection Agency with chemical safety reviews.

The changes would make it easier for a swath of industries to get the green light to use new chemicals ranging from oil-and-gas additives to ingredients for cleaning products. It would also apply to new uses of already-approved chemicals.

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce said it is going to hold a hearing on its plans on Jan. 22.

The draft legislation would speed up approvals for chemicals already given the green light in certain other countries so that they can be manufactured in the U.S. It also would require the EPA in its review process to give priority to new chemicals ‘intended to address supply-chain risks for critical materials.’ The committee said those updates would help American businesses compete with China—which dominates the critical-minerals market.

The EPA under the Trump administration has proposed a series of changes to its regulation under the TSCA, including a bid in November to reduce the scope of reporting under the law for PFAS, known as ‘forever chemicals.’ Meanwhile, many states are trying to cut such chemicals out of products from clothing to cosmetics.

Maria Doa, a doctor who testified at a hearing in January last year focused on the TSCA, and who previously led chemical safety reviews at the EPA, said a 2016 bipartisan update to the law that increased safety reviews and testing ‘transformed the law from largely ineffective to one that set clear direction to protect human health and the environment.

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce said it wants to require the EPA to focus safety reviews and regulations ‘on actual or intended uses and risks, not mere speculation.’

At the hearing about the law last year, Rep. Raul Ruiz (D., Calif.), who has also worked as an emergency physician, said the TSCA is vital to protect people from chemicals such as asbestos and trichloroethylene that can cause cancers and heart and liver diseases.

He said the old version of the law ‘failed to safeguard our communities, allowing people to be exposed to harmful chemicals in their homes and workplaces, and this failure disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations.’

Groups including the Environmental Defense Fund have said changes to the TSCA could lead to weaker protections for workers and communities living near chemical plants.

Brett Guthrie (R., Ky.), chairman of the committee, said the draft legislation Republicans are proposing ‘will help maintain America’s leadership in chemical innovation and strengthen domestic competitiveness in the global marketplace.’

Chris Jahn, president of the American Chemistry Council, said ahead of the draft release that ‘Congress is leading by moving legislation to provide durable improvements to ensure that U.S. manufacturing remains competitive,’ adding that he thinks it is necessary for ‘the next generation of semiconductors, AI and advanced technologies’ to be made in the U.S.

PRESIDENT TRUMP ANNOUNCES US-VENEZUELA ENERGY DEAL TO SAFEGUARD AMERICA

Below is the one-sheet released by the Department of Energy January 7, 2026

- Thanks to President Trump, the United States is restoring prosperity, safety, and security to the United States and Venezuela.
- Venezuela was once a wealthy, stable nation whose citizens benefitted from its vast natural resources and enjoyed a strong economic partnership with the United States.
- However, for more than two decades, Venezuelan leaders chose a darker path of violence, corruption, and socialism. This shift devastated Venezuela's economy, impoverished its citizens, and funded global terrorism.
- On January 3, 2026, under President Trump's leadership, the United States successfully apprehended Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, who had been indicted for numerous violent crimes, including Narcoterrorism Conspiracy.

On January 6, 2026, President Trump [announced](#) an energy deal to strengthen America's national security in the Western Hemisphere and help restore Venezuela as a responsible, prosperous ally of the United States.

Secretary Wright and the Department of Energy are working with the Interim Venezuelan Authorities and private industry to execute this deal.

TRUMP'S US-VENEZUELA ENERGY DEAL WILL HELP UNLEASH PROSPERITY AND PEACE ACROSS THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

