DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

DEPA DRILLER

NOVEMBER 2025

DEPA REPORT ON INDUSTRY, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND ENERGY REGULATION

An Overview of the Fall Meeting

DEPA members and industry partners gathered in Odessa Texas on November 5 for our 2025 Fall Meeting—an energizing and productive day of collaboration, policy discussions, and time spent with longtime friends of the association.

We were honored to welcome Region 6 EPA Administrator Scott Mason as our guest during the board meeting. Administrator Mason joined us for a constructive conversation on OOOOa and methane-related regulatory issues, offering valuable insight and an open dialogue with our leadership.

This meeting also marked an important moment of transition for the DEPA board. We proudly welcomed three new board members, Thad Dunham with the International Association of Drilling Contractors. Thad will be taking the board seat left by Bob Warren after his retirement from IADC. James Elder, of Momentum Minerals, and Sarah Kern with Energy Innovation Capital were also unanimously voted on the board at this meeting. Each of these new directors bringing valuable experience and perspective to our mission. At the same time, we expressed our gratitude to two longstanding board members whose service and dedication have helped shape the organization over many years. Bob Warren with IADC retired in September, and Mark Metzler has concluded his tenure on the board, closing a chapter of valued service to our organization.

The evening concluded with a special dinner co-hosted by the Permian Basin Petroleum Association at the Midland Petroleum Club. There, attendees enjoyed an informal and engaging discussion with industry icon Jim Teague, Co-CEO of Enterprise Products Partners. Jim shared candid insights on the state of the industry and the road ahead—an opportunity our members deeply appreciated.

We are already looking ahead to our Spring 2026 Meeting in Washington, D.C. Details will be announced soon, and we encourage members who would like to participate to watch for registration information.

Below:
Our Board of Directors, and Guests with EPA Administer, Scott Mason.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

Continental Resources

The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma

IOGA Illinois Oil & Gas Association

North Dakota Petroleum Council

Valero

PBPA Permian Basin Petroleum Association

KIOGA Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association

AAPL Powering The Profession

Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

NMOGA New Mexico Oil and Gas Association

We Are the People of American Oil and Natural Gas

DEPA

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DEPA believes in seeking common ground, through common sense solutions, to the challenges facing our industry. Our bipartisan approach provides a uniquely powerful voice for our members at the state and national level.

Our work is critical.
Your support is vital.

PO Box 33190 ♦ Tulsa, OK 74153 ♦ 405-669-6646 ♦ Info@DEPAUSA.org

Leadership Committee gathers to discuss our Emerging Leaders Program, New Directors and the 2026 Focus

Photo Highlights of our Fall Meeting

Jim Teague speaks to the group at the Petroleum Club

Scott Mason speaks to the Board of Directors

AI in My Backyard?

The Growing Tension Over Data Centers and Energy

Across the United States, communities are increasingly voicing opposition to the sprawling data centers that power artificial intelligence (AI). From Northern Virginia to the Midwest, local residents are raising concerns about noise, land use, water consumption, and, above all, the heavy demands these facilities place on local electricity grids. The debate is familiar in form — local resistance to a large, industrial facility — but new in scale. Hyperscale AI centers, designed to run advanced models like ChatGPT, consume massive amounts of electricity, sometimes rivaling small industrial plants.

The AI Energy Appetite

AI's rapid growth is driving demand for more and more computing power:

- Nearly **46%** of U.S. adults report using at least one generative AI tool, with **73%** of those using ChatGPT specifically.
- Roughly **21% of U.S. workers** say some of their work now relies on AI, up from 16% a year ago.
- Among college students, over **80%** report using AI for academic tasks such as research or essay support.

Data centers already account for roughly **4% of U.S. electricity use**, with AI-driven workloads projected to more than double that demand in the coming years. The trend highlights a growing tension: millions rely on AI every day, but the energy-intensive infrastructure required to support it often faces opposition when siting is proposed nearby.

Resistance Hot Spots

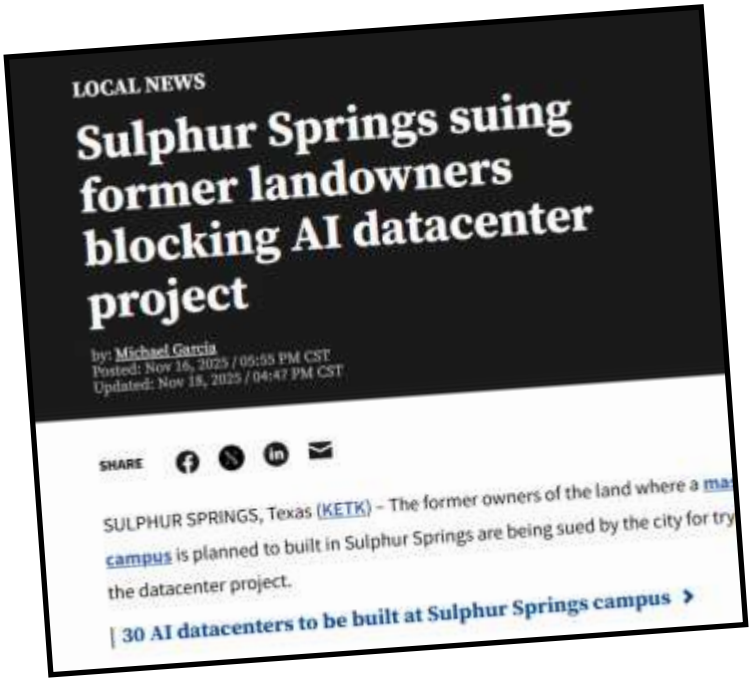
The pattern of pushback is nationwide, with particularly strong resistance in:

- **Northern Virginia:** Residents protest the concentration of data centers, citing strain on local utilities and environmental impacts.
- **Midwest (Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Plains states):** Local zoning boards have delayed or blocked projects due to concerns about rural character and grid capacity.
- **Southern growth corridors (Georgia, Texas):** Activists challenge water use, environmental permitting, and community consultation.
- **Rural counties (South Dakota, Ohio):** Aging distribution infrastructure makes communities wary of the costs and disruptions of upgrades.

