

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

DEPA

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DRILLER

DEPA REPORT ON INDUSTRY, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND ENERGY REGULATION

## FROM CAPITOL HILL TO THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ: HOW ENERGY ADVOCACY CHANGES THE WORLD

For decades, the United States treated its own crude oil as something to be restricted rather than leveraged. The crude oil export ban — enacted in the 1970s during a very different energy era — remained in place long after America became the world's energy superpower through innovation in shale development.

By 2015, America stood at an inflection point.

Domestic producers were unlocking unprecedented reserves. U.S. production was surging. Yet outdated federal policy trapped American crude within domestic markets, distorting prices, discouraging investment, and weakening America's ability to project energy strength globally.

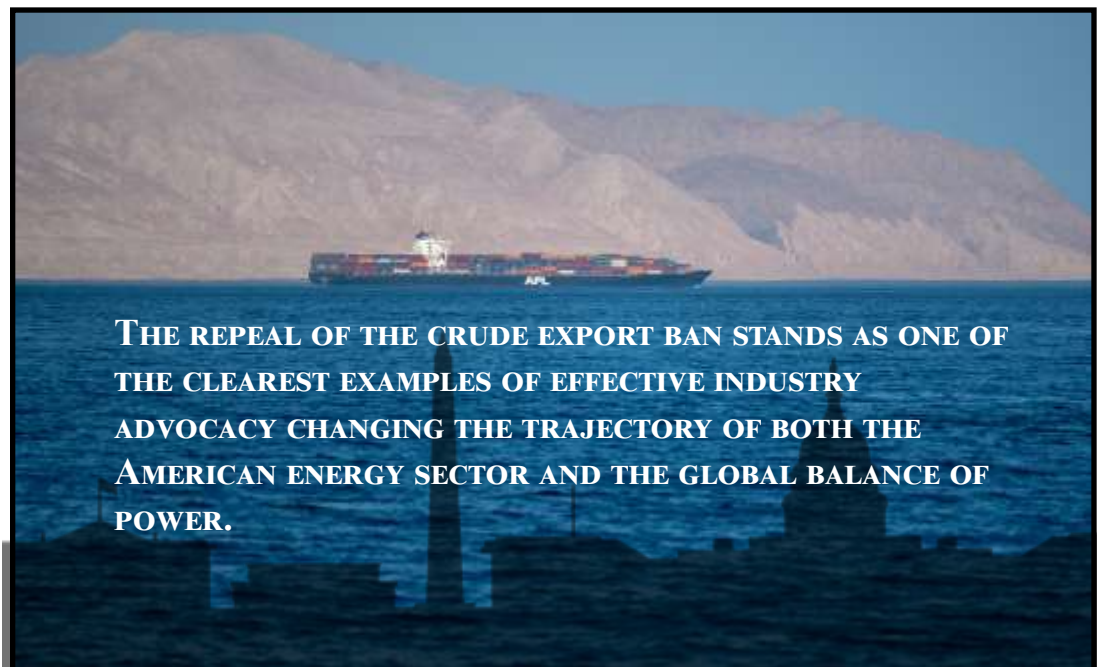
That year, a coalition of industry leaders, producers, mineral owners, and advocates launched an aggressive effort in Washington to educate lawmakers on the importance of lifting the ban. Among the most influential voices was Harold Hamm, whose leadership helped frame crude exports not simply as an economic issue, but as a matter of national security and global stability.

The Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance was deeply involved in that effort. DEPA's team, participated in hundreds of congressional meetings, making the case that American energy abundance could strengthen allies, reduce dependence on hostile

regimes, and position the United States as the world's most reliable energy supplier.

At the center of many of those conversations was DEPA President and CEO Jerry Simmons, who at the time led a national organization representing oil and gas mineral property owners. Alongside industry leaders, producers, and policy advocates, Simmons helped educate members of Congress on the long-term strategic importance of allowing American crude to reach global markets.

Today, as geopolitical instability once again threatens global energy security — particularly amid tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz — the importance of that victory has never been clearer.



