

DEPA CALLS ON EPA TO CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW FOLLOWING ENDANGERMENT FINDING REPEAL

Mid month DEPA formally submitted a letter to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, urging the agency to undertake a thorough review of federal regulations that relied on the now-repealed greenhouse gas Endangerment Finding.

In the letter, DEPA President and CEO Jerry Simmons thanked Administrator Zeldin for his leadership in repealing the Obama-era Endangerment Finding and for restoring the rule of law at EPA. The repeal marks a major shift in federal environmental policy and removes the legal foundation used to justify a wide range of greenhouse gas regulations across multiple sectors of the U.S. economy.

The letter emphasized that the Endangerment Finding has served as the basis for regulations that have threatened U.S. energy independence, increased costs for consumers, eliminated tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs, and fueled what the organization describes as one of the largest and most wasteful green energy boondoggles in U.S. history.

The letter highlighted several major regulatory programs rooted in the Endangerment Finding, including greenhouse gas emission standards for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles; carbon dioxide standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants under the Clean Air Act; methane and greenhouse gas requirements for oil and gas production, processing, and transmission facilities; and related programs such as mandatory

greenhouse gas reporting and certain aircraft engine emission standards.

In light of the repeal, DEPA formally requested that EPA initiate a comprehensive review of all regulations dependent on the Endangerment Finding. Specifically, the organization urged the agency to identify and catalog all such regulations and determine whether each should be fully repealed due to a lack of independent statutory authority, or revised to rest on alternative legal grounds where appropriate.

The letter also called for any repeal or revision to be accompanied by a rigorous, transparent cost-benefit analysis that excludes assumptions tied to the former Endangerment Finding. We are stressing that analyses should focus on verifiable, non-climate impacts, direct compliance costs, economic effects on businesses and consumers, and other factors consistent with executive orders and sound data.

This approach would promote regulatory certainty, reduce unjustified burdens on American energy producers and consumers, and ensure that remaining EPA rules are grounded in lawful, science-based, and current legal frameworks.

Our letter concluded by offering to engage with EPA leadership as the agency considers next steps and by reaffirming its commitment to advancing policies that support affordable, reliable, and domestically produced American energy.





DEPA DC FLY-IN AND BOARD MEETING

APRIL 15 & 16

Host Hotel: The George

Room Block Expires March 19

1-800-546-7866 for reservations by phone,

be sure to reference the DEPA event for the \$299 room rate

Watch your email for agenda information.

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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.

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SUPREME COURT TAKES UP CLIMATE TORT LAWSUITS: WHAT ENERGY LEADERS SHOULD KNOW



The U.S. Supreme Court agreed February 23 to hear a case that could significantly shape the future of climate-related litigation against the oil and natural gas industry. At issue is whether state and local governments may pursue climate change tort lawsuits against energy companies in state courts — or whether those cases are preempted by federal law and must be dismissed or moved to federal court.

The case centers on claims brought by local governments in Colorado against **ExxonMobil** and **Suncor Energy**, alleging that fossil fuel production and alleged misrepresentation of climate risks contributed to local environmental and infrastructure harms. While similar lawsuits have been filed across the country, this is the first time the Supreme Court has agreed to directly address the jurisdictional question at the heart of these cases.

WHAT THE COURT IS (AND ISN'T) DECIDING

Importantly, the Supreme Court is not being asked to rule on climate science or determine liability for global emissions. Instead, the core question is procedural but far-reaching: **Can state and local governments use state tort and consumer-protection laws to seek damages for climate-related impacts, or are such claims inherently federal in nature and therefore preempted?**

ExxonMobil and Suncor Energy argue that greenhouse gas emissions are a nationwide — and global — issue governed by federal statutes and regulatory frameworks. Allowing state courts to adjudicate these claims, they contend, would invite a patchwork of standards and effectively allow courts to set energy policy outside the legislative and regulatory process.

Plaintiffs counter that they are seeking compensation for localized harms under traditional state laws, not national climate regulation.

For oil and gas executives, the implications extend well beyond one lawsuit in Colorado.

If the Supreme Court affirms that these cases may proceed in state courts, it could open the door to expanded litigation across multiple jurisdictions, increasing legal exposure, compliance costs, and uncertainty. State-by-state litigation would also raise the risk of inconsistent rulings and venue shopping, complicating long-term planning and risk management.

Conversely, if the Court determines that federal law preempts these claims, it would significantly narrow — or potentially shut down — one of the primary legal strategies being used by states and municipalities to pursue climate damages from energy producers.

FEDERALISM, POLICY, AND THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

At its core, this case is also about federalism and the proper role of courts in shaping energy and environmental policy. A ruling that reins in state-level climate torts would reinforce the principle that broad energy and climate policy decisions belong with Congress and federal regulators, not local courts applying state law to global phenomena.

For industry leaders, this distinction matters. Regulatory clarity — even when challenging — is fundamentally different from open-ended litigation risk driven by evolving legal theories.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments later this year, with a decision likely in 2026. Whatever the outcome, the ruling is expected to reverberate across dozens of similar cases nationwide and influence how climate-related claims against energy producers are pursued going forward.

This is a case worth watching closely. It sits at the intersection of legal risk, regulatory authority, and long-term industry strategy — and could define the contours of climate litigation for years to come.

REBUILDING VENEZUELA'S OIL ECONOMY AFTER REGIME CHANGE: AN OPPORTUNITY AND A CHALLENGE



In the weeks since Venezuelan authoritarian leader Nicolás Maduro was removed from power in January 2026 and transported to the United States to face charges, Washington has shifted quickly from military action to managing one of the world's largest untapped energy resources. What comes next — turning regime change into a functioning oil economy — will shape global oil markets, regional geopolitics, and U.S. energy producers for years to come.

U.S. officials have moved deliberately to restart Venezuelan crude exports under American oversight. According to Energy Secretary Chris Wright, the United States has already begun marketing Venezuelan oil and intends to continue doing so in the long term. “[W]e’re going to market the crude coming out of Venezuela — first this backed up stored oil and then indefinitely, going forward we will sell the production that comes out of Venezuela,” Wright told industry leaders at a major energy conference in Miami. “We need to have that leverage and that control of those oil sales to drive the changes that simply must happen in Venezuela.”