- The United States government has begun marketing Venezuelan crude oil in the global marketplace for the benefit of the United States, Venezuela, and our allies. We have engaged the world's leading commodity marketers and key banks to execute and provide financial support for these crude oil and crude products sales.
- All proceeds from the sale of Venezuelan crude oil and oil products will first settle in U.S. controlled accounts at globally recognized banks to guarantee the legitimacy and integrity of the ultimate distribution of proceeds.
- These funds will be disbursed for the benefit of the American people and the Venezuelan people at the discretion of the U.S. government. These oil sales begin immediately with the anticipated sale of approximately 30 – 50 million barrels. They will continue indefinitely.
- The only oil transported in and out of Venezuela will be through legitimate and authorized channels consistent with U.S. law and national security.
- The United States is selectively rolling back sanctions to enable the transport and sale of Venezuelan crude and oil products to global markets.
- U.S. diluent (light crude oil) will flow into Venezuela, as required, to mix, upgrade, and optimize the production and transport of Venezuela's very heavy (high viscosity) crude oil.
- As part of the significant modernization, expansion, and upgrading required, the U.S. will authorize the import of select oil field equipment, parts, and services to immediately offset decades of production decline and drive near-term growth. This will involve technology, expertise, and investment from American and other international energy partners.

Venezuela's electricity grid is dilapidated and fragile after years of socialist mismanagement, corruption, and poor maintenance. Nationwide, production of electricity has declined by over 30 percent, due to substantial underinvestment and corrupt, inadequate operations and maintenance practices. We will work to improve the electricity grid, which is essential to increasing oil production, economic opportunity, and the daily quality of life for the Venezuelan people.

THE MYTH OF INSTANT SUPPLY: LESSONS FROM VENEZUELA



The news from Venezuela this morning is a reminder that reserves are not supply.

Early reports suggest oil facilities remain intact. That removes the worst-case scenario, but does not determine whether barrels will actually move.

Oil flows on control, logistics, payments, insurance, and confidence in the system surrounding production and exports. When those break down, barrels remain stranded no matter how large the resource base.

Venezuela holds the world's largest proven oil reserves, yet it produces only about one million barrels per day (the US produces over 13M barrels per day). The constraint has never been geology. It has been governance, sanctions, capital access, and execution.

If political change brings rapid stabilization and credible authority over PDVSA, the upside is incremental supply over time, not a sudden surge. Heavy oil requires diluent, maintenance, skilled labor, and sustained investment, all of which take time.

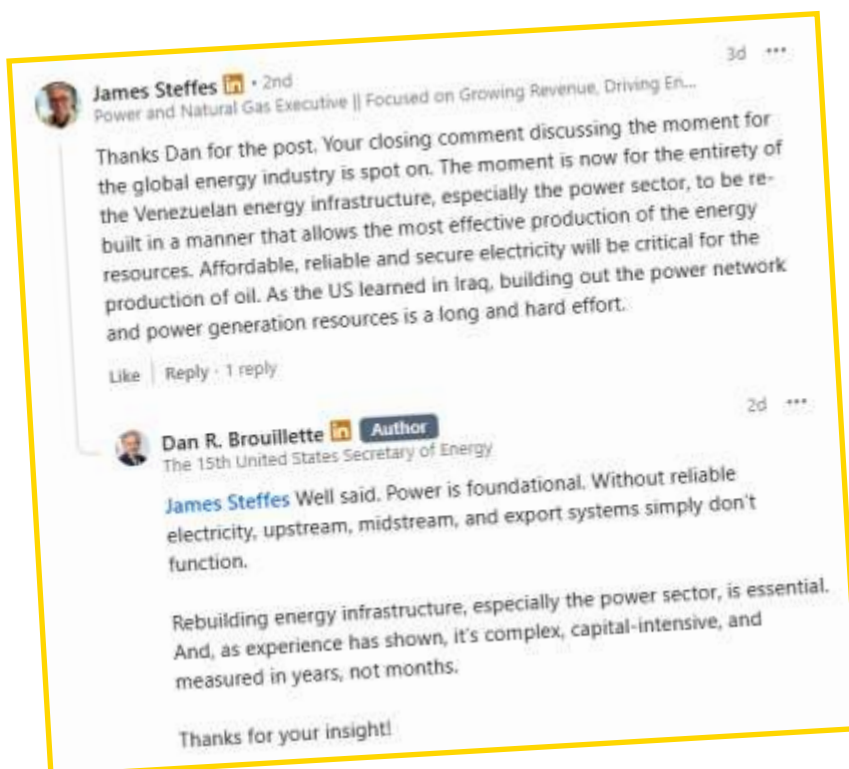
If control fragments instead, the outcome is higher geopolitical risk premiums and continued tightness in heavy sour crude markets.