This "Not In My Back Yard" (NIMBY) response mirrors debates over pipelines and drilling: while communities often oppose local oil and gas projects, they continue to rely on oil and gas for plastics, medicines, electricity, heating, and transportation. Similarly, many Americans use AI daily while resisting the very infrastructure that makes it possible.

AI and the Oil & Gas Parallel

Just as oil and gas projects are essential for modern life, AI infrastructure is becoming a national utility. Yet both face opposition when local costs are perceived to outweigh local benefits. For oil and gas, that includes pipelines, drilling, and refineries — while communities continue to use plastics, medicines, and fuel derived from hydrocarbons. For AI, it's energy-hungry data centers, often sited near rural or suburban communities, powering tools millions rely on every day.


LOCAL NEWS

Sulphur Springs suing former landowners blocking AI datacenter project

by: Michael Garcia
Posted: Nov 16, 2025 / 05:55 PM CST
Updated: Nov 18, 2025 / 04:47 PM CST

SHARE

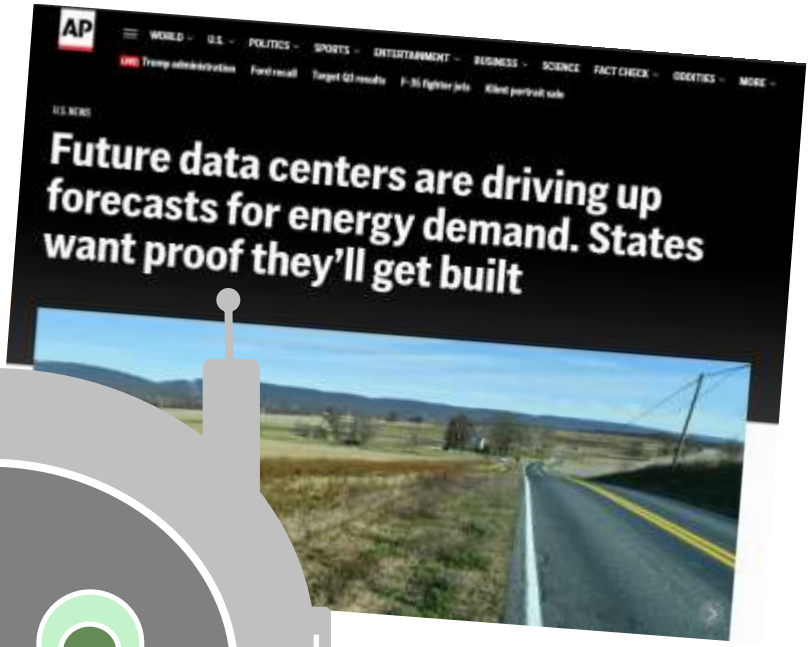
SULPHUR SPRINGS, Texas (KETK) – The former owners of the land where a ma
campus is planned to built in Sulphur Springs are being sued by the city for try
the datacenter project.

| 30 AI datacenters to be built at Sulphur Springs campus >

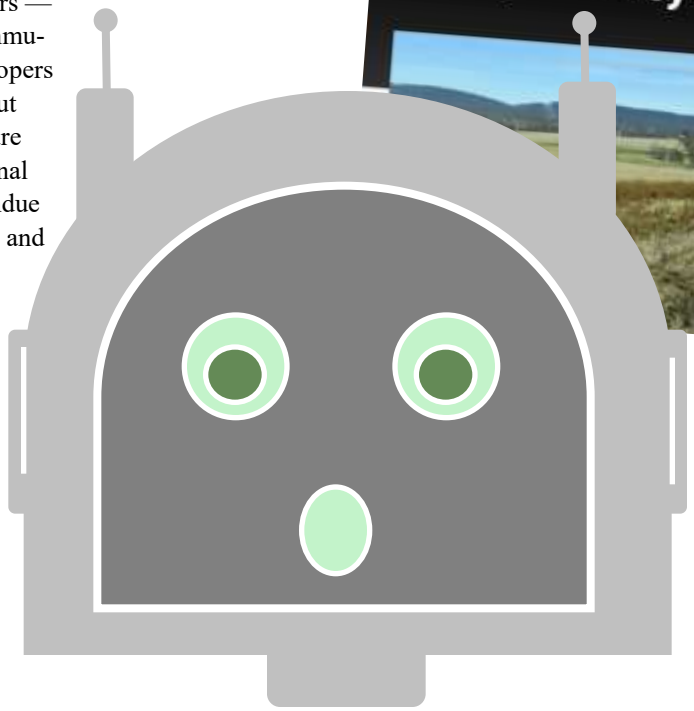
Both cases highlight a key policy challenge: how to balance national priorities, economic development, and energy security with local concerns about land use, environmental impacts, and infrastructure strain.

National Security and Reliability

The debate extends beyond local concerns. AI data centers require reliable, high-capacity electricity, much of which today comes from fossil-fuel sources. Domestic energy producers argue that natural gas and other dispatchable power sources are essential for grid stability as AI and other high-demand industries expand. Concentrating AI infrastructure without robust, reliable energy sources could create vulnerabilities — from outages to strategic risks in a globally competitive technology environment.



The AI revolution is here, embedded in schools, workplaces, and homes. Millions of Americans use AI tools daily for research, work, and learning. Yet the local facilities required to power these tools — data centers — face increasing resistance. Communities, policymakers, and developers must now navigate a familiar but evolving dilemma: how to ensure technological growth and national productivity without placing undue burdens on local families, land, and utilities.



In other words, the benefits of AI are already everywhere — but getting the energy and infrastructure to match that demand is proving as contentious as debates over pipelines, drilling, and other essential industries.