Secretary Wright has also signaled growth potential. U.S. assessments suggest Venezuelan oil output could grow by **30–40%** this year if infrastructure is repaired and investment flows in — roughly adding 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day to global markets. “There’s enormous interest among companies seeking to enter the Latin American country,” Wright said in a recent interview.

“The responsible reintegration of Venezuelan oil into global markets — under transparent, rule-based oversight — can benefit consumers while complementing America’s robust energy sector. Domestic producers have driven innovation and reliability in global energy supplies for decades, and collaboration with international partners in this effort reinforces U.S. leadership. We support Secretary Wright’s focus on strategic, market-based solutions that protect U.S. interests and benefit the Venezuelan people.”

-Jerry Simmons, DEPA CEO/President

SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK: REWIRING AN INDUSTRY

Short term, the emphasis is on restoring basic production and export logistics. Years of underinvestment, corruption, and neglect under the previous regime left Venezuela’s oil industry in a fragile state, with output hovering below one million barrels per day — far below its historical highs.

U.S. sanctions were eased in early February with new Treasury general licenses that allow major international firms including Chevron, BP, Shell and Repsol to operate under specific conditions. Wright declared that the embargo on Venezuelan crude had “essentially ended,” opening the door for broader participation in rebuilding the sector.

Major trading houses and Gulf Coast refiners are already preparing. U.S. refiners such as Valero and Phillips 66 have publicly expressed interest in direct purchases of Venezuelan heavy crude, while Chevron has begun processing shipments at its Gulf Coast facilities.

ties.

The economic rationale is straightforward: expanding the supply of heavy Venezuelan crude — long out of the market under sanctions — can ease crude cost pressures for refiners and help stabilize global energy prices. However, many industry executives still caution that clarity on legal, political, and operational frameworks will be essential to unlock major capital commitments.

LONG-TERM VISION: INFRASTRUCTURE, INVESTMENT, AND MARKETS

Long-term, the rebuilding of Venezuela's oil economy hinges on attracting significant foreign capital to repair aging wells, pipelines, and processing facilities. U.S. officials, including Wright, have pressed Venezuelan authorities to adopt reforms that will incentivize investment and improve transparency. "It's a meaningful step in the right direction," Wright said of recent Venezuelan energy legislation, while also encouraging further reforms to secure large-scale capital flows.

The global impact of restoring Venezuela as a reliable crude supplier would be substantial. A sustainably increased Venezuelan supply could help reduce dependence on producers such as Russia and the Middle East, potentially lowering long-term global oil prices and enhancing energy security for Western markets. That said, analysts caution the rebuild will likely stretch over many years and require careful balancing of investment risk and political stability.

For U.S. oil producers, the situation presents both competi-

tive challenges and strategic benefits. As Venezuelan output grows, increased global supply could exert downward pressure on crude prices — tightening margins for some domestic producers. However, closer integration of Venezuelan oil into U.S. supply chains also offers benefits. U.S. refiners stand to gain more reliable access to heavy crude, supporting domestic refining jobs and infrastructure utilization. Moreover, revived investment opportunities could catalyze technology and service exports from U.S. energy firms to Venezuela.

Rebuilding Venezuela's oil economy after regime change is an unprecedented undertaking. The U.S. strategy aims to simultaneously revive a vast energy resource and encourage political and economic reform. In the short term, attention is on restoring production and integrating Venezuelan crude into global markets. Over the long term, investment, legal stability, and infrastructure rehabilitation will determine whether Venezuela can again be a meaningful supplier of crude. For U.S. energy producers and consumers alike, this transformation presents complex risks — and significant opportunities.



POLICY SIDEBAR: WHAT WASHINGTON IS WATCHING CLOSELY

For policymakers, Venezuela's reentry into global oil markets is less about barrels and more about governance, leverage, and precedent.

Sanctions Architecture:

The Biden administration's approach relies on conditional sanctions relief, primarily through Treasury-issued general licenses. These licenses can be revoked quickly, preserving U.S. leverage if reforms stall or corruption resurfaces. Policymakers will closely monitor whether this framework proves durable — or whether companies demand broader legal certainty before committing capital.

Rule of Law and Oversight:

U.S. supervision of Venezuelan oil sales is intended to prevent a repeat of past misuse of state oil revenues. Congress is expected to scrutinize how proceeds are tracked, distributed, and reinvested — particularly whether revenues are directed toward humanitarian relief, infrastructure repair, and institutional reform rather than political consolidation.

Geopolitical Signaling:

Reintroducing Venezuelan crude under U.S. oversight sends a signal to adversarial producers that energy markets reward transparency and cooperation. At the same time, it tests whether regime change followed by structured economic engagement can succeed without long-term military presence — a question with implications far beyond Latin America.

Domestic Political Implications:

Lawmakers from energy-producing states will weigh global supply stabilization against potential price impacts on U.S. producers. The policy challenge lies in ensuring that international supply additions do not undermine domestic investment, employment, or energy security — a balance that will shape future energy diplomacy.

Bottom Line for Policymakers:

Venezuela's oil revival is not simply an energy story; it is a live case study in post-regime economic reconstruction, sanctions enforcement, and strategic energy statecraft. Congressional oversight, regulatory clarity, and alignment with domestic energy priorities will determine whether this effort strengthens — or strains — U.S. leadership in global energy markets.

HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO SECURE AMERICAN ENERGY SUPPLY CHAINS

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed bipartisan legislation aimed at strengthening America's energy supply chains, reducing reliance on adversarial nations, and protecting resources vital to U.S. economic and national security.

The legislation, **H.R. 3617 – the Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act**, was advanced by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce under the leadership of **Brett Guthrie**, Chairman of the Committee, and sponsored by **John James** on February 11, 2026. The bill directs the Department of Energy to conduct a comprehensive assessment of critical energy resource supply chains, including critical minerals and rare earth elements, and to identify vulnerabilities caused by supply disruptions or overreliance on foreign adversaries.

By taking a holistic approach to critical energy resources, the legislation equips the Department of Energy with the tools needed to address weaknesses in the supply chain and help ensure Americans have access to affordable, reliable, and secure energy systems.

"Keeping our nation strong and secure means having access to reliable and affordable energy," Chairman Guthrie said following House passage. He emphasized that many technologies powering the U.S. electric grid currently rely on critical minerals produced and controlled by adversarial nations, underscoring the urgency of strengthening domestic supply chains.

Rep. James echoed those concerns, calling the bill "a bold step toward ensuring the United States leads in energy innovation, security, and independence." He highlighted the moral and strategic risks of relying on supply chains tied to child labor, forced labor, and geopolitical adversaries, stating that the legislation is about unleashing American energy, fueling innovation, and securing the nation's future.

Energy supplies are the linchpin of U.S. global leadership in next-generation technologies, job creation, and a strong defense industrial base. Despite vast domestic natural resources, the United States remains heavily dependent on foreign sources for many critical minerals:

- The U.S. is **100 percent import-reliant** for 16 critical minerals and **at least 50 percent import-reliant** for an additional 50 vital mineral commodities.
- **China controls approximately 60 percent** of global rare earth element production and **90 percent of global processing capacity**.
- In recent years, adversarial nations have issued export bans on key minerals and materials essential to U.S. manufacturing and defense industries.

The Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act seeks to address these vulnerabilities by strengthening federal oversight of energy resource supply chains and reinforcing America's ability to produce, process, and secure the materials essential to a reliable and resilient energy future.

"America cannot afford to build its energy future on supply chains controlled by adversarial nations. Securing access to critical minerals is essential to reliable energy production, grid stability, and national security. This legislation is a meaningful step toward strengthening domestic supply chains and ensuring U.S. energy leadership for generations to come."

-DEPA President/CEO Jerry Simmons

NATURAL GAS IS CHEAPER. POWER IS NOT. HERE'S WHY THAT MATTERS.

Natural gas remains the backbone of the U.S. electric grid, supplying more electricity than any other source—and it has done so while prices have fallen significantly since 2010. Under normal market conditions, consumers should be seeing the benefit of that affordability.

Instead, electricity prices have climbed steadily.

That disconnect isn't accidental. It is the predictable outcome of policies built on the false assumption that intermittent resources—solar, wind, and battery storage—can fully replace reliable, dispatchable generation. They cannot. As grid operators are forced to layer expensive redundancy, transmission buildout, and backup capacity on top of weather-dependent power, costs rise even as fuel prices fall.

The lesson for policymakers is straightforward: reliability matters. Affordable natural gas is a strength, not a liability, and policies that sideline it ultimately punish consumers, manufacturers, and the broader economy. An honest energy strategy starts with acknowledging what actually powers the grid—and why.



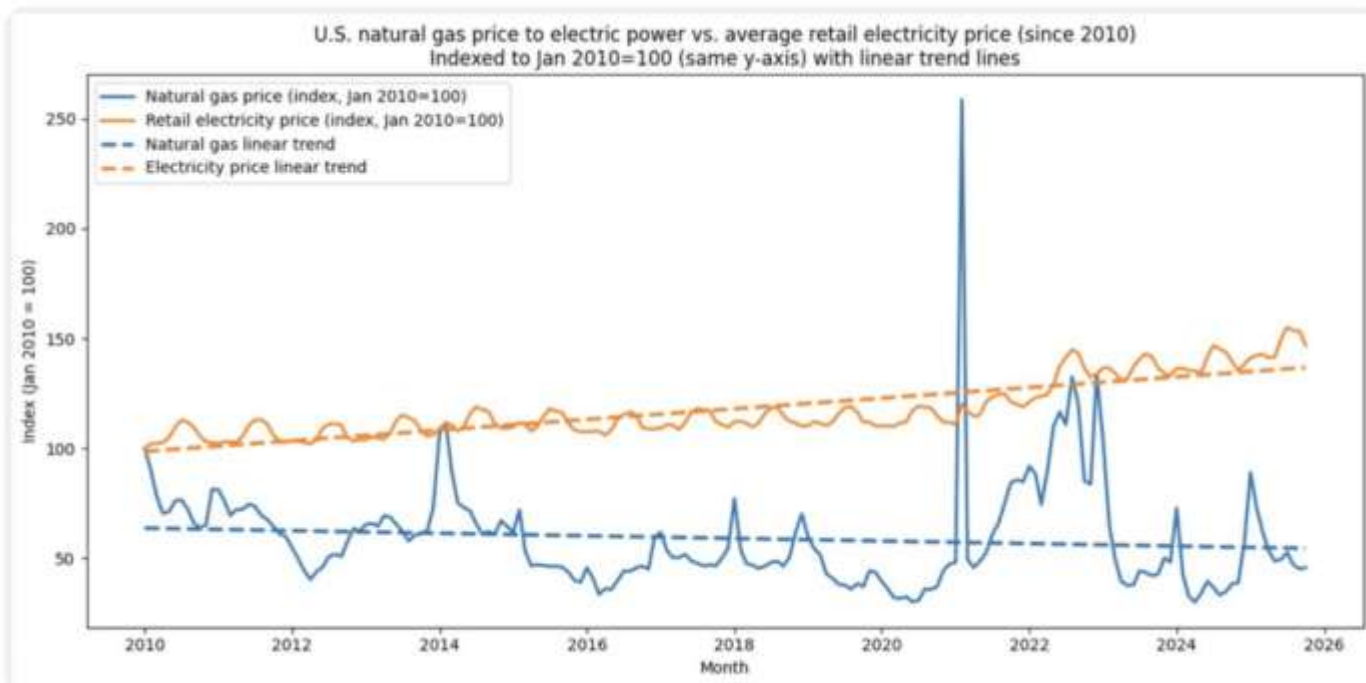
ALEX EPSTEIN ON ELECTRICITY PRICES GOING UP DESPITE NATURAL GAS GETTING CHEAPER:

The number one source of electricity on the grid is natural gas. Its price has fallen since 2010. Meanwhile, **electricity prices have gone up significantly.**

This shouldn't happen.

This is the direct result of anti-fossil-fuel policies based on the dangerous and false belief that solar, wind, and batteries are replacing fossil fuels.