**THE REPEAL OF THE CRUDE EXPORT BAN STANDS AS ONE OF THE CLEAREST EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE INDUSTRY ADVOCACY CHANGING THE TRAJECTORY OF BOTH THE AMERICAN ENERGY SECTOR AND THE GLOBAL BALANCE OF POWER.**

**Roughly one-fifth of the world's petroleum supply moves through the Strait of Hormuz. Any disruption immediately rattles global markets, threatens allies, and raises fears of supply shortages and price spikes. In this environment, America's ability to export crude oil is not merely beneficial — it is essential.**

**Had the export ban remained in place, today's geopolitical landscape would look dramatically different.**

**WITHOUT REPEAL OF THE BAN:**

- U.S. production growth likely would have slowed significantly due to depressed domestic pricing and reduced investment incentives.
- American producers would have faced fewer markets for their crude, limiting drilling activity and weakening the shale revolution.
- Europe and Asian allies would remain more dependent on OPEC nations and adversarial regimes for supply.
- Russia and Middle Eastern producers would wield substantially greater geopolitical leverage.
- Global markets would have less supply flexibility during periods of instability.

- America's role as a global energy stabilizer would be severely diminished.

Instead, because the export ban was lifted, the United States emerged as one of the world's dominant crude exporters — capable of helping offset supply disruptions, supporting allies, and exerting strategic influence through energy leadership.

**That transformation did not happen by accident.**

It happened because industry leaders showed up. They educated lawmakers. They built coalitions. They explained the realities of energy markets and national security to policymakers who often had limited understanding of either.

This is precisely why organizations like DEPA matter.



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

*Our work is critical.  
Your support is vital.*

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The work done in Washington may not always make headlines, but its impact reverberates globally for decades. Policies shaped in congressional offices ultimately influence world markets, geopolitical alliances, national security, investment decisions, and the livelihoods of millions of Americans.

The repeal of the crude export ban stands as one of the clearest examples of effective industry advocacy changing the trajectory of both the American energy sector and the global balance of power.

Reflecting on that effort, DEPA President and CEO Jerry Simmons said:

*“Being part of the movement to repeal the crude export ban was one of the most fascinating and rewarding experiences of my career. It was hard work, incredibly intense at times, but also exciting because you knew you were participating in something historic for the American energy industry. We spent countless hours walking the halls of Congress, meeting with lawmakers, explaining how energy security and national security are inseparable. At the time, I was representing oil and gas mineral owners, and we understood that expanding American energy leadership would benefit not just our industry, but the entire country. Looking back today — especially with the geopolitical instability we see around the Strait of Hormuz — it’s clear how important that effort truly was.”*

Nearly a decade later, the results speak for themselves.

American energy exports are now a pillar of global stability, and the United States remains far better positioned to respond to geopolitical crises because leaders within the industry chose to engage, advocate, and lead.



# NEW YORK'S ENERGY COST FIGHT OFFERS WARNING FOR STATES RESTRICTING DOMESTIC ENERGY

New York's latest energy-policy fight may offer one of the clearest warning signs yet for states pursuing aggressive decarbonization agendas while restricting reliable domestic energy infrastructure.

Earlier this month, majority members of the New York Senate Energy Committee blocked several Republican-backed measures aimed at providing relief and transparency for utility ratepayers facing soaring energy bills. Among the measures stopped from advancing was S6412A, the "Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act," legislation that would have required utilities to itemize state-mandated energy program costs directly on customer bills. ([NYSenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov))

The proposal targeted costs associated with New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the state's sweeping climate law that mandates an aggressive transition away from fossil fuels. The bill specifically referenced programs tied to renewable portfolio standards, emissions-reduction initiatives, energy-efficiency mandates, renewable energy credits, and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative compliance costs. ([NYSenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov))

For oil and natural gas producers, the debate unfolding in New York reflects a broader national issue: what happens when policymakers aggressively pursue electrification and renewable mandates while simultaneously restