



DEPA

DRILLER

DEPA REPORT ON INDUSTRY, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND ENERGY REGULATION

## DEPA FILES MOTION TO INTERVENE IN DEFENSE OF EPA REPEAL RULE

March 19 DEPA announced that it has formally filed a motion to intervene as a respondent in ongoing litigation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, seeking to defend the Environmental Protection Agency's repeal of the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding.

The case, American Public Health Association v. EPA, was filed by a coalition of environmental and advocacy organizations challenging the EPA's recent rule rescinding the Endangerment Finding. Petitioners are asking the court to vacate the repeal and reinstate the 2009 determination.

DEPA's motion to intervene ensures that the voice of domestic oil and natural gas producers—those most directly impacted by the regulatory consequences of the Endangerment Finding—is represented in the case.

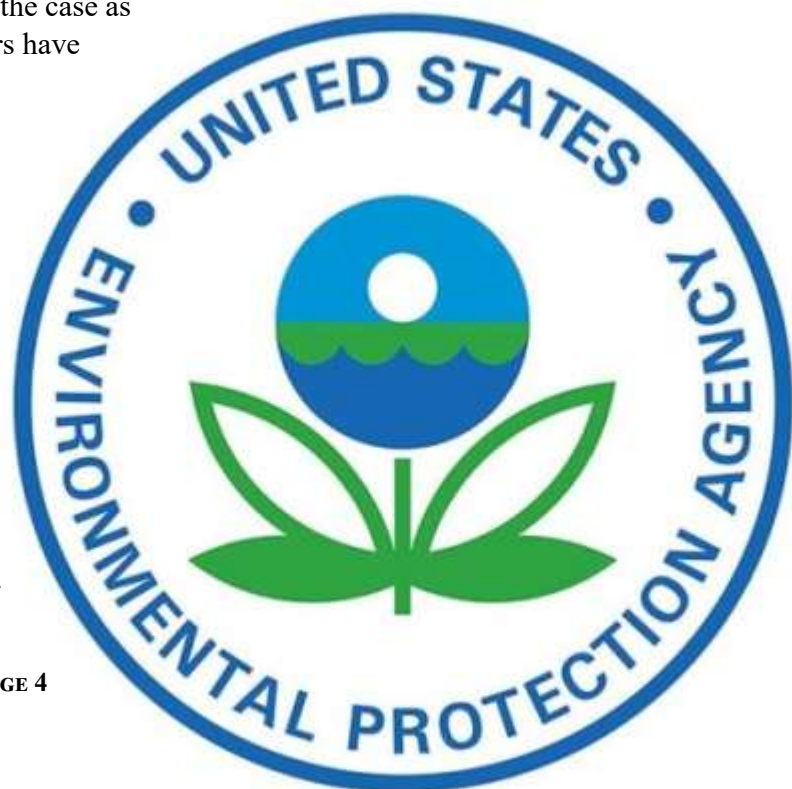
### What This Filing Means

A motion to intervene allows a party with a direct and substantial interest in a case to participate in the litigation. DEPA is seeking to join the case as a respondent in support of the EPA, arguing that its members have borne the real-world costs of the regulatory framework that stemmed from the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

If the court grants DEPA's motion, the organization will be able to present arguments, submit briefs, and advocate on behalf of its members as the case proceeds.

### Why DEPA Is Taking Action

“This filing is about making sure the voices of domestic energy producers are heard in a case that will have real, immediate consequences for our industry,” said **Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of the Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance**. “Our members have spent years navigating and complying with a complex and costly regulatory





# DEPA DC FLY-IN AND BOARD MEETING

## APRIL 15 & 16

**Host Hotel: The George**

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.**

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS



DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

### EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**HAROLD HAMM**  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

**JOHN SCHMITZ**  
CHAIRMAN

**JERRY SIMMONS**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

**ROCK ZIERMAN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**PATRICK MONTALBAN**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

**DAN BOREN**  
STEPHANIE CANALES

**ED CROSS**

**RON GUSEK**

**RON NESS**

**BEN SHEPPERD**

**BROOK SIMMONS**

**BILL STEVENS**

### DEPA STAFF

**PETER REGAN**  
CONGRESSIONAL AND  
ALLIANCE LIAISON

**DAVID CRANE**  
LOBBYIST

**CYNTHIA SIMONDS**  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER

**MISTY SANDLIN**  
BOOKKEEPING

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

PO Box 33190        TULSA, OK 74153        405-669-6646

    [INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG](mailto:INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG)



# THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

**DIAMOND SPONSOR**



**SILVER SPONSOR**



**DINNER SPONSOR**



**RECEPTION SPONSOR**



**BREAKFAST SPONSOR**





framework that stemmed directly from the 2009 Endangerment Finding. If that finding is reinstated, those burdens don't just return in theory—they return in practice, impacting operations, investment decisions, and ultimately American energy affordability and reliability. We are stepping in to ensure the court fully understands those impacts and the importance of a regulatory approach grounded in clear statutory authority and real-world consequences.”