Read more Energy Talking Points by Alex Epstein on [Substack.com](https://www.substack.com)



POWERING AMERICA'S AI FUTURE REQUIRES POWER—LOTS OF IT

A SUMMARY OF THE HOUSE SCIENCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON POWERING AI



On February 24, 2026, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology convened a hearing with an unmistakable message for the energy sector: America's ability to lead in artificial intelligence depends on whether it can reliably generate and deliver enormous amounts of power.

The hearing, titled *“Powering America’s AI Future: Federal Permitting Challenges for Data Center Infrastructure,”* examined the growing tension between surging electricity demand from AI-driven data centers and a regulatory framework that increasingly struggles to deliver timely, reliable energy infrastructure.

For domestic oil and gas producers, the takeaway was clear and what you already know: AI is becoming a major new demand driver for firm, dispatchable power—and policy decisions made now will determine who supplies it.

AI RUNS ON ELECTRICITY, NOT ASPIRATIONS

In his opening statement, Committee Chairman Brian Babin framed artificial intelligence as a geopolitical competition with China—one that hinges not just on software and algorithms, but on physical infrastructure.

Data centers, Chairman Babin noted, are massive, always-on consumers of electricity. According to the International Energy Agency, U.S. data centers consumed 183 terawatt-hours of electricity in 2024, more than four percent of total U.S. power demand, with rapid growth ahead. These facilities cannot rely on intermittent energy sources; they require continuous, reliable baseload power.

China, Babin warned, is aligning AI development with aggressive investments in both data center construction and energy capacity. The U.S., by contrast, faces permitting delays, regulatory uncertainty, and infrastructure bottlenecks that threaten its competitiveness.

“Reliable energy and modern infrastructure are not optional,” Babin said. “They are foundational.”

POLICY-CREATED POWER SCARCITY

Among the witnesses was Paige Lambermont, Research Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, who delivered one of the most direct assessments of the challenge facing the power sector.

Her testimony outlined three central points:

- Power scarcity is the result of policy decisions
- Permitting reform is essential
- Innovation must be allowed to proceed

Lambermont pointed to decades of policies designed to constrain electricity production while simultaneously electrifying more of the economy. That approach, she argued, has

weakened grid reliability just as demand begins rising for the first time in nearly twenty years.

According to a Department of Energy report cited in her testimony, 104 gigawatts of firm power capacity are scheduled to retire by 2030, while demand growth could reach up to 108 gigawatts over the same period. That gap, she emphasized, must be filled with new, reliable generation.

In a functioning regulatory environment, growing data center demand would represent an economic opportunity. Instead, restrictive permitting processes have turned it into a system-wide stress test.

**As Chairman Babin concluded the hearing it was clear, the question is no longer theoretical:
Will the United States build the energy systems its innovators need—or regulate itself out of global leadership?**

PERMITTING REFORM IS THE BOTTLENECK

The hearing underscored that energy development challenges extend well beyond the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Lambermont highlighted the cumulative impact of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and other statutes that create duplicative, unpredictable, and time-consuming permitting hurdles.

For domestic energy producers, these delays translate directly into lost investment, stalled projects, and missed demand signals—particularly in fast-moving sectors like AI.

While much of the discussion included nuclear energy—especially in contrast to China’s rapid reactor buildout—the implications for oil and natural gas were unmistakable. Natural gas remains the fastest, most scalable option for delivering firm power to data centers today, especially as coal retirements accelerate and renewable integration strains grid reliability.

INNOVATION OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL GRID

The hearing also explored emerging solutions, including Consumer Regulated Electricity (CRE)—privately financed, off-grid utilities designed to serve large energy users such as data centers.

CRE models would allow companies willing to self-finance generation to bypass congested utility queues, reducing pressure on existing ratepayers while accelerating new capacity. These islanded systems could create new markets for domestic fuel supply, particularly natural gas, while avoiding lengthy interconnection delays.

Legislation enabling CRE is already law in New Hampshire, with additional state and federal proposals under consideration.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Following this hearing, committee members are expected to use the record to inform:

- Permitting reform legislation
- Grid and infrastructure modernization proposals
- Oversight of federal agencies involved in energy approvals

This discussion is far from academic. AI-driven electricity demand is real, growing, and highly sensitive to reliability. If permitting reform advances, it could unlock new demand for natural gas generation, pipeline infrastructure, and fuel supply—particularly near data center hubs.

If it stalls, investment risks shifting overseas, and U.S. producers may once again watch demand opportunities evaporate due to policy constraints rather than market fundamentals.

The AI race is also an energy race. This hearing made clear that America cannot lead in artificial intelligence without leading in energy production and infrastructure development. Domestic oil and gas—reliable, scalable, and abundant—are positioned to play a central role, but only if policy allows supply to meet demand.

As Chairman Babin concluded, the question is no longer theoretical: Will the United States build the energy systems its innovators need—or regulate itself out of global leadership?

For domestic energy producers, the answer may define the next decade.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES: HEARING TO CONSIDER PENDING NOMINATIONS



**FEBRUARY
25, 2026**



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES FULL COMMITTEE HEARING TO CONSIDER PENDING NOMINATIONS



STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, VICE TRACY STONE-MANNING, RESIGNED

I am honored to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Growing up in a large family on a small 5-acre New Mexico farm, the concept of preserving and conserving the land and water was instilled in me through necessity and it was refined by the training I received in 4-H.

During my years at New Mexico State University, I worked every holiday and summer in the oil field to pay for college. In my junior year, I won the draft lottery and got free flying lessons and an all-expense paid trip to Vietnam. After graduation I went straight to USAF pilot training. My first assignment was flying combat missions in Vietnam in 1971, 72 and 73 where I earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple Air Medals and developed a love for veterans and aviation.

In 2016, while still a member of Congress, I flew my single engine, 4-seat Mooney aircraft, solo, circumnavigating the globe in 15 days, dedicating the effort to the warriors who never made it home. I continue to fly and work for veterans today.

When I got back from Vietnam, I experienced the healing serenity of backpacking in wilderness areas.

In 1981, I married Cynthia and together we bought a small, struggling oil field service business and for 14 years, I learned the art of repairing problem oil wells – we were plumbers working 5,000 feet deep.