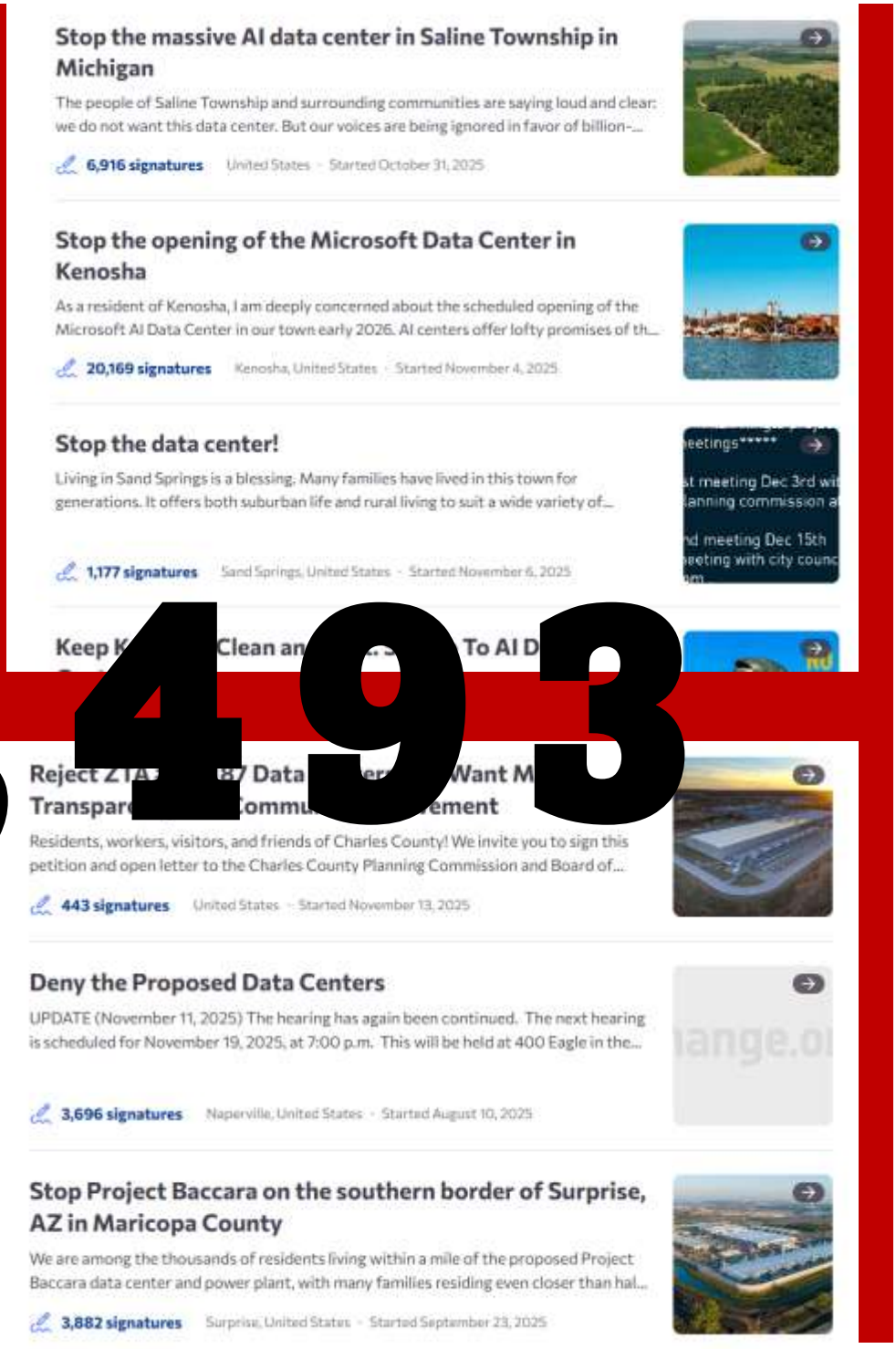
The Hypocrisy of "I Like It, Just Not Here"

The tension over AI data centers mirrors a pattern long seen in energy debates. Many communities vocally oppose pipelines, drilling, and oil and gas facilities — citing environmental, noise, or aesthetic concerns — while continuing to benefit from products and services those same industries provide.

It's a classic case of "benefit without proximity cost." The comparison highlights a growing policy challenge: if AI (or oil and gas infrastructure) is essential to national productivity, education, and security, communities, policymakers, and energy developers must find ways to **balance local impacts with national benefit**.

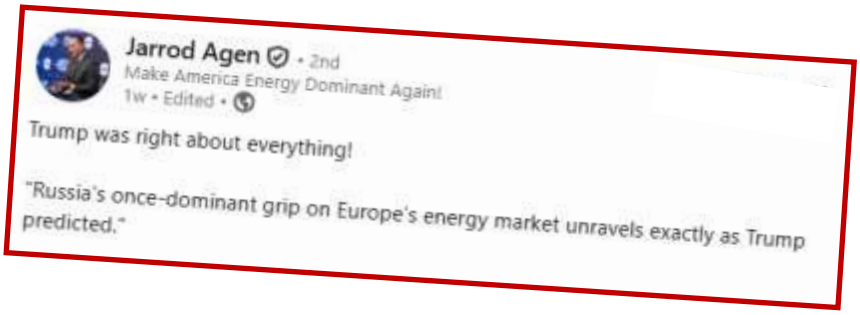
Number of "data center" petitions on Change.Org

2,493



Europe's Energy Realignment: Trump's Prediction Comes Full Circle

In recent months, a dramatic realignment has unfolded in Europe's energy market—one that echoes the warnings former President Donald Trump made years ago. As Jarrod Agen, Executive Director, National Energy Dominance Council, observed on LinkedIn, "Russia's once-dominant grip on Europe's energy market unravels exactly as Trump predicted." Indeed, a series of developments suggest those assertions may have more substance than critics once believed.