In 2009, following the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the EPA issued a finding that certain greenhouse gases could reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. That determination triggered a sweeping series of federal regulations under the Clean Air Act.

As recognized by the D.C. Circuit in *Coalition for Responsible Regulation v. EPA*, the Endangerment Finding became the foundation for a “cascading series” of greenhouse gas regulations that reshaped federal oversight of the energy sector.

“These regulations were not theoretical—they imposed significant, ongoing costs on domestic producers,” DEPA said in its filing.

Among the regulatory impacts cited by DEPA:

- Vehicle emissions standards that increased operational costs for oilfield fleets
- Methane regulations requiring extensive leak detection, monitoring systems, and equipment upgrades
- Expansion of federal requirements to existing oil and gas facilities nationwide

Permitting regimes that added complexity and cost to infrastructure development

Collectively, these measures required substantial investments in compliance programs, emissions monitoring, reporting systems, and operational changes across the industry.

### **The Stakes of the Case**

DEPA's filing emphasizes that if the petitioners succeed and the Endangerment Finding is reinstated, the regulatory framework—and its associated costs—would once again be triggered.

The organization also points to more recent Supreme Court guidance, including *West Virginia v. EPA*, which clarified that federal agencies must have clear congressional authorization when regulating matters of major economic and political significance.

DEPA argues that this evolving legal landscape provides important context for the EPA's decision to repeal the Endangerment Finding and supports the need for judicial review that fully considers the interests of regulated parties.

### **Ensuring Industry Representation**

DEPA's motion underscores that no existing party in the case adequately represents the specific economic and operational interests of domestic oil and natural gas producers.

By intervening, DEPA seeks to ensure that the court hears directly from those who have experienced the practical and financial consequences of the regulatory regime at issue.

# THE JONES ACT: A CENTURY-OLD LAW AT THE CENTER OF MODERN ENERGY DEBATES



When gasoline prices spike in places like San Francisco or Los Angeles, the headlines usually focus on global crude oil markets, refinery outages, or instability in the Middle East. But layered quietly beneath those forces is a 105-year-old federal law that continues to shape the cost and flow of energy within the United States: the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 — better known as *the Jones Act*.

For energy producers, refiners, and consumers, the Jones Act represents a fascinating case study in how national security policy intersects with market economics.

## WHAT IS THE JONES ACT?

The Jones Act is Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920. It requires that any cargo transported between two U.S. ports be carried on vessels that are:

- Built in the United States
- Owned by U.S. citizens
- Flagged in the United States
- Crewed primarily by U.S. citizens

This is known as “cabotage” law — restricting domestic maritime trade to national vessels.

In practical terms, oil shipped from Texas to California must travel on a Jones Act-compliant vessel. Foreign-flagged ships — even if cheaper and readily available — cannot legally carry that cargo between U.S. ports..

## WHY DOES IT REMAIN IN PLACE?

A century later, the Jones Act survives because it sits at the intersection of powerful political and economic interests.

Support Comes From:

- Maritime labor unions
- U.S. shipbuilders
- Domestic vessel owners
- National security advocates

The argument is straightforward: without cabotage protections, U.S. shipbuilding would likely collapse under foreign competition, and the nation would lose critical maritime capacity.

The law also has bipartisan defenders in Congress, particularly among lawmakers from shipbuilding states and coastal districts.

## WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The law was passed in the aftermath of World War I. The U.S. had discovered a hard lesson: it lacked a sufficient merchant marine fleet to support wartime logistics. Lawmakers feared that in a future conflict, dependence on foreign ships could jeopardize national security.

The Jones Act had three primary goals:

- Ensure a strong domestic shipbuilding industry
- Maintain a fleet of American-controlled vessels
- Provide a trained pool of American mariners who could serve in wartime

Supporters argue that these goals remain relevant today. The United States still depends on commercial vessels and civilian mariners to supplement military sealift capacity in times of war or national emergency.



## HOW DOES IT AFFECT OIL AND GAS MARKETS?

The Jones Act has unique implications for energy markets, particularly in a geographically large and infrastructure-diverse country like the United States.

### 1. SHIPPING COSTS ARE HIGHER

Jones Act-compliant tankers are significantly more expensive to build and operate than foreign-flagged vessels. Estimates suggest:

- U.S.-built tankers can cost 3–5 times more than foreign-built ships.
- Operating costs (labor, compliance, insurance) are also higher.

This means moving crude oil or refined products between U.S. ports is often more expensive than importing foreign oil.

### 2. THE “BAHAMAS LOOP”

One of the more striking examples involves crude shipments from the Gulf Coast to California.

Rather than use scarce and expensive Jones Act tankers, some cargoes are exported to foreign destinations — such as the Bahamas — and then re-imported to California on foreign-flagged vessels. While this may sound inefficient, it can still be cheaper than using U.S.-flagged ships.