This event may also test OPEC. Venezuela has long operated outside effective quota discipline due to capacity constraints. If barrels return meaningfully, the group will face difficult choices about accommodation, offsetting cuts, and credibility in a market that is already well supplied.

Russia's role also bears watching. Moscow has been a consistent political and commercial backer of Caracas, even as its own energy revenues face pressure. Venezuela therefore remains both an oil variable and a geopolitical pressure point.

The real issues are not how much oil sits underground. They are who controls the system, how quickly exports can be stabilized, and whether any potential increase in supply can be sustained.

These are judgments with real consequences. It is an extraordinary moment for the global energy industry.





CALIFORNIA'S 2045 OIL PHASE-OUT: WHY A STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER STILL MATTERS NATIONWIDE

In 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive directive that set two consequential policies in motion: an end to new hydraulic fracturing permits by 2024 and a pathway to phase out oil extraction across the state entirely by 2045. While framed as a long-term climate strategy, the directive has already reshaped investment behavior, production decisions, and regulatory risk assessments—not only in California, but across the domestic energy landscape.

For California producers, the signal was unmistakable. By instructing the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to plan for a complete phase-out of oil extraction, the state effectively put a sunset date on an entire industry. Even though 2045 may seem distant, capital markets do not operate on political timelines—they respond to certainty and risk. Once an expiration date is written into state policy, investment dries up, long-cycle projects stall, and workforce attrition accelerates.

As one industry observer recently noted, no energy transition in history has succeeded by eliminating existing technology before replacement systems are fully deployed at scale. California's approach reverses that order.

THE CALIFORNIA PARADOX: LESS IN-STATE PRODUCTION, SAME DEMAND

Despite aggressive policy goals, California remains one of the largest petroleum-consuming states in the country. Transportation, aviation, agriculture, emergency services, and goods movement still depend heavily on liquid fuels—and will for decades. The executive order does not eliminate that demand. It simply shifts where supply comes from.

As in-state production declines, California becomes increasingly reliant on imported oil, often from foreign producers with weaker environmental and labor standards. From a lifecycle emissions perspective, this substitution undermines the stated climate objectives while increasing costs for consumers.

That affordability impact is already visible. California consistently experiences some of the highest gasoline and diesel prices in the nation, driven by constrained supply, boutique fuel requirements, and limited refining flexibility. Removing domestic production from the equation tightens those constraints further.

WHY THIS MATTERS BEYOND CALIFORNIA

Even for producers and service companies operating far from the West Coast, California's executive order carries broader implications:

1. A Policy Template for Other States

California has long functioned as a regulatory bellwether. Policies first tested there often resurface elsewhere—through state legislation, ballot initiatives, or federal agency rule-making. A state-mandated production phase-out sets a precedent that could be replicated in other politically aligned jurisdictions.

CONT'D ON PG 17

Sean Wallentine • 1st
VP of Government Affairs, CA Independent Petroleum Association
2d •


In 2021, the #California Governor did something very strange. He issued an Executive Order #banning #oil production in California after 2045.

That was the death sentence for California oil producers. As long as that EO remains in effect, there will continue to be a man-made #energy crisis in the State of California.

Request: **Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom**, please pull back the EO and shred it. No #transition in history has begun by killing the existing technology before the replacement technology is successfully deployed.

You are killing our in-state oil production industry unnecessarily and creating an #affordability crisis, which is a massive unforced political error on your part, which hurts your future political career, but worse, it hurts California families and businesses.

<https://lnkd.in/ga9g6RwH>

 **Governor Newsom Takes Action to Phase Out Oil Extraction in California**
gov.ca.gov

ONE YEAR INTO THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DOE IS DELIVERING ON THE AGENDA OF AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

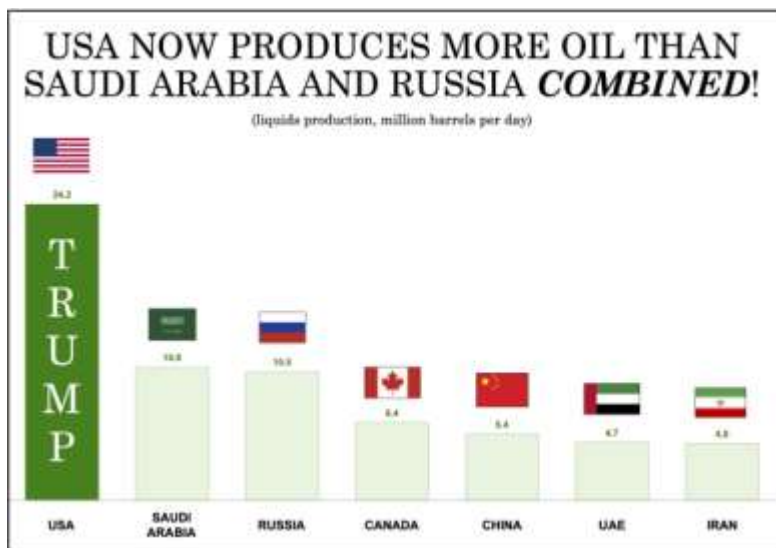
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has continued to roll out a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening domestic supply chains for critical minerals and rare earth elements, reflecting a broader administration priority on energy security, industrial resilience, and reduced reliance on foreign sources of strategic materials.

A central focus of these efforts has been reshoring mineral production and processing capacity that is essential to U.S. manufacturing, advanced technologies, and national defense. DOE has emphasized leveraging existing domestic resources, advancing new extraction technologies, and partnering with private industry to commercialize innovations that can be deployed at scale.

In November 2025, DOE announced \$355 million in funding opportunities for American industrial facilities capable of producing valuable minerals from existing industrial by-products and coal waste. This funding is intended to unlock domestic mineral resources that already exist in legacy materials, while also reducing environmental liabilities associated with historic mining and industrial activity. The announcement also included funding to establish “Mine of the Future” proving grounds, designed to provide real-world testing environments for next-generation mining and mineral processing technologies. These proving grounds are expected to accelerate innovation, improve efficiency, and reduce costs for future domestic mining operations.

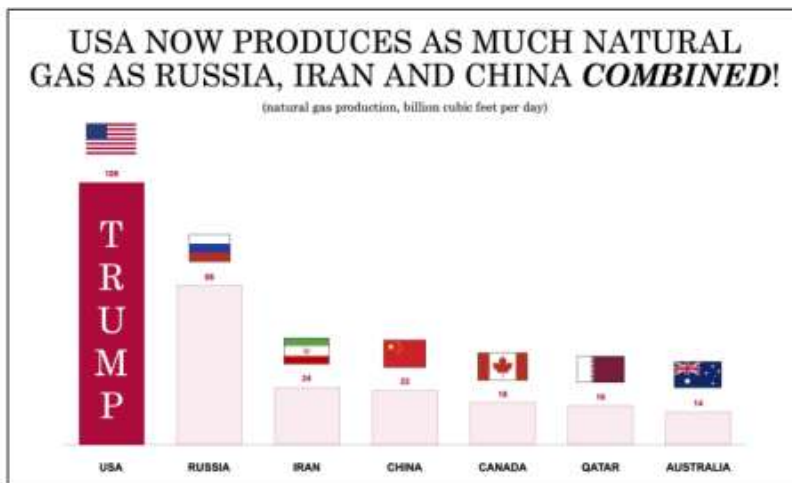
DOE followed that announcement in December 2025 with an additional \$134 million in funding opportunities focused on enhancing domestic supply chains for rare earth elements (REEs). These funds are targeted toward projects that can commercialize the recovery and refining of REEs from un-

conventional feedstocks, such as industrial waste streams, coal byproducts, and other non-traditional sources. Expanding domestic REE production is seen as particularly critical given their role in energy technologies, electronics, and defense applications.