A Shift from Russian Gas to U.S. LNG

Since 2022, Europe has been steadily reducing its dependence on Russian gas. According to ICIS, Russia's share of EU pipeline gas has declined sharply, while U.S. LNG exports to Europe have surged. The shift isn't just symbolic—it's structural. New supply routes, including those through Greece and Poland, are increasingly carrying American LNG instead of Russian pipeline gas.

In Athens, U.S. producers met with regional buyers from Greece, Poland, and Ukraine to finalize supply deals—a strong signal that the energy axis in Europe is migrating westward. Such deals underscore how U.S. gas is now flowing through infrastructure that once carried Russian fuel.

Policy Moves: From Trade Leverage to Energy Security

The political dimension of this realignment is equally significant. The Trump administration reportedly lifted a pause on LNG export approvals, greenlighting new projects in states such as Louisiana and Texas. At the same time, the administration pushed for a U.S.–EU energy framework, under which European buyers pledged hundreds of billions in future purchases of American energy.

For proponents like Agen, this isn't just commercial—it's geopolitical. By helping Europe wean itself off Russian energy, U.S. LNG exports are reshaping geopolitical dependencies and diminishing one of Moscow's key levers of influence.

Risks and Criticisms: Not Everyone's Convinced

However, analysts sound a note of caution. Some argue that Europe could be swapping one dependency (Russia) for another (the U.S.). The framework agreement to buy U.S. energy, while bold, is not binding—raising questions about its long-term viability.

In the context of this energy realignment, DEPA President/CEO Jerry Simmons weighed in:

"Jarrod Agen is absolutely right—what we're seeing now validates a broader vision of energy dominance. The work of our industry partners and government leaders has helped reorient Europe's energy future. This isn't just business; it's a strategic realignment that strengthens both economic ties and geopolitical stability."

Moreover, a recent S&P Global study warns that if restrictions on Russian gas were eased in the future, U.S. LNG projects could face significant financial risk—potentially jeopardizing billions in planned investments. Critics also point to regulatory mismatches, such as differing methane standards, that could complicate trade.

The Bigger Picture: Security, Economics, and Energy Policy

From a security standpoint, Europe's pivot helps insulate it from future Russian energy coercion. But it also raises tough questions about long-term energy strategy. Is this shift simply a stopgap, or part of a broader, sustainable transition?

On the economic side, U.S. producers are riding a boom—but they also face risks, especially if geopolitical winds shift or Europe decides to tighten its climate regulations.

For Europe, increasing LNG imports helps diversify supply, but it also locks the continent into long-term fossil fuel contracts that may conflict with ambitious climate goals. Meanwhile, environmental and energy-policy debates loom large: how to balance security with sustainability.

Looking Ahead

- **Contracting momentum**: Europe is expected to keep signing long-term LNG deals, especially with U.S. suppliers, as regions like Central and Eastern Europe seek security and flexibility.
- **Infrastructure growth**: Import terminals and "corridor" pipelines (e.g., via Greece) will likely be expanded or optimized to handle increased LNG flow.
- **Regulatory negotiation**: As trade and energy ties deepen, the U.S. and EU may need to reconcile regulatory frameworks—particularly around methane emissions and environmental standards.
- **Geopolitical volatility**: The future of this realignment depends on geopolitical stability. Potential shifts in Russia's gas exports or European climate policy could challenge the sustainability of the current trajectory.

What once seemed like a provocative prediction has taken on strategic realism. Whether you view this as vindication, cautionary tale, or both, it's clear that Europe's energy map is being redrawn—and American gas is playing a central role.

IEA Restores Objective Energy Forecasting in World Energy Outlook

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (KY-02) and Energy Subcommittee Chairman Bob Latta (OH-05) are commending the International Energy Agency (IEA) for reinstating objective, data-driven analysis in its influential **World Energy Outlook (WEO)**. In a letter to IEA Executive Director Dr. Fatih Birol, the lawmakers highlighted the agency's decision to restore the **Current Policies Scenario (CPS)**—a foundational, policy-neutral benchmark that had been omitted since 2020.

Committee leaders say this return to realistic modeling is a critical step toward strengthening global and domestic **energy security**.

Correcting Activist-Driven Assumptions

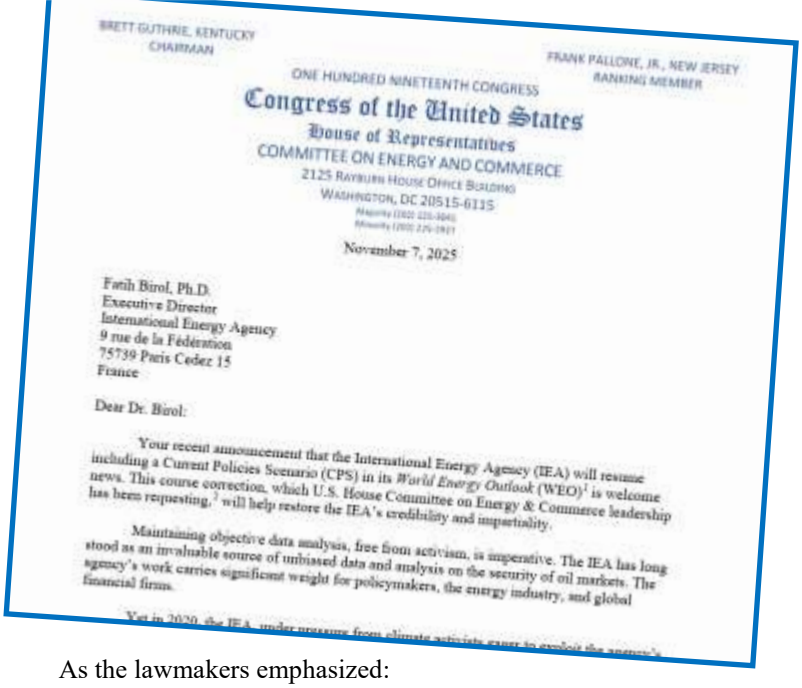
For several years, IEA forecasts projected that global oil and natural gas demand would peak before 2030. According to Guthrie and Latta, those projections—driven by climate-policy assumptions rather than real-world data—misled markets and discouraged necessary investment.