This dynamic highlights how regulatory friction can reshape trade flows in ways that appear economically counterintuitive.

### 3. REGIONAL PRICE DISPARITIES

California already operates under:

- The highest state gasoline taxes in the nation
- A unique reformulated gasoline blend requirement
- Limited in-state refining capacity

Add Jones Act shipping constraints, and supply flexibility becomes restricted. In times of refinery outages or global supply shocks, it can be harder — and more expensive — to move fuel quickly from the Gulf Coast to the West Coast.

Energy analysts often describe this as a “system stress” issue. Markets are resilient — until cumulative constraints begin to stack up.

## **HAS ANYONE TRIED TO MODIFY THE JONES ACT?**

Yes — repeatedly.

### **TEMPORARY WAIVERS**

Presidents have occasionally issued short-term waivers during emergencies:

- After Hurricane Katrina (2005)
- Following Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico (2017)
- During certain fuel supply disruptions

These waivers are typically limited in scope and duration.

### **LEGISLATIVE REFORM EFFORTS**

Over the years, lawmakers from both parties have introduced reform proposals:

- Senators such as John McCain repeatedly pushed for full repeal, arguing the law distorts markets and raises consumer costs.
- Lawmakers from Puerto Rico have advocated exemptions due to high shipping costs.
- Energy-state Republicans and some free-market Democrats have proposed targeted reforms for LNG and petroleum shipping.

However, no comprehensive repeal has succeeded.

## **WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO REPEAL OR MODIFY IT?**

Full repeal would require:

1. Passage of legislation through both chambers of Congress
2. Presidential signature

Given the coalition of maritime unions, shipbuilders, and national security advocates aligned in its defense, repeal faces steep political headwinds.

More realistic paths might include:

- Expanding waiver authority
- Allowing foreign-built (but U.S.-flagged) ships
- Creating energy-specific exemptions
- Regional exemptions (e.g., for non-contiguous states or territories)

Even these incremental changes would face strong opposition.

## **ARE THERE DOWNSIDES to Repealing It? Yes, and they are serious considerations.**

### **NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS**

Critics of repeal argue that eliminating the Jones Act could:

- Shrink the U.S. merchant fleet further
- Reduce domestic shipbuilding capacity
- Undermine sealift readiness in wartime

The U.S. military depends on commercial vessels and trained mariners for logistics support. Without protection, foreign competition could hollow out that industrial base.

### **LABOR IMPACTS**

American maritime jobs, often high-wage, unionized positions, could face displacement if foreign-flagged vessels dominate domestic trade.

### **STRATEGIC VULNERABILITY**

In a geopolitical crisis involving a major shipping nation, reliance on foreign vessels for domestic supply chains could pose risks..

## **A “DEATH BY A THOUSAND PAPER CUTS”?**

For energy markets, the Jones Act is rarely the sole cause of price spikes. Instead, it functions as a structural constraint.

When global crude prices rise, when refineries close, when environmental regulations tighten, when taxes increase — the Jones Act becomes another variable layered into an already complex system.

Markets can absorb shocks. But cumulative regulatory friction can make them less flexible and more expensive to navigate.

### **THE LARGER POLICY QUESTION**

At its core, the Jones Act debate is not simply about gasoline prices.

It is about how the United States balances:

National security	Free-market efficiency
Labor protection	Industrial policy
Energy affordability	



After more than a century, the law remains a powerful example of how policies enacted in one era continue to shape economic realities in another.

Whether reform comes or not, the Jones Act will likely remain part of the conversation whenever energy prices rise — especially in regions already operating at the edge of supply flexibility.

And as global tensions fluctuate, the question persists:

How much structural constraint can a system absorb before flexibility gives way to fragility?

## ENERGY DEPARTMENT BEGINS DELIVERING SPR BARRELS AT RECORD SPEEDS

The U.S. Department of Energy announced that contracts have been awarded for the first 45 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve’s exchange. Oil deliveries started March 20

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced March 20th, the [award](#) of contracts for the initial phase of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) Emergency Exchange as directed by President Trump. The first oil shipments began today—just nine days after President Trump and the Department of Energy announced the United States would lead a coordinated release of emergency oil reserves among International Energy Agency (IEA) member nations to address short-term supply disruptions.

Under these initial awards, DOE will move forward with an exchange of 45.2 million barrels of crude oil and receive 55 million barrels in return, all at no cost to the taxpayer. This represents the first tranche of the United States’ 172-million-barrel release. Companies will receive 10 million barrels from the Bayou Choctaw SPR site, 15.7 million barrels from Bryan Mound, and 19.5 million barrels from West Hackberry.