Beyond grant funding, the administration has also taken steps to support domestic mineral projects through DOE’s loan programs. The Energy Department recently announced it restructured a loan with Lithium Americas to further protect taxpayers while advancing the launch of what is expected to be the nation’s only domestic source of lithium carbonate. Under the revised agreement, the

U.S. government receives 5% equity ownership in the form of Lithium Americas Corporation warrants. DOE has framed this restructuring as a way to balance financial stewardship with the strategic importance of establishing a U.S.-based lithium supply chain, particularly as demand for lithium continues to grow.



DOE’s National Laboratories have played a key role in advancing the technical foundation for these efforts. National Lab researchers have developed technologies capable of extracting critical minerals and rare earth elements from coal waste and other legacy materials. DOE is now partnering with private industry to commercialize and deploy these technologies, with the goal

of turning previously unusable waste streams into economically viable sources of domestic mineral production.

Taken together, these actions highlight an administration-wide approach that combines federal funding, loan program support, research and development, and public-private part-

nerships to strengthen U.S. critical mineral and rare earth supply chains. For energy and oil and gas executives, these initiatives underscore a growing federal emphasis on domestic resource development, innovation in extraction and processing technologies, and policies aimed at reinforcing U.S. industrial and national security interests through expanded domestic production.



Thanks to President Trump, the Energy Department is reversing dangerous and costly energy subtraction policies. The Energy Department has issued [19 emergency orders](#), to maximize grid reliability, affordability and to keep power online and available that would have otherwise been shuttered. These emergency orders have been essential in keeping the lights on during periods of extreme weather and periods of peak demand.



CONT'D FROM PG 15

2. Federal Policy Pressure

California's directives are embedded into CARB's Climate Change Scoping Plan, which frequently influences federal

environmental modeling and regulatory assumptions. As these frameworks migrate into national discussions, they can shape permitting standards, emissions accounting, and long-term supply projections used by federal agencies.

3. Supply Chain and Service Sector Impacts

As production declines in California, service companies lose work—not only local operators, but national firms with multi-state footprints. Reduced drilling and workover activity means fewer equipment orders, fewer field jobs, and less demand for specialized services that support marginal and mature fields.

4. National Energy Security

Every barrel taken offline domestically must be replaced somewhere else. Reducing production in one of the nation's largest energy-consuming states increases reliance on imports and concentrates supply risk elsewhere in the

system. That vulnerability becomes especially pronounced during geopolitical disruptions, refinery outages, or extreme weather events.

A MANAGED TRANSITION—OR A MANDATED EXIT?

Governor Newsom framed the directive as part of a “just transition” and a broader effort to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. Yet critics argue that policy certainty should focus on enabling alternatives to succeed—through infrastructure build-out, grid reliability, storage capacity, and affordability—before dismantling existing systems that Californians still depend on daily.

For oil and gas professionals, the lesson is not confined to California. Executive orders that pre-determine production outcomes introduce long-term instability into capital-intensive industries that require decades-long planning horizons. Whether through direct replication or indirect influence, these policies shape how—and where—energy is produced across the United States.

The debate is no longer just about one state's climate goals. It is about whether the nation can pursue emissions reductions without sacrificing affordability, reliability, and domestic energy security in the process.

SUN BELT CONNECTOR AND WESTERN GATEWAY: POLICY, PERMITTING, AND THE FUTURE OF SOUTHWEST FUEL SUPPLY

The refined products infrastructure debate in the western United States has intensified, revealing both market demand and growing policy tension.

In October 2025, Kinder Morgan, Inc. and Phillips 66 announced a binding open season for a proposed new refined products corridor known as the Western Gateway Pipeline. The project combines new-build infrastructure with the reversal of existing pipeline assets, enabling refined fuels to move west from major Texas refining centers into Arizona, Nevada, and—critically—California.

If constructed, Western Gateway would mark the first time California could receive refined fuels via pipeline from outside the state, a notable shift for a market historically dependent on in-state refining capacity and waterborne imports. The proposal highlights a growing recognition within the industry that existing policy frameworks have failed to reconcile fuel demand with the infrastructure needed to meet it.

At the same time, the Sun Belt Connector, proposed by ONEOK, remains an active competitor—targeting similar supply vulnerabilities through a different corridor and regulatory pathway.

SUN BELT CONNECTOR:

COMMERCIAL INTEREST MEETS POLICY REALITY

The Sun Belt Connector is designed to transport gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel from **El Paso, Texas, to the Phoenix metropolitan area**, connecting Arizona more directly to Gulf Coast and Midcontinent refining supply. The project addresses a longstanding structural weakness: Arizona's heavy dependence on fuel inflows from California, a state increasingly hostile to refining investment.

As of early 2026, ONEOK has ex-

tended its open season, continuing efforts to secure binding shipper commitments ahead of a final investment decision. The proposed pipeline would carry approximately 200,000 barrels per day, with expansion potential, and targets a late-decade in-service date (around 2029).

From a policy perspective, the Sun Belt Connector reflects a broader industry response to:

- Regulatory-driven refinery attrition in California
- Limited alternatives for fuel supply diversification in the Southwest
- Growing concern that infrastructure constraints—not demand—will dictate future fuel availability

WESTERN GATEWAY:

ACCELERATING AMID REGULATORY UNCERTAINTY

The Western Gateway Pipeline has moved more decisively through the commercial process. Following its initial binding open season in October, Kinder Morgan and Phillips 66 launched a subsequent open season in January 2026, citing strong shipper interest and the need to allocate remaining capacity and expand destination options.

WESTERN GATEWAY'S STRUCTURE INCLUDES:

- A new-build pipeline from Borger, Texas, to Phoenix
- Reversed flows on existing Kinder Morgan systems, including the SFPP pipeline into California
- Connectivity to Las Vegas via CALNEV

If permitted and constructed, the system would provide California with a reliable, domestic, pipeline-based supply of refined fuels, reducing dependence on marine imports and mitigating exposure to global shipping disruptions.

However, the project also underscores a policy contradiction: while state and federal policies continue to restrict refining and pipeline development, fuel demand—and the need for supply reliability—remains unchanged.

WHY POLICY IS DRIVING INFRASTRUCTURE DECISIONS

The emergence of multiple refined products pipelines targeting the same region is not simply a market coincidence—it is a direct response to policy signals:

- **California's regulatory environment** has discouraged refinery investment, leading to closures and conversions that tighten supply.
- **Federal permitting delays** continue to raise costs and extend timelines for new infrastructure, discouraging investment even where demand is clear.
- **Energy security considerations**—particularly for transportation fuels—are increasingly at odds with policies that prioritize electrification without ensuring near- and medium-term reliability.

For Arizona and Nevada, states without significant refining capacity, these policy-driven constraints translate into greater price volatility and higher exposure to supply disruptions.

WHAT POLICYMAKERS AND INDUSTRY SHOULD WATCH

Over the next year, several developments will signal whether policy realities align with energy needs:

- **Open season results and shipper commitments** for both pipelines
- **Final investment decisions**, which will hinge on regulatory risk as much as commercial demand

- **Federal and state permitting outcomes**, particularly for new-build segments
- **Additional refinery closures or policy actions in California**, which could further strain regional supply

The Sun Belt Connector and Western Gateway pipelines illustrate a growing disconnect between fuel demand, infrastructure necessity, and regulatory policy. While market signals clearly support expanded refined products connectivity into the Southwest, permitting uncertainty and policy resistance remain the largest obstacles—not economics.

Whether one or both projects advance, the broader message is clear: without a more balanced policy approach to fuel infrastructure, supply reliability in the western United States will continue to erode, leaving consumers and businesses increasingly vulnerable to disruption.