"Strengthening our nation's energy security is vital to securing our grid, powering AI and domestic manufacturing, and ensuring that Americans have the energy resources they need," the Chairmen wrote. "By finally standing up to activist pressure opposing the use of oil and natural gas to power our economy, the IEA will once again be able to provide the unbiased market forecasts decision makers rely on."

Why the CPS Matters

The CPS provides a **baseline grounded in current, not speculative, policy**. Before its removal, it served as a reliable reference point for policymakers, producers, and financial institutions.

The letter notes that the IEA's shift away from CPS in 2020—toward scenarios based on "policy aspirations" rather than market conditions—created distortions. These Stated Policies Scenarios often understated the ongoing global role of fossil fuels.



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CHAIRMAN

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

November 7, 2025

Fatih Birol, Ph.D.
Executive Director
International Energy Agency
9 rue de la Fédération
75739 Paris Cedex 15
France

Dear Dr. Birol:

Your recent announcement that the International Energy Agency (IEA) will resume including a Current Policies Scenario (CPS) in its *World Energy Outlook* (WEO)[1] is welcome news. This course correction, which U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce leadership has been requesting,[2] will help restore the IEA's credibility and impartiality.

Maintaining objective data analysis, free from activism, is imperative. The IEA has long stood as an invaluable source of unbiased data and analysis on the security of oil markets. The agency's work carries significant weight for policymakers, the energy industry, and global financial firms.

As the lawmakers emphasized:

- Oil and natural gas make up **about 74% of U.S. primary energy consumption**.
- Natural gas provides **roughly 43% of America's electricity generation**.
  - The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects **significant natural gas demand growth** in the coming years, driven in part by artificial intelligence and data-center expansion.
  - The EIA continues to rely on a **policy-neutral reference case**, underscoring the value of objective modeling.

Policy Impacts: A Case Study

The lawmakers also warned that inaccurate demand projections have real-world consequences. They pointed to the Biden-Harris Administration's use of IEA scenarios—while disregarding EIA data—to justify its temporary pause on LNG export approvals last year.

According to the letter, such decisions discouraged investment in critical U.S. energy infrastructure and "emboldened Russia's war machine" by undermining global access to reliable American LNG.

A Step Toward Market Clarity

By reinstating the CPS, the IEA is returning to its core mission: delivering dependable energy analysis that reflects market realities. Committee leaders say this move will improve forecasting accuracy, guide investment where it is needed, and support global energy security.

For U.S. producers, investors, and policymakers, the restoration of the CPS represents a meaningful course correction—ensuring that future planning is informed by data rather than activism.

Democrats are trying and failing to blame Republicans for Rising Energy Prices

An OP/ED by Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

"The energy prices that dramatically increased during the Biden administration are continuing to rise, and the attempts by Democrats to pin the increase on President Donald Trump's policies willfully ignore how their reckless decisions during the previous administration have led us here.

"Since the Working Families Tax Cuts was signed into law, Democrats have tried to claim that Republican policies would cause energy prices to rise for families. This is false. The legislation strips subsidies for parts of the far-left energy agenda that have been driving up prices. On the contrary, the tax cuts law will save the average household $2,900 in 2026.

"The truth is that building the electricity grid on unreliable, taxpayer-subsidized wind and solar — as Democrats have advocated for the last decade — has driven up costs. As energy producers and grid operators have told us in hearings this year, subsidizing intermittent sources of electricity essentially requires building two systems to keep the lights on. One is the costly wind and solar system touted by liberal donors and the renewable energy lobby. The other is a reliable backup system necessary for when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

"Subsidies for wind and solar projects, as well as regulations aimed at hampering natural gas and coal generation, have been driving up rates and undermining reliability. It was the Biden administration that restricted energy supplies, forced the end of fossil fuel generation in favor of costly intermittent power, and failed to provide for increased demand from artificial intelligence data centers, advanced manufacturing, and the growing consumer economy.

"With those harmful policies of the past four years already built into state and utility planning decisions, families are continuing to see the legacy effect of rising costs in their household bills. The energy grid cannot be rebalanced to provide affordable, reliable power in a matter of months; it takes years.

"Energy prices rose nearly 30% under the Biden administration, 13 times faster than the previous seven years. That spike came from the far-left policies that rewarded Democrats' anti-fossil fuel special interest allies and the green energy sector. The Obama and Biden administrations wielded the regulatory state to stifle the production of reliable baseload power, all while like-minded states continued to phase out reliable baseload power generation as well.

"Democrats are now claiming even more wind- and solar-powered electricity needs to be brought online quickly to meet our needs, which flatly ignores the effects we're already seeing from these policies leading to rising costs and unreliability. Simply put, intermittent resources cannot reliably provide power during times of peak demand, especially during extreme weather events.

"This is not to say that there is no role at all for wind and solar energy, but the reality is that these sources must be supported in the background by natural gas, coal, hydropower, or nuclear. Adding more wind and solar inputs while closing and restricting more reliable power only drives up costs and increases risks of brownouts and blackouts. Just compare two of our largest states: natural gas-dominant Florida has seen electricity rates that are half those of renewable-dominant California.

"The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has heard testimony from grid operators that the current imbalance in the grid, caused by the retirements of reliable generation and a massive oversupply of intermittent wind and solar, is unsustainable and that there is a major need for more baseload power in the coming years. This is leading grid operators to take emergency steps to expedite the build-out of fossil fuel generation over wind and solar to rebalance the grid and avoid costly blackouts.