“Thanks to President Trump, the Energy Department began this first exchange at record speeds to address short-term

supply disruptions while also strengthening the Strategic Petroleum Reserve by returning additional barrels at no cost to taxpayers,” said **Kyle Haustveit, Assistant Secretary of the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office**. “This exchange not only maintains reliability in the current market but will generate hundreds of millions of dollars in value in the form of additional barrels for the American people when the barrels are returned.”

This initial action will ultimately add close to 10 million barrels to the SPR’s inventory when the barrels are returned. Taxpayers will benefit from both the short-term support for global supply and long-term growth of the SPR’s inventory. This helps protect U.S. and global energy security.

The Trump Administration continues to pursue additional opportunities to strengthen the reserve and restore its long-term readiness as a cornerstone of American energy security.

For more information on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and DOE’s emergency exchange authorities, please visit [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov).

*“President Trump’s decisive action to utilize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve through this emergency exchange demonstrates exactly how American energy leadership should work—swiftly, strategically, and with the taxpayer in mind,” said Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance. “By addressing short-term supply disruptions while securing a net gain of barrels for the SPR at no cost, this initiative strengthens both our immediate market stability and our long-term energy security. It’s a smart, commonsense approach that reinforces the critical role of domestic energy in protecting American consumers and supporting our allies abroad.”*



# AMERICA'S OIL DEPENDENCE: LESS INTENSE, BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

A recent article in *The New York Times* titled “*America Depends Less on Oil Than Ever*” argues that oil price spikes have a more muted effect on the U.S. economy today than they did decades ago. The reasoning is familiar to many economists: the American economy is now less “energy intensive” than it once was.

There is truth in that statement. But without the full context, it can leave the misleading impression that energy—and oil in particular—matters less to the U.S. economy today.

In reality, the opposite may be true. While the economy has become more efficient in how it uses energy, the total demand for energy services continues to grow and may soon accelerate because of technological developments such as artificial intelligence. Understanding how these trends coexist is essential for anyone working in the energy sector.

## Energy Intensity Has Declined

Economists often measure “energy intensity,” which refers to the amount of energy required to produce a unit of economic output. By that measure, the United States has become significantly more efficient since the energy crises of the 1970s.

Several structural changes explain this shift.

First, the composition of the American economy has changed dramatically. The United States is now dominated by service industries such as healthcare, finance, retail, entertainment, and technology. These sectors require far less direct energy consumption than traditional heavy manufacturing industries such as steel, chemicals, or cement.

Today, goods-producing industries employ roughly 21 million Americans, while private service industries employ

more than 100 million. That structural shift alone reduces the amount of energy required to produce each dollar of GDP.

Second, technological efficiency has improved across nearly every sector. Automobiles provide one of the clearest examples. In the mid-1970s, the average new vehicle achieved roughly 13 miles per gallon. Today, the average new light-duty vehicle approaches 28 miles per gallon. That improvement means Americans can drive more miles while consuming less gasoline per mile traveled.

These efficiency gains have had measurable economic effects. Because energy costs represent a smaller share of household spending than they did decades ago, spikes in oil prices generally have a smaller direct impact on consumer spending than they did during the oil shocks of the 1970s and 1980s.

In that narrow sense, economists are correct: the U.S. economy is less oil-intensive than it once was.

## Efficiency Does Not Mean Less Energy

However, focusing only on energy intensity can obscure a critical point: while energy use per dollar of economic output has fallen, total energy demand continues to grow.

The United States economy is far larger than it was in the 1970s, and Americans consume far more energy services in daily life. Homes contain more electronics. Vehicles travel more miles. Industries use increasingly advanced equipment. Digital infrastructure has expanded dramatically.

In other words, efficiency improvements have reduced how much energy is required to perform a given task—but the number of tasks being performed has increased even faster.

As a result, total energy demand has continued to rise over time, even as energy intensity declines.

## The Emerging Driver: Artificial Intelligence

The next major shift in energy demand may come from a sector that barely existed two decades ago: large-scale computing.



Artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data analytics require enormous processing power. That computing power is concentrated in data centers filled with specialized processors that run continuously and generate significant heat. Maintaining these facilities requires not only electricity to power the servers, but also large amounts of energy for cooling systems.

Some analysts estimate that a single large AI-focused data center can consume as much electricity as a small city. As AI adoption spreads across industries—from healthcare to logistics to finance—data center capacity is expected to expand rapidly.

Unlike the oil shocks of the past, this new wave of demand is not primarily about liquid fuels. It is about electricity. But that electricity must still be generated somewhere, and today much of it is produced using natural gas.

For the energy industry, that means the growth of AI and digital infrastructure could significantly increase demand for reliable electricity generation in the coming years.

## Oil Still Anchors the Global Economy

Even as the economy evolves, oil remains the backbone of modern transportation and global logistics.

Air travel, maritime shipping, heavy trucking, agriculture, and petrochemical manufacturing all rely heavily on petroleum-based fuels. These sectors remain difficult to electrify at scale, meaning oil will continue to play a central role in the global energy system for the foreseeable future.



Oil prices also continue to influence broader economic activity. When gasoline prices rise, consumers typically reduce discretionary spending elsewhere, slowing economic growth. While that effect may be smaller than it once was, it has not disappeared.

## A More Complete Perspective

The key takeaway is that two seemingly contradictory ideas can both be true at the same time.

The U.S. economy is less oil-intensive than it was several decades ago. Efficiency improvements and structural changes have reduced the amount of energy required to produce each dollar of economic output.

But that does not mean energy demand is shrinking. In fact, total energy consumption continues to grow, and new technologies such as artificial intelligence may accelerate that growth.

For energy professionals, the lesson is clear: the importance of energy has not diminished. Instead, the form and location of demand are evolving. Industrial smokestacks may no longer define the American economy the way they once did, but the energy powering cloud servers, transportation networks, and modern infrastructure remains just as essential.

Efficiency has changed how we use energy—but it has not changed how much our modern economy ultimately depends on it.

## CHAIRMAN GUTHRIE ANNOUNCES JOEL MILLER AS DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

Today, Congressman Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, announced that Joel Miller has been named Deputy Staff Director, following the departure of Sophie Khanahmadi.

### Joel Miller—Deputy Staff Director

Having served as the Committee’s Chief Counsel since the beginning of this Congress, Joel Miller will now serve as the Deputy Staff Director of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. As Chief Counsel, Joel has played a central role in executing the Committee’s legislative priorities in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, including the Working Families Tax Cuts reconciliation package. A former FCC Senior Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff, Joel also served previously as Chairman Guthrie’s Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director.



JOEL MILLER



SOPHIE KHANAHMADI

## SEC ANNOUNCES ENFORCEMENT DIVISION DIRECTOR HAS RESIGNED

After just six months on the job the Securities and Exchange Commission announced that Judge Margaret A. Ryan has resigned from her role as Director of the Division of Enforcement. Principal Deputy Director Sam Waldon has been named Acting Director of the Division, effective March 16, 2026.

“Our goal has been to lead the Division of Enforcement back to Congress’ original intent: enforcing the federal securities laws, particularly as they relate to fraud and manipulation,” said SEC Chairman Paul S. Atkins. “I am pleased to report significant progress toward this objective.”

Chairman Atkins continued, “Judge Ryan has served with honor and distinction since joining the Commission last year, hallmarks that have served her incredibly well throughout her distinguished career and will continue to do so. Under her leadership, the division reprioritized enforcing the nation’s securities laws, with a focus on pursuing fraud. I thank Meg for her many contributions and wish her very well.”

“I extend my thanks to Chairman Atkins, the Commission, and the staff of the Enforcement Division for the opportunity to continue my public service in a different role,” said Judge Ryan. “As I recently said, I did not seek the role of Director of the SEC’s Division of Enforcement. Rather, this role found me. And for that, I am grateful. I am confident that the foundation I helped to shape – working together with Chairman Atkins - will continue to serve investors and the markets well.”

During her tenure, Judge Ryan oversaw a critical course correction within the division – returning its focus to prioritizing cases that provide meaningful investor protection and strengthen market integrity rather than technical rule violations with no charges alleging investor harm. She redirected the division staff toward the types of misconduct that inflict the greatest harm, such as fraud, market manipulation, and abuses of trust, and away from approaches that prioritized touting volume over impact. This also includes a renewed focus on holding individual wrongdoers accountable, which promotes stronger deterrence and better safeguards investors.

The Commission is expected to announce a permanent successor as Enforcement Division Director in the coming weeks.



MARGARET RYAN



SAM WALDON

# OP-ED: ADMINISTRATOR LEE ZELDIN: WHY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED THE GREATEST AND MOST CONSEQUENTIAL YEAR OF DEREGULATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY

MARCH 13, 2026  
ORIGINAL PRINTING IN THE  
WASHINGTON REPORTER

One year ago, at the Trump EPA, we announced 31 historic actions in the largest ever day of deregulation, to unleash the potential of the American economy, advance President Donald Trump's Day One executive orders, and Power the Great American Comeback. That meant the reconsideration of many suffocating rules that were restricting many sectors of our economy and costing Americans trillions of dollars — raising the cost of living in every aspect of life.

One year later, we have made significant strides to undo the failures of prior administrations and bring down costs for American families.

Among the most consequential of the actions was the reconsideration of the 2009 Obama-era Endangerment Finding and all vehicle regulations that relied on it.

Our repeal of the Endangerment Finding, all subsequent greenhouse gas emissions standards on light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, and all off-cycle credits like the one that led to that annoying start/stop feature in vehicles was the culmination of the single largest deregulatory action in American history. This decision alone will save over one trillion dollars in costs, along with making new vehicles \$2,400 cheaper, and put an end to 16 years of consumer choice restrictions for Americans.

*“President Trump is unwavering in his efforts to lower the cost of living and restore American energy dominance. As EPA Administrator, it's my responsibility to help implement the President's bold agenda to Power the Great American Comeback.”*

Just last month — while keeping in place the strict 2012 Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) that were working — we repealed the 2024 Biden EPA MATS rule that sought to regulate the coal industry out of existence and make it more difficult for Americans to heat their homes. We've also approved plans for North Dakota and Wyoming to regulate their own coal combustion residuals, issued guidance encouraging states to utilize prescribed burns, and ended environmental justice and DEI at the Trump EPA.

To advance cooperative federalism, EPA has partnered with states that were universally rejected by the previous administration's “Good Neighbor” rule — a plan used to expand federal rules to more states and sectors beyond the program's traditional focus and led to the rejection of many State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Phase One of our over-



Lee Zeldin was sworn in as the 17th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on January 29, 2025.

Administrator Zeldin has dedicated much of his life to public service. He served 22 years in the military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 while serving as a paratrooper with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division. The Administrator retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve in May 2025. He also served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 before getting elected to Congress representing New York's 1st District from 2015-2023.

haul of the Good Neighbor plan was proposed this past January, and we will continue receiving public comments until later this month.

We're nowhere near done yet. We are currently reviewing public comments on many proposals, including our reconsideration of Biden's "Clean Power Plan 2.0" that aimed to shut down coal plants nationwide; the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program that added many layers of red tape and compliance costs without any positive impact on air quality; and the technology transitions rule on refrigerants that increased grocery costs, reduced access to residential A-C units and supplies, complicated maintenance of equipment, and hurt semiconductor manufacturing.

We've extended several deadlines in the previous administration's OOOO b/c rules to provide more realistic timelines for American energy producers and workers. This action will positively impact hundreds of thousands of oil and gas operations across the country and save an estimated \$750 million over 11 years in compliance costs.

President Trump heard the American people loud and clear, and we will continue to deliver results, including a new definition of Waters of the United States on behalf of our nation's farmers, ranchers, and other landowners. Our final rule will follow the law and stand the test of time.

One year ago, we promised the end of the Green New Scam, to do our part to usher in the Golden Age of American success, lower the cost of living, and make it easier for Americans to heat their homes, purchase cars, and operate businesses. It has since been one very busy year of total follow through.

President Trump is unwavering in his efforts to lower the cost of living and restore American energy dominance. As EPA Administrator, it's my responsibility to help implement the President's bold agenda to Power the Great American Comeback.

By fulfilling the actions we set in motion on March 12, 2025, we continue working each and every day to deliver an EPA that works to empower the American people while protecting our nation's air, land, and water.



Bryan Kellogg has stepped into the role of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the US Department of Energy.

In this new role Kellogg will manage the DOE's relationships with Congress (House & Senate), State, local, and tribal governments and key external stakeholders tied to public policy.

Kellogg has prior experience in DOE and intergovernmental affairs roles, including serving as a **Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs** and working in external affairs and policy coordination.



Jeff Wilson is the new Chief Strategy Officer & Senior Advisor for Energy Dominance at Export-Import Bank of the United States.

In this role, the Chief Strategy Officer & Senior Advisor for Energy Dominance helps shape the Export-Import Bank of the United States's long-term strategy while driving initiatives that expand U.S. energy exports, strengthen global competitiveness, and reinforce American energy security.

# ENERGY MARKETS, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND THE CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE DEBATE

In a wide-ranging interview on Meet the Press, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright outlined the federal government's response to a rapidly evolving global energy situation following escalating tensions with Iran and disruptions in one of the world's most critical energy transit routes.

The current instability stems from the aftermath of Operation Epic Fury on February 28, which triggered Iranian attempts to interfere with shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz—a narrow waterway responsible for transporting roughly 20 percent of the world's oil supply. Any disruption to this corridor reverberates quickly through global energy markets, and in recent days those impacts have been immediate. Reduced tanker movement through the region pushed global crude prices above \$103 per barrel by the end of last week, underscoring how geopolitical conflict continues to shape energy economics.

## Coordinated Global Response

According to Wright, the United States is working alongside more than 30 allied nations in a coordinated effort to mitigate the market shock. The coalition plans to release approximately 400 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves and commercial inventories worldwide to help stabilize supply and dampen price volatility.

The situation serves as a reminder that global energy security remains deeply interconnected. Even as U.S. production has strengthened domestic supply resilience over the past decade, disruptions in critical international transit routes like the Strait of Hormuz still influence prices, refining margins, and downstream fuel costs.

## Federal Action in California's Offshore Sector

While the global reserve release is intended to provide near-term relief, Wright also highlighted a more controversial domestic action aimed at increasing supply capacity within the United States.

The U.S. Department of Energy has ordered Sable Offshore Corp. to restart a California offshore pipeline system that had previously been stalled by state-level regulatory and legal challenges.

Wright framed the decision as part of a broader effort to strengthen domestic energy production during a period of geopolitical instability.

Federal officials argue the move is necessary to address potential supply disruptions and reduce dependence on imported crude. Despite its size and refining capacity, **California currently relies on foreign crude for more than 60 percent of the oil processed in its refineries**, according to federal energy officials.

That dependency represents a significant shift from earlier decades. Historically, California was a major domestic producer—at one time supplying **nearly 40 percent of U.S. oil production**—but output has steadily declined as new development has become increasingly restricted.

***“We just announced bringing on a meaningful amount of oil production in the state of California from offshore that California has fought foolishly to prevent,” Wright said during the interview. “Enough is enough.”***

## Federal–State Clash Over Energy Policy

The federal order immediately drew strong opposition from Gavin Newsom, governor of California, who characterized the action as unlawful and said it conflicts with existing court rulings and criminal proceedings related to the pipeline.

In a public statement, Newsom argued the federal government was attempting to override environmental protections and place coastal communities at risk.

The dispute highlights a growing tension between federal energy security priorities and state-level environmental policies—a dynamic that continues to shape the investment environment for producers, operators, and infrastructure developers.



## Market Outlook

Despite the geopolitical tensions, Wright downplayed warnings from Iranian officials suggesting oil prices could spike to \$200 per barrel if the conflict escalates further. He noted that such rhetoric is not unusual during periods of regional conflict and suggested the confrontation could resolve within a matter of weeks.

Still, the episode reinforces a fundamental reality for energy markets: supply security remains fragile in key global chokepoints, and even short-term disruptions can have outsized effects on prices.

For the oil and gas industry, the developments illustrate several key themes:

- Geopolitical risk continues to influence global energy markets.
- Domestic production capacity remains a strategic asset for the United States.
- Regulatory and political decisions at the state level can significantly affect national energy security.

As the situation unfolds, industry observers will be watching both the stability of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and the outcome of the federal government's push to reintroduce offshore production in California.

Both developments will play an important role in shaping near-term supply dynamics and longer-term debates over U.S. energy policy.

## **WATCH ITEM: PIPELINE SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION BACK ON CONGRESS'S AGENDA**

Pipeline safety reauthorization is once again moving through Congress, and while it may sound routine, industry stakeholders should be paying close attention to what comes next.

Earlier this month, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing to begin work on the next **Pipeline Safety Authorization Act**, which governs the federal pipeline safety program administered by PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration). These reauthorization cycles are typically framed as technical updates—focused on inspections, maintenance standards, and agency resources—but they often become vehicles for broader policy changes.

### **A KEY WATCH ITEM**

In past cycles, pipeline safety legislation has expanded beyond its original scope to include provisions related to methane emissions, new compliance requirements, and increased federal oversight. Early signals suggest this reauthorization could follow a similar path, particularly as lawmakers continue to balance infrastructure reliability concerns with environmental priorities.

At the same time, there is growing recognition on Capitol Hill of the critical role pipelines play in energy security and grid reliability. With demand for natural gas rising—driven by power generation needs and industrial growth—there is increasing pressure to ensure that regulatory frameworks do not unintentionally constrain infrastructure development.

The takeaway is clear: this bill bears watching not just for what it says about safety, but for what it could signal about the broader direction of federal energy policy.

As the process moves toward markup, key questions will include whether the legislation remains a targeted reauthorization—or evolves into a more expansive regulatory package.

Either way, the outcome will have implications well beyond pipeline safety alone.

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS




**Liz Bowman** • 1st  
Advocate for the American energy revolution, which is delivering jobs, prosperity, & ...  
6d • 🌐

Governor Stitt's decision to appoint Alan Armstrong to the U.S. Senate will ensure that Oklahoma is strongly represented as the Senate implements President Trump's America-first agenda. Alan is a principled and decisive leader and fierce advocate for the American oil and natural gas industry.

He will be the Senate champion we need to deliver a bold permitting reform bill to President Trump's desk that includes real reforms to the broken system that has blocked pipelines.

Now is the opportunity for our industry to coalesce around strong, bold reforms to lower Americans' energy costs and solidify our country's global energy dominance. Thank you, Governor Stitt, Donelle Harder, and Alan Armstrong. Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the oil and gas industry are grateful for your service.

"The best thing we can do to implement the President's Agenda is get permitting reform done. Williams has been in the business of building large-scale infrastructure; I want to make sure that we get, not just a permitting bill, but one that actually gets infrastructure built." Alan Armstrong.



**Alex Epstein** • 1st  
Founder at Center for Industrial Progress:  
2w • 🌐

I hope the Supreme Court will make the right call and throw out this bogus Colorado lawsuit seeking "climate damages" from Suncor and Exxon Mobil.

The idea that oil companies owe us for "climate damages" caused by the negative side-effects of fossil fuels is totally absurd.

The oil products of companies like Suncor and Exxon Mobil make us far safer than ever from climate, not more endangered! And in any case we have all chosen to use those products, and to make them legal in the first place.