Running a small business fit well with the values with which I was raised – work hard, treat others fairly and provide good customer service. We sold the business in 2003.

I served seven terms representing the 2nd District of New Mexico, a majority-minority district, which was 34% registered Republicans. The district was 70,000 square miles, larger than the state of Florida, with about 1/3 of the state being federal land.

The 2nd district provided many examples of what multiple use means. Hunting, access and outdoor sports are drivers of one local economy. In another area oil and gas provide the jobs, yet another has national parks and monuments. The district had mining, grazing, forests, wildfires, wilderness areas and was home to Native American pueblos, tribes and chapter houses.

Much of my life is a life of service, and I am proud of that. During my 14 years as a congressman, I traveled the district extensively, seeing firsthand the problems faced by my constituents who, like my parents, work hard every day trying to provide for their families.

CONT'D NEXT PAGE

I also saw what the Founding Fathers feared: a federal government acting as an absentee landlord which, instead of partnering with states and local communities, rules over them.

After a devastating wildfire, the Forest Service assigned local ranchers in my district to grazing lands as far away as Wyoming. The cost of trucking cattle that distance would have led to the extinction of small ranchers and collapse of the local economy. My staff identified nearby allotments that had not been grazed for years and lobbied the Forest Service to open those. The agency initially stood its ground but ultimately could not dispute the facts. The ranchers and the local economy survived.

I was gratified to include funding in the appropriations process to clean out the sediment threatening the health of the Blue Hole of Santa Rosa, a popular recreational spring in the New Mexico desert. We got word shortly after that the agency repurposed these funds. I am proud of my efforts to claw the funds back to clean out the spring for future generations.

These examples show my distinct dedication to working with local stakeholders and the federal government to ensure our land managers are making decisions based on local input and in accordance with the law. If confirmed, I fully intend to uphold these same principles as BLM Director and ensure local input is a key factor in my decision-making.

I have also seen first-hand the importance of our public lands and support those missions completely. I met many of the dedicated public servants who make the federal agencies work and together we accomplished some amazing things.

When the Lesser Prairie Chicken was at risk of being listed as endangered, my office worked with ALL stakeholders to establish a voluntary process to increase habitat and prevent a listing. I believe we can duplicate those efforts to solve not only endangered species but orphan wells, abandoned mines and many other issues, including providing clean and plentiful water.

President Trump has proven we can achieve his vision of Energy dominance while preserving clean air, water and soil.

We must preserve the natural spaces so all people have access to the spiritual beauty of the outdoors, where hunting and fishing can be passed down from one generation to the next, where critical minerals can be developed, freeing us from dependence on China. Native American lands and resources can be protected.

The security and economic health of the country, especially the western states, rests squarely on the shoulders of the BLM. We can and must balance the different uses of public lands. Local economies and future generations depend on us doing our job right.

Stevan Pearce served as the U.S. representative for New Mexico's 2nd congressional district from 2003 to 2009 and from 2011 to 2019. He is a member of the Republican Party and was his party's unsuccessful nominee in the 2008 U.S Senate election and the 2018 gubernatorial election.

On December 8, 2018, Pearce was elected Chair of the New Mexico Republican Party, replacing Ryan Cangioli.

He was re-elected in 2020 and again in 2022. He opted against running for a fourth term as the Chair of the New Mexico Republican Party in 2024.

Pearce was born in Lamesa, Texas, and raised in Hobbs, New Mexico. He attended college at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, having earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in economics. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales.

He served in the Vietnam War as a C-130 pilot in the United States Air Force. Pearce flew over 518 hours of combat flight and 77 hours of combat support. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals, as well as seven other military medals and four exceptional service awards. Upon returning to the United States, Pearce was assigned to the Strategic Air Command at Blytheville Air Force Base, Arkansas. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force with the rank of captain.

Pearce and his wife owned and operated Lea Fishing Tools, an oilfield services company in Hobbs, New Mexico, until they sold the business in 2003 to Key Energy Services.

KYLE HAUSTVEIT

OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY,
VICE PRESTON GRIFFITH, RESIGNED.



“I am proud to say I am a third generation energy worker. My family’s connection to energy spans decades, and their hard work instilled in me a deep respect for the industry and its importance to our nation.

With a small nudge from my late grandfather, I pursued a degree in petroleum engineering at Montana Tech, followed by an MBA in energy from the University of Oklahoma. This combination of engineering and economic study has been instrumental in shaping my career and preparing me to address the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector.

Early in my career, I was fortunate to lead a team that invented and commercialized a diagnostic technique now used globally to optimize hydraulic fracturing and resource development. This experience sparked a growing passion for energy and technology, which led me to lead an Energy Ventures team. In this role, our team had the privilege of investing in early-stage startups rooted in fundamental science, including a leading next-generation geothermal company, with operations in Nevada and a 500 MW development underway in Utah.

Our team also conducted technical evaluations for innovative projects such as a direct lithium extraction from brine in Arkansas and California; carbon capture utilization and sequestration in Wyoming; and produced water treatment and beneficial use in New Mexico. These experiences have given me a front-row seat to the incredible innovation happening in the energy industry across our resource-rich nation.

I have been blessed to build my career during one of the most transformative periods in energy history—the shale revolution. The shale revolution was brought about by industry and enabled in part by fundamental research from our tremendous National Laboratories. This technological breakthrough moved the U.S. from the world’s largest importer of liquified natural gas (LNG) to the largest exporter, positioning us as the global leader in oil and natural gas production—transforming us from energy dependent to energy dominant.

The energy industry has not only powered our nation, but it has also fueled economic growth, strengthened national security, and improved the quality of life for millions of Americans and our allies around the world. U.S. natural gas has delivered affordable, reliable, and secure energy, and, at the same time, reduced the emissions from electricity generation by more than 40 percent.

It has been a privilege to contribute to this progress, and I am passionately

aligned with President Trump’s common sense energy agenda—an agenda that will ensure that future generations have access to affordable, reliable, secure, and abundant energy, made in America! If confirmed, I will honor the fundamentals of science and economics to serve our country. I am committed to advancing policies that unleash U.S. energy dominance, foster innovation, and ensure that America remains a global leader in energy production and technology.