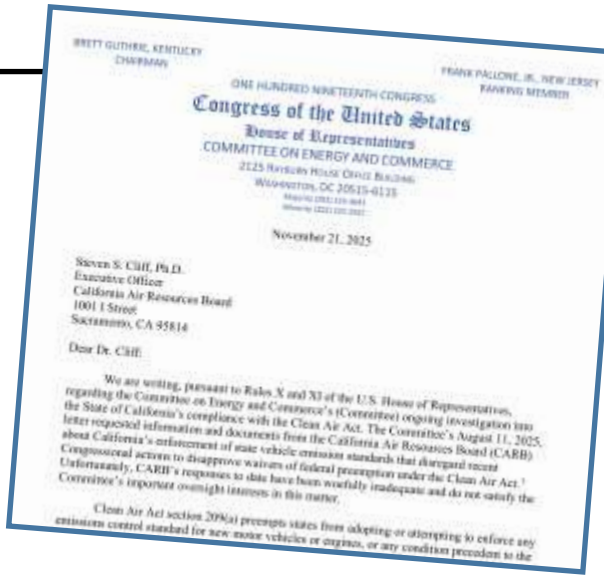
"In a recent report, the Department of Energy warned that outages could increase 100 times by 2030 if power plant retirements and the increase in overall demand for electricity continue at their current pace. Even as more renewables have come online, our grid is not prepared to meet the increased demand from AI data centers and domestic manufacturing. That is why the Working Families Tax Cuts created the Energy Dominance Financing Program, investing in projects that provide power 24/7, 365 days a year.

"By ending costly subsidies for unreliable sources, such as wind and solar, and leveling the playing field for natural gas, coal, nuclear, and hydropower, Republicans are making sure America gets the 'best of the above' energy for a balanced, reliable grid to serve families and industry far into the future.

"To be clear, it will take time for these policies to materialize into actual construction projects, but we have cleared some of the regulatory blockers that are allowing industry to start making these investments. We cannot go back to the policies that prioritized radical environmental agendas over families and brought higher prices, blackouts, brownouts, and a grid that cannot meet increased demand.

"The people know better. Alongside our president, House Republicans are working to restore reliable and abundant energy, lower electricity costs, and restore America's energy dominance."

HOUSE ENERGY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATES CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD OVER CLEAN AIR ACT COMPLIANCE



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

November 21, 2025

Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D.
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Cliff:

We are writing, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, regarding the Committee on Energy and Commerce's (Committee) ongoing investigation into the State of California's compliance with the Clean Air Act. The Committee's August 11, 2025, letter requested information and documents from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) about California's enforcement of state vehicle emission standards that disregard recent Congressional action to disapprove waivers of federal preemption under the Clean Air Act.[1] Unfortunately, CARB's responses to date have been woefully inadequate and do not satisfy the Committee's important oversight interests in this matter.

Clean Air Act section 209(a) preempts states from adopting or attempting to enforce any emission control standard for new motor vehicles or engines, or any condition precedent to the

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), alongside Subcommittee Chairmen John Joyce, M.D. (PA-13) and Gary Palmer (AL-06), has launched a formal investigation into the California Air Resources Board (CARB) over its enforcement of state vehicle emissions standards. The Committee is seeking answers and documents after CARB has allegedly failed to comply with federal law and follow the Clean Air Act as written by Congress.

In a letter sent to CARB Executive Officer Steven S. Cliff, Ph.D., the Chairmen highlighted CARB's inadequate responses to a prior request made on August 11, 2025. The Committee also outlined plans to conduct transcribed interviews with key CARB officials if the requested documents are not provided by December 5, 2025.

"CARB's responses to date have been woefully inadequate and do not satisfy the Committee's important oversight interests in this matter," the Chairmen wrote. They noted that federal law under the Clean Air Act preempts states from setting their own motor vehicle emission standards unless a waiver is granted by the EPA. However, three bipartisan Congressional Review Act resolutions signed into law by former President Trump revoked California's waiver authority, preventing the state from imposing mandates such as a ban on gas-powered vehicle sales.

The Committee's request includes internal CARB documents, communications with other states, and correspondence with the Governor's Office and Attorney General regarding CARB's response to the revoked waivers. If CARB fails to provide the information, transcribed interviews will be requested from six current and former CARB officials, including CARB Chair Lauren Sanchez and former Chair Liane Randolph.

The Committee aims to ensure California's adherence to federal law and to inform potential changes to the Clean Air Act's waiver provisions. CARB has until December 5, 2025, to submit the requested materials, with interviews scheduled to be completed by December 12, 2025.

Energy & Commerce Committee Advances Key Reforms to Protect Consumer Choice and America's Energy Future

November 19, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy advanced a package of eight bills designed to restore consumer choice, reduce energy and housing costs, and reverse years of regulatory overreach that have constrained markets, raised prices, and undermined the reliability of America's energy systems.

Chairman **Bob Latta** opened the markup by highlighting a core issue facing families and businesses across the country: the federal government's aggressive push toward appliance mandates and building electrification has removed cost-effective products from the market and limited the ways consumers can heat their homes, cook their meals, and power their businesses.

Under the previous administration, nearly *30 new energy efficiency standards* were imposed—representing more than **$60 billion** in combined regulatory burdens. Many of these rules effectively **removed natural-gas appliances from shelves**, accelerated efforts to **phase out fossil fuels in federal buildings**, and pressured states to adopt restrictive building codes that discourage or outright eliminate access to natural gas.

DEPA President & CEO Jerry Simmons:
"This is a course correction America needs. DEPA applauds the Committee for recognizing that appliance mandates and building electrification rules have gone far beyond energy efficiency. These policies have distorted markets, harmed the natural-gas sector, and stripped consumers of affordable options. Restoring choice isn't just good policy—it's essential for American energy reliability and the long-term strength of the domestic oil and gas industry."

These policies have not only narrowed consumer choice—they have **directly harmed the domestic oil and gas industry**, which depends on stable demand, predictable regulatory structures, and the ability to compete in the marketplace. Forced electrification mandates artificially restrict that competition.

Key Legislation Considered

H.R. 4626 – Don't Mess with My Home Appliances Act
Reforms the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) to ensure new efficiency standards are transparent, technically feasible, and cost-effective—preventing regulators from using efficiency rules as de-facto bans on gas appliances.

H.R. 4758 – Homeowner Energy Freedom Act
Repeals Inflation Reduction Act provisions that financially incentivized states to adopt unamended building codes—codes that, in many cases, promote all-electric construction and suppress access to natural gas.

H.R. 4690 – Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act
Eliminates a federal mandate to phase out fossil fuel use in federal buildings—a policy so unworkable that even the Obama Administration opposed it. As Chairman Latta noted, direct natural gas use achieves roughly **92% efficiency**, compared to only **33%** for electricity. Removing this mandate strengthens reliability and aligns policy with real-world performance.

H.R. 3699 – Energy Choice Act
Prohibits state or local governments from banning access to an energy source—critical as states like New York have attempted to eliminate natural gas in new construction, burdening consumers with higher costs and reduced heating reliability.

H.R. 5184 – Affordable HOMES Act and **H.R. 4593 – SHOWER Act**
Both bills address duplicative or restrictive federal standards that have increased costs for manufactured housing and everyday appliances.

H.R. 3474 – Federal Mechanical Insulation Act
A bipartisan, practical measure to ensure federal buildings prioritize true efficiency improvements rather than politically motivated fuel bans.

H.R. 1355 – Weatherization Enhancement and Readiness Act of 2025

A bipartisan effort in progress, offering targeted improvements without the one-size-fits-all mandates of recent years.

The Impact on Oil & Gas: Mandates Undermine Markets, Reliability, and Consumer Welfare

The previous administration's regulatory agenda sought to limit or eliminate the use of natural gas in new homes, federal buildings, and consumer appliances. For the domestic oil and gas industry, these policies:

- **Artificially cut demand** for natural gas by forcing electrification through standards rather than consumer choice.
- **Blocked innovation** within the appliance sector by removing gas-powered technologies from the market.
- **Jeopardized grid reliability**, increasing dependence on electricity at a time when the grid is already strained.
- **Raised costs for families**, discouraging the use of affordable, efficient natural gas.

As the industry continues investing in cleaner production, advanced emissions technologies, and modern infrastructure, these top-down bans work against—not with—the energy producers who keep America powered.

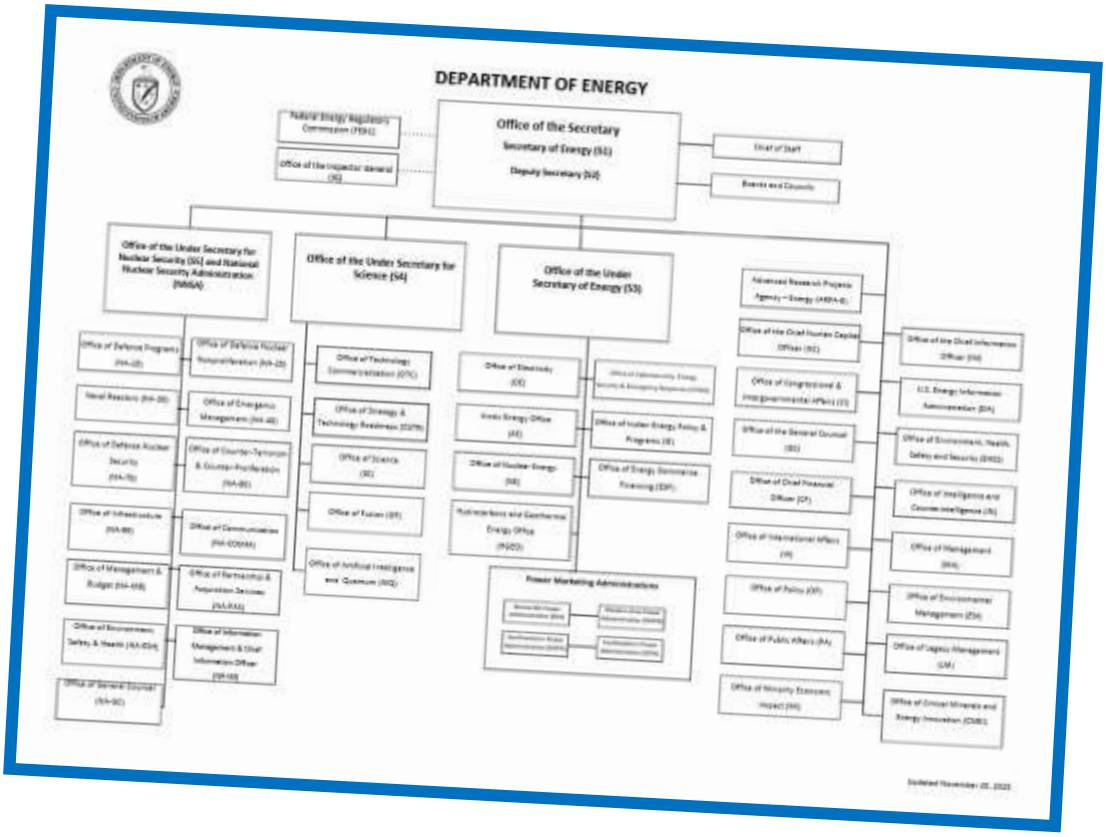
A Needed Reset

The suite of reforms advanced this week reflects a shift back toward balanced, consumer-focused policy. Instead of banning fuels or restricting appliances, these bills prioritize:

- affordability
- availability
- durability
- true efficiency grounded in engineering and science

For the oil and gas industry, these reforms represent a critical pushback against policies that have discouraged natural-gas use despite its unmatched reliability, affordability, and efficiency.