Executive Takeaway

- Multiple refined products pipelines targeting the Southwest underscore growing concern over fuel reliability west of the Rockies.
- Sun Belt Connector (ONEOK) remains in the commercial development phase, while Western Gateway (Kinder Morgan / Phillips 66) has advanced more quickly with binding shipper interest.
- Both projects reflect mounting pressure from California refinery contraction, regulatory uncertainty, and the lack of policy alignment between fuel demand realities and infrastructure approval processes.
- Federal and state permitting outcomes will likely determine not just which project moves forward—but whether the region secures adequate long-term fuel supply at all.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

World Oil
60,729 followers
6d •

Forum Energy Technologies has appointed Leslie A. Beyer, former assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior and former Energy Workforce & Technology Council CEO, to its board of directors, strengthening regulatory and industry expertise. #energyleaders

<https://ow.ly/t8950XVHR3>

Forum Energy Technologies adds former Interior official Leslie Beyer to board
worldoil.com

+ Follow

Hamm Institute for American Energy
2,634 followers
1w •

Vietnam's electricity demand is projected to more than triple by 2050.

Our new study with James Payne (Dean of Spears School of Business - Oklahoma State University & Hamm Institute Fellow), Bradley Ewing (Texas Tech University & Hamm Institute Fellow), and Wood Mackenzie explains why LNG will be a critical bridge.

Growth at this scale needs new capacity and bankable rules, including dispatch certainty, fuel-cost pass-through, and tariff structures investors can finance.

Link to the full paper in the comments.

#EnergySecurity #Vietnam #LNG

Vietnam electricity demand outlook through 2050

Source: Wood Mackenzie outlook, cited in Hamm Institute white paper (Jan 2026).

Hamm Institute for American Energy
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future
4,101 followers
2d •

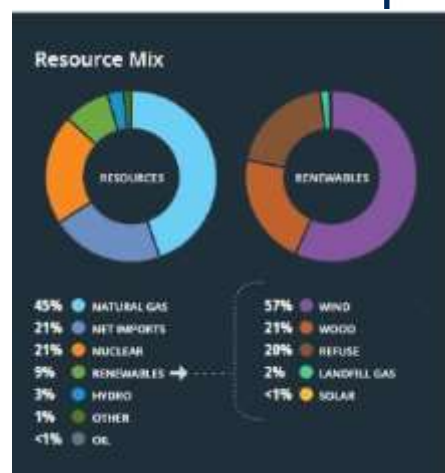
New England reality check: yesterday morning on Friday, January 23, oil was <1% of power generation, according to real-time data from ISO New England Inc.

At 8:25am today, Saturday, January 24—as the winter storm hits—oil surged to 28%, right behind natural gas at 30%.

Limited natural gas access forces dirtier fuel use in extreme weather—driving up emissions and undermining our climate goals.

We need more natural gas, not less!

+ Follow





Neil Chatterjee • Following
Chief of Governmental Affairs | Palmetto
5d •

It's bold. I want to see more details but from what I know so far the data centers should embrace it. They will pay their fair share. This brings PJM in line with regulated states on this, addresses affordability and helps solve for capacity. I suspect there will be close to unanimous support amongst Republican and Democrat governors. It's short term but significant.



**Trump to Direct Key US Grid Operator to Hold
Emergency Auction**
financialpost.com



Texas Alliance of Energy Producers
16,044 followers
5d •

"This industry has always been cyclical. You ride the wave when it's good, and you brace for the downturn," said **Karr Ingham**, president of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. "But what's different now is, even when prices recover, we don't see the same hiring bounce we used to."

<https://lnkd.in/eP7VxhqV> via **Bloomberg News**

#oil #energy #oilandgas #TexasEnergy



**The 40% of US Oil Jobs Lost Over the Last Decade Aren't
Coming Back**
bloomberg.com



Jarrod Agen • 1st
Make America Energy Dominant Again!
1w • Edited •

From Day One, President Trump has understood the importance of energy. That's why he built the National Energy Dominance Council and now enlisted Secretary **Chris Wright** and Secretary **Doug Burgum** to get the oil flowing again from Venezuela into the USA.

This week alone, the President's elite energy team quickly handled the first 30m-50m million barrels of Venezuelan crude. That will allow the oil production process in Venezuela to jumpstart again, all while helping lowering gas prices in America and get much needed funds into Venezuela.

President Trump built an energy team to move at speed and it's pulling all parts of government together to act in this time of urgency.





2026 events

We appreciate the partnerships we have with our state trade associations that allows us to attend many of the collaborating association annual meetings across the country to explain what DEPA is doing in DC on behalf of domestic producers, service companies, refiners and pipelines. **Click the organization name to see the event webpage and register to attend!**

[Illinois Oil and Gas Association](#)

ANNUAL MEETING- EVANSVILLE, INDIANA MARCH 26-27

[North Dakota Petroleum Council](#)

WILLISTON BASIN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE- BISMARCK, ND MAY 19-21

[Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma](#)

ANNUAL MEETING- IRVING TX, JUNE 2-5

[Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association](#)

ANNUAL MEETING- WICHITA KS, AUGUST 24-26



The welfare of the United States—and our allies around the world—continues to begin with energy. As we move forward under the Trump administration, domestic oil and natural gas are once again being recognized as strategic assets critical to economic strength, national security, and global stability.

This administration has made it clear that American energy production is not a liability to be managed away, but a strength to be fully utilized. Efforts to restore regulatory balance, advance permitting reform, and reassert U.S. energy leadership are creating meaningful opportunities for domestic producers and service companies. That shift matters—not just for our industry, but for American families, manufacturers, and communities that depend on affordable, reliable energy.

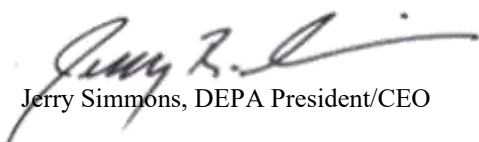
Yet this moment also comes with responsibility. A supportive administration does not eliminate opposition to fossil fuels, nor does it guarantee lasting policy outcomes. Regulations can return. Misinformation can regain ground. Political winds can change quickly. **That is why DEPA's work is more important now than ever.**

DEPA exists to ensure that facts—not ideology—guide energy policy. Our mission is to educate policymakers on the realities of domestic oil and gas production, highlight the real-world consequences of regulatory overreach, and advocate for policies that protect energy reliability, affordability, and American jobs. Our presence in Washington, D.C., and our engagement with Congress and federal agencies remain essential to sustaining the progress being made today.

Membership in DEPA is not a passive exercise—it is a strategic investment in the future of American energy. Your support strengthens our ability to advocate effectively, respond quickly to policy threats, and ensure industry voices are heard at the highest levels of government. Active members amplify our impact by engaging with lawmakers, sharing DEPA's work, and standing united in defense of domestic energy.

This is a pivotal moment for our industry. With the right leadership, informed advocacy, and sustained engagement, we can secure long-term energy strength for our nation. I encourage you to join DEPA, renew your membership, and stay actively involved as we work together to protect and promote American oil and natural gas.

Thank you for your continued support of DEPA and for the vital role you play in powering America's future.
Sincerely,



Jerry Simmons, DEPA President/CEO

*Thank you
for joining*



MEMBER INFORMATION

Member Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Phone: _____

Primary

Email: _____

Secondary Email: _____

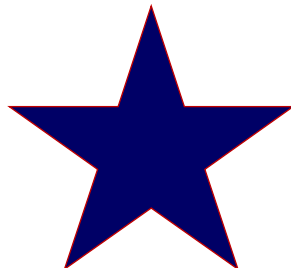
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*Our Industry is
worth fighting for!*

DEPA gives a loud, clear voice to the majority of individuals and companies responsible for the current North American energy renaissance.



WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG

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

DEPA P.O. BOX 33190
TULSA, OK 74135
Or call to pay by credit card
405-669-6646

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Remittance is not deductible as charitable,
but 70% may be deductible as ordinary business expenses.

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.**



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DEPA PAC

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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

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