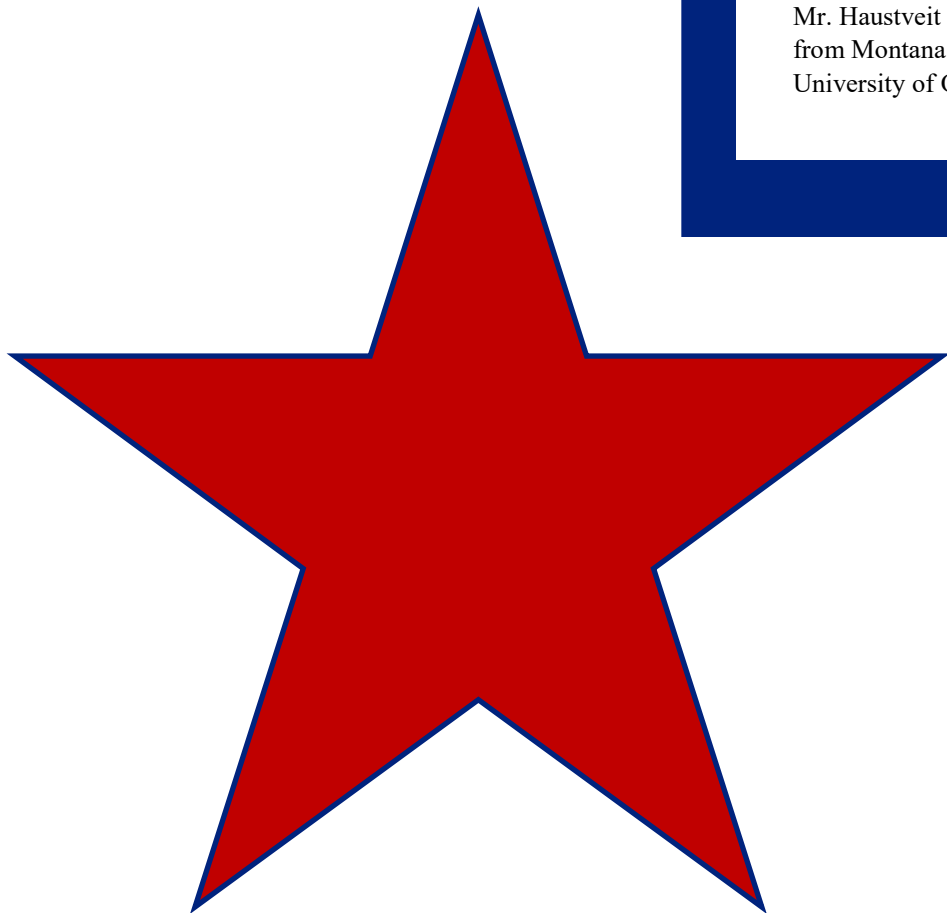
If confirmed, I will work to leverage the incredible talents within DOE and our National Labs to drive forward cutting-edge research and development. It is an honor of a lifetime to contribute to the mission of the President and the Secretary to fuel peace and prosperity through energy.

Kyle Haustveit was confirmed as the 16th Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy, now the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO), on September 18, 2025. In this role, Mr. Haustveit oversees HGEO and National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) programs, managing a \$5 billion research and development portfolio in coal, oil, natural gas, and critical minerals, with the goal of advancing affordable and reliable energy solutions.

Prior to joining the Department of Energy, Mr. Haustveit served as a professional petroleum engineer in various technical and leadership roles at Devon Energy. A native of North Dakota, Mr. Haustveit represents a third generation of energy workers, maintaining strong connections to both the energy and agriculture sectors.

Throughout his career, he has led teams responsible for developing and commercializing trailblazing diagnostic techniques now utilized globally to optimize hydraulic fracturing and resource development. Subsequently, he directed an Energy Ventures team, focusing on investments in next-generation energy technologies, including geothermal, carbon utilization, lithium extraction, and produced water treatment.

Mr. Haustveit holds a petroleum engineering degree from Montana Tech and an MBA in energy from the University of Oklahoma.



DAVID LACERTE

OF LOUISIANA, TO BE MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2031



I'd like to speak to our accomplishments in the few short months since I've been seated at FERC, discuss the commitments I made to you in the fall while this Committee was considering me for confirmation to my current term, and finally address what you can expect from me if I am given the honor of serving a full term as FERC Commissioner.

At my first open meeting as a Commissioner at FERC, we proposed rulemakings to expand the successful pipeline certification program to both hydroelectric and liquefied natural gas facilities. These are both mature industries with sophisticated parties and with which the Commission has considerable experience. Therefore, considering the expansion of the flexibilities provided by blanket certifications, as we propose to do in the rulemakings, is warranted.

We prioritized cutting red tape, advancing stalled projects, and ensuring permits are issued in a timely and legally defensible manner. I have also been vocal about the need to declutter the

Commission's dockets. Proceedings that linger for years serve no one. They create uncertainty for investors and regulated industries, delay the construction and operation of critical infrastructure, and erode confidence in the regulatory process. Since my first month at the Commission, I have supported action to remove outdated and unnecessary regulations, and issue timely orders, and I will keep striving for more efficient, disciplined processes at FERC.

In my second month at the Commission, we demonstrated our commitment to powering America's leadership in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies, while protecting ratepayers. This may be the defining competitive challenge of our generation. If we are not the world's leader in AI, our adversaries will be. We will meet this moment, and we will do so without sacrificing affordability.

In December, we issued an order where we addressed service to large load—including data centers—co-located with generating facilities, through revisions to PJM's Tariff. Among those revisions, the Commission directed PJM to establish transparent rules governing certain large load arrangements and certain transmission services. I recognize that this represents a first step in a long road, but I'm proud of the decisive action that the Commission took in that proceeding, which continues to be pending before us.

At a time when energy demand is rising and reliability challenges are mounting, the Commission has acted with focus, efficiency, and disciplined urgency. Year-to-date, the Commission has already issued 18% more orders over the same period in 2025. Since I've joined the Commission, we've voted in nearly 280 proceedings. And the Commission has authorized the addition of 4.14 million dekatherms of natural gas transportation capacity, enough fuel to support the electricity needs of 13 to 18 million American households. That pace will further accelerate as we remove distractions, extra-jurisdictional side quests, and focus on what matters. By that I mean this Commission should not use the limited number of hours in a day, month, and year on matters extra-jurisdictional to the agency.

By narrowly focusing on our statutory jurisdiction, we are building. We are advancing. And we are strengthening energy security for our nation. We're fighting for American households, and I am committed to ensuring this momentum continues in order to bring long-term results.

CONT'D NEXT PAGE

I made commitments to Senators across the aisle about how I would approach this work. I welcome accountability for those commitments and want to make clear how I intend to uphold them if my nomination for another term is confirmed.

From my first open Commission meeting as a Commissioner, I stated plainly that my duty is to the ratepayer. I said then that there would be many people in that room looking to curry favor for one project or one industry. And I meant what I said: none of those people represent the ratepayer. We on the Commission do, as you in the Senate do. My commitment to the ratepayer has not wavered and, going forward, it will not.

On affordability and reliability, I have worked to ensure those principles remain the Commission's North Star. As load growth accelerates, I have been unwavering in my commitment that this growth must not come at the expense of ordinary Americans who are already concerned about their energy bills. I have publicly stated that it is our duty as Commissioners to fully protect ratepayers from undue costs, and I will continue to carry out that duty.

I also remain committed to resource neutrality as required by the Federal Power Act. The Commission's role is not to steer the market toward any particular fuel or technology, it is to ensure that rates are just and reasonable, and that markets are competitive and fair. I have held steadfast to these principles and will continue to do so.

On FERC's independence, let me be direct. The value of this Commission to markets, to investors, and to the American public depends on its credibility as an independent, decision-making and rate-setting body. That independence is not a courtesy; it is a structural safeguard that Congress deliberately built into this agency.

Will I continue to seek input from all stakeholders? Absolutely. Sound decisions require broad engagement, especially with those who each day engage with our regulated markets as industry participants, consumer groups and as state representatives. But consultation does not compromise independence. My duty is to the law and to the statutory responsibilities entrusted to this Commission.

Which brings me to what I view as the central obligations of a full term as a FERC Commissioner: ensuring just and reasonable rates, protecting ratepayers, restoring stability, and reinforcing confidence in our energy markets. Long-term energy investment—the kind that builds pipelines, transmission lines, power plants, and the infrastructure backbone this country — requires regulatory predictability. When the Commission acts within its congressional mandate, makes decisions grounded in law and fact, and resolves matters in a timely manner, it sends a clear signal to capital markets that the rules of the road are stable and reliable. That confidence strengthens investment. It supports utilities and infrastructure development. Most importantly, it protects every customer and ratepayer, young and senior, from hard-working families to locally owned businesses who participate in a fair market.

While I have served on this Commission for only a relatively short time, I have approached this responsibility with seriousness, independence, and a clear understanding of whom I serve: the American people. I welcome and am humbled by the President's renomination of me to continue that work.

It is a profound honor to serve on this Commission, and I welcome your questions today as I seek this Committee's approval and the Senate's confirmation to permit me to continue this vital work throughout a full term. It is my hope that you will see that my record reflects fidelity to the law and commitment to FERC's mission, two standards against which I believe every Commissioner's actions should be evaluated.

David LaCerte is currently a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

He was previously the White House Liaison and Senior Advisor to the Director for U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

LaCerte previously served as an appointee of President Donald Trump as a senior advisor at OPM from 2020-2021.

Prior to LaCerte's second stint at OPM, he served as Special Counsel at Baker Botts.

In January 2021, he was appointed as a Senior Advisor and Executive Counsel at the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board and served as Acting Managing Director.

LaCerte was the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) in the administration of Governor Bobby Jindal. He had been the Interim Secretary from January 2013 to September 2013.

On July 17, 2025, he was nominated by President Donald Trump to FERC for a term that ends June 30, 2026. He was confirmed en bloc on a party-line vote in October, 2025.

LaCerte served in the United States Marine Corps Infantry at 1st Battalion 1st Marines (1/1). Shortly after the September 11 attacks in 2001, he was deployed to Afghanistan under the command of General James Mattis.

LaCerte led over 100 combat patrols and missions in Afghanistan and Pakistan and served on interrogation teams for high value Al Qaeda targets.

SUPREME COURT SIGNALS CAUTION IN HIGH-STAKES STATE CLIMATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE LITIGATION



U.S. energy infrastructure operators received a clear — if understated — signal from **the U.S. Supreme Court this month**: procedural missteps can carry serious consequences, even in cases with national energy implications.

During oral arguments February 24, several justices appeared reluctant to overturn a lower-court ruling that allows Dana Nessel’s lawsuit against Enbridge to remain in Michigan state court. The case centers on the state’s effort to shut down a major pipeline supplying crude oil and natural gas liquids to the Great Lakes region.

At issue before the Court was not the merits of the pipeline dispute itself, but whether Enbridge should be excused for missing a statutory deadline to remove the case to federal court. Several justices questioned why the Court should intervene to rescue a party that failed to meet clear procedural requirements — even where federal jurisdiction arguments may otherwise be compelling.

This case highlights a growing risk vector for oil and gas companies: state-level legal actions aimed at national and cross-border energy infrastructure, paired with aggressive litigation strategies designed to keep cases in favorable state courts.

If the Court allows the lower ruling to stand, it reinforces several important realities for operators:

- **Procedural precision matters** — missing a removal

or filing deadline can permanently shape the legal battlefield.

- **State courts remain a viable venue** for attorneys general seeking to challenge pipelines and other infrastructure, even where interstate or international commerce is involved.
- **Climate- and infrastructure-driven litigation is increasingly technical**, relying on jurisdictional strategy as much as substantive environmental or safety claims.

A BROADER LEGAL TREND

The case fits into a broader pattern in which state officials are using courts — rather than regulators — to pursue policy outcomes that have struggled to gain traction through legislation or federal rulemaking. For energy companies, this raises the stakes around early legal strategy, forum selection, and coordination between in-house counsel and outside litigation teams.

While a final ruling has not yet been issued, the justices’ skepticism suggests the Court may be unwilling to relax procedural rules, even in cases with far-reaching energy security implications.

This dispute is less about one pipeline and more about how — and where — future energy infrastructure battles will be fought. Executives should view it as a reminder that litigation risk today often hinges on *process*, not just policy.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



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We're honored that our founder, **DAVID LE NORMAN**, will be recognized as "Philanthropist of the Year" at this year's Call of the Wild Gala, alongside 2026 Hall of Fame recipient and Oklahoma native Blake Shelton.

The work of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation leaves a lasting impact on our state's natural resources and outdoor heritage. If you're passionate about conservation and protecting a legacy for future generations, we invite you to join us in supporting this meaningful cause.



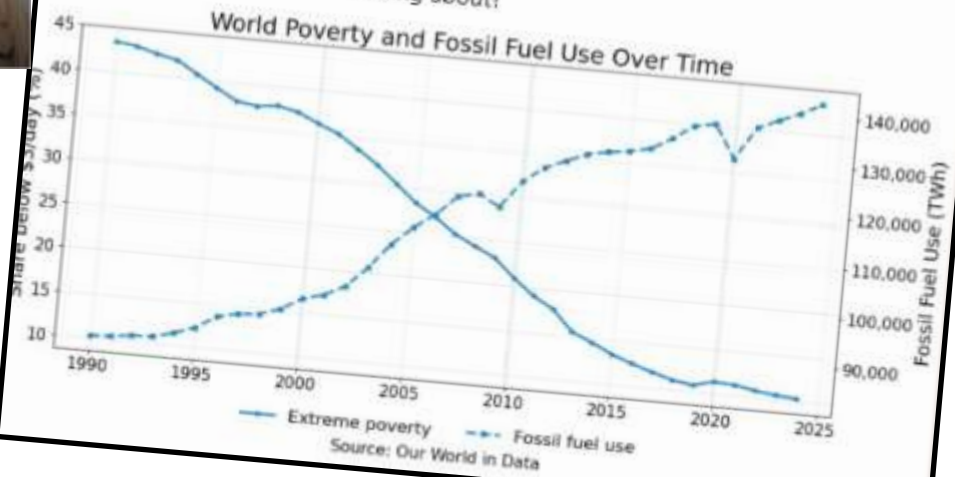
Alex Epstein • 1st

Founder at Center for Industrial Progress

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AOC to Shell: "I'm willing to hold you accountable for lying about climate change for 30 years when you secretly knew the entire time that fossil fuels emissions would destroy our planet."

Is this the destruction she is talking about?





Scott W. Tinker, PhD • 1st

Chairman, Switch Energy Alliance, CEO, Tinker Energy Associates, Chairman, E...

1d ***

Climate change.

The most recent IPCC report, AR6, has a table that summarizes the weather impact data.

Everything in white has low confidence in the emergence of a signal, and is not forecast to emerge by 2050 or 2100, even using RCP8.5, the most extreme warming scenario.

It's worth taking the time to examine the data.

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/chapter/chapter-12/>

Climatic Impact-driver Type	Climatic Impact-driver Category	Already Emerged in Historical Period	Emerging by 2050 at Least for RCP8.5/SSPs-8.5	Emerging Between 2050 and 2100 for at Least RCP8.5/SSPs-8.5
Heat and Cold	Mean air temperature	1		
	Extreme heat	2	3	
	Cold spell	4	5	
	Frost			
Wet and Dry	Mean precipitation		6, 7	
	River flood			
	Heavy precipitation and pluvial flood			8
	Landslide			
	Aridity			
	Hydrological drought			
	Agricultural and ecological drought			
	Fire weather			
Wind	Mean wind speed			
	Severe wind storm			
	Tropical cyclone			
	Sand and dust storm			
Snow and Ice	Snow, glacier and ice sheet		9	10
	Permafrost			
	Lake, river and sea ice	11		
	Heavy snowfall and ice storm			
	Hail			
	Snow avalanche			
Coastal	Relative sea level		12	
	Coastal flood			
	Coastal erosion			
Open Ocean	Mean ocean temperature			
	Marine heatwave			
	Ocean acidity			
	Ocean salinity	13		
	Dissolved oxygen	14		
Other	Air pollution weather			
	Atmospheric CO ₂ at surface			
	Radiation at surface			

- High confidence except over a few regions (CNA and NWS) where there is low agreement across observation datasets.
- High confidence in tropical regions where observations allow trend estimation and in most regions in the mid-latitudes, medium confidence elsewhere.
- High confidence in all land regions.
- Emergence in Australia, Africa and most of Northern South America where observations allow trend estimation.
- Emergence in other regions.
- Increase in most northern mid-latitudes, Siberia, Arctic regions by mid-century, others later in the century.
- Decrease in the Mediterranean area, Southern Africa, South-west Australia.
- Northern Europe, Northern Asia and East Asia under RCP8.5 and not in low-end scenarios.
- Europe, Eastern and Western North America (snow).
- Arctic (snow).
- Arctic sea ice only.
- Everywhere except WAN under RCP8.5.
- With varying area fraction depending on basin.
- Pacific and Southern oceans then many other regions by 2050.

High confidence
Medium confidence
Low confidence in trend estimation
Medium confidence
High confidence



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.

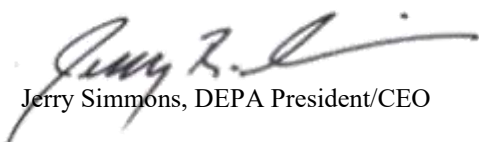
Yet this moment also comes with responsibility. A supportive administration does not eliminate opposition to fossil fuels, nor does it guarantee lasting policy outcomes. Regulations can return. Misinformation can regain ground. Political winds can change quickly. **That is why DEPA's work is more important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

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Primary

Email: _____

Secondary Email: _____

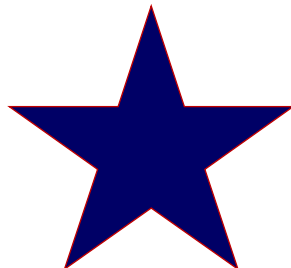
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*Our Industry is
worth fighting for!*

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



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Member Levels:

- \$100,000: DEPA Underwriter
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- \$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: \$ _____

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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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