DEPA will continue monitoring this legislative package as it moves forward and will keep members updated on opportunities to support policies that strengthen America's energy security and ensure natural gas remains an accessible, dependable option for families and businesses nationwide.



Click the graphic to see the DOE chart online

Energy Department Announces Organizational Realignment to Strengthen Efficiency and Unleash American Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced November 20, an organizational realignment designed to strengthen DOE's ability to execute President Trump's bold agenda to restore American energy dominance. This realignment reflects the Administration's priorities of expanding American energy production, accelerating scientific and technological leadership, and ensuring the continued safety and readiness of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile.

"Thanks to President Trump's leadership, the Energy Department is aligning its operations to restore commonsense to energy policy, lower costs for American families and businesses, and ensure the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars," said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright**. "These changes will help us better execute the DOE mission of delivering affordable, reliable and secure American energy for the American people."

This realignment is not simply a rename — it's a **re-prioritization** of DOE's major mission areas, shifting away from some clean-energy functions (as standalone top offices) toward fossil, critical minerals, and fusion/nuclear.

- The creation of the **Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Office** suggests the DOE is explicitly embracing fossil (oil & gas) plus geothermal as central to its energy-dominance strategy.
- Consolidating clean-energy innovation under **Critical Minerals & Energy Innovation** could centralize R&D, but also reduce visibility for some clean-energy subprograms.
- Elevating fusion to its own office underscores the administration's commitment to it as a long-term strategic technology.
- The rebranding of the loan office to "Energy Dominance Financing" is symbolic and likely reflects a policy shift in how financing is framed — not just as innovation support, but as a tool for "strategic dominance."

COMPARISON: OLD VS. NEW DOE STRUCTURE

AREA	OLD STRUCTURE	NEW STRUCTURE
CLEAN-ENERGY OFFICES	- Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE) was a major office. - Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) handled large-scale demonstration projects. - Grid Deployment Office (GDO) focused on modernizing / deploying grid technologies.	**EERE is removed** (not present in the top-level chart). - **OCED is eliminated**. - GDO functions appear to be split or absorbed into other offices. According to reports, some grid-deployment work is being redistributed.
FOSSIL/ HYDROCARBON ENERGY	Fossil energy and carbon management had their own dedicated office (e.g., Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management).	A **new "Hydrocarbons & Geothermal Energy Office"** is created, consolidating fossil-fuel (oil & gas) R&D plus geothermal.
CRITICAL MINERALS INNOVATION	Previously, some mineral-supply work was under Fossil Energy; clean-energy innovation was spread across various offices.	A **new Office of Critical Minerals & Energy Innovation** is formed (or elevated), consolidating innovation, critical minerals, and likely parts of the clean-energy R&D functions.
FUSION/ NUCLEAR	Fusion was under the Office of Science (Fusion Energy Sciences). Nuclear energy was handled by the Office of Nuclear Energy (and under the Science umbrella)	A **standalone Office of Fusion** is created, elevating fusion energy as a major priority. Nuclear remains a priority, aligning with "scientific and technological leadership" aims.
LOAN/ FINANCING FUNCTION	*Loan Programs Office* provided financing for energy projects.	The Loan Programs Office is **renamed** to the **Office of Energy Dominance Financing** — symbolic of the administration's "energy dominance" framing.
MISSION & PRIORITIES	Under the prior structure, there was a strong emphasis on clean energy, efficiency, and grid modernization (especially under the previous administration).	The realignment explicitly emphasizes: 1. **Expanding American energy production** (especially fossil) 2. **Accelerating science and tech leadership** (fusion, advanced energy) 3. **Nuclear weapons stockpile readiness / nuclear mission** 4. **"Responsible stewardship" of taxpayer dollars**, per Secretary Wright.
STAFF & REPORTING LINES	Various offices reported under different Under Secretaries / chains	According to internal reports, some reporting lines are being consolidated ("cleaner, more efficient") — though there are claims of *no mass RIFs (reductions in force)*.

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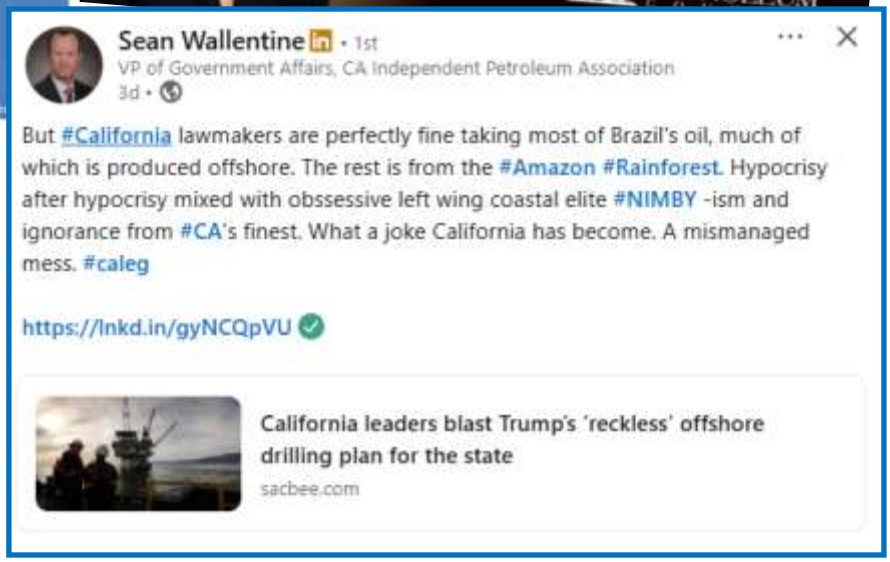

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DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

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

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.

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