**NBC NEWS**

SUPREME COURT

## Supreme Court takes up oil companies' plea to end climate change lawsuits

The court will hear an appeal brought by Suncor and Exxon Mobil asking it to throw out a lawsuit in Colorado seeking damages for harm caused by the use of fossil fuels.



### Continental Resources

96,256 followers  
6d • 🌐

Introducing the Continental Coliseum, future home of the world champion Oklahoma City Thunder.

In the heart of downtown Oklahoma City is the future home of the world-champion Oklahoma City Thunder. We've made a 15-year commitment to our city, our state, and Thunder fans across the globe. Two championship teams coming together for the benefit of all.



### Diamondback Energy

114,515 followers  
3w • 🌐

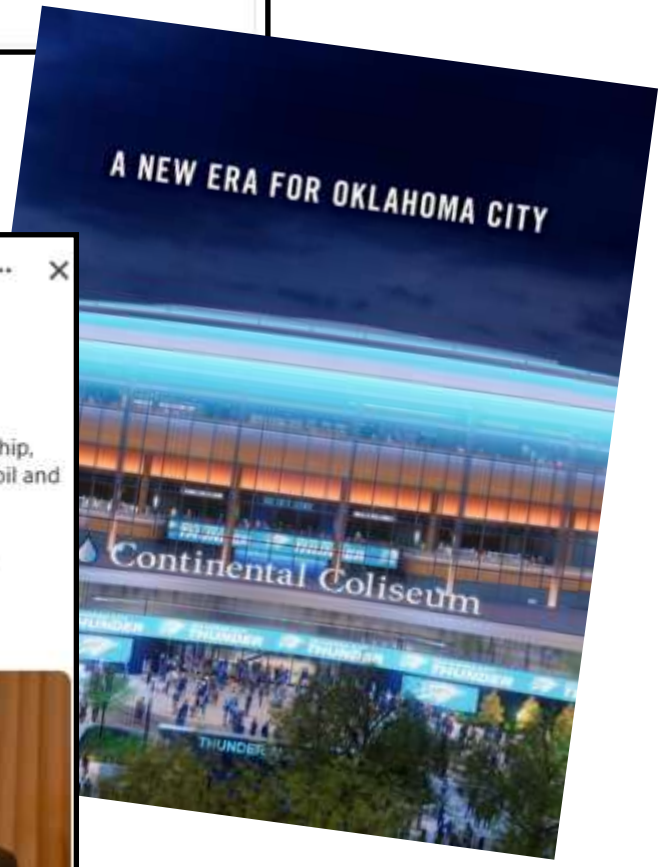


We recently celebrated our Executive Chairman Travis Stice at [Permian Basin Petroleum Association \(PBPA\)](#)'s Top Hand Award Banquet.

Presented annually, the Top Hand Award recognizes individuals whose leadership, stewardship, and community involvement have made a lasting impact on the oil and gas industry and the Permian Basin community.

Travis exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose, and it was an honor to celebrate his achievements.

Congratulations, Travis!



**Thad Dunham** ✓ • 1st  
VP, Government & Industry Affairs - IADC  
1w • 🌐



IADC is now accepting abstracts and sponsorships for the first ever Appalachian Basin Technical Forum to be hosted in South Pointe, PA in October. This one day event will focus on drilling smarter, safer, high performing wells in the region. Please reach out if you would like to get involved. 🙌



# 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Simmons".

Jerry Simmons, DEPA President/CEO

*Thank you  
for joining*



MEMBER INFORMATION

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

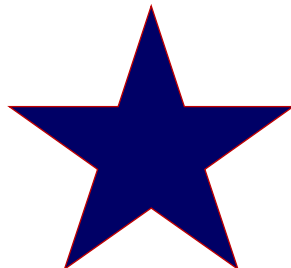
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Our Industry is  
worth fighting for!*

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



**WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG**

Member Levels:

- \$100,000: DEPA Underwriter
- \$75,000: Lead Investor
- \$50,000: Executive Investor
- \$25,000: Principal Investor
- \$15,000: Partner Investor
- \$10,000: Associate Investor
- \$5,000: Affiliate Investor
- \$2,500: Colleague
- \$1,000: Advocate
- \$500: Friend of the Industry
- \$100: DEPA Supporter
- Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form

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

Domestic Energy Producers Alliance, Inc.  
is a 501(C)(6) not-for-profit organization.  
Remittance is not deductible as charitable,  
but 70% may be deductible as ordinary business expenses.

# 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.**



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

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.

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.

**Please support  
American Energy Independence  
with your DEPA PAC Donation.**



# DEPA PAC

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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

## REQUIRED DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### DONATION ENCLOSED

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

**SEND TO  
DEPA PAC  
PO Box 33190  
TULSA OK 74153**

**INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG  
405-669-6646**

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

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

V 1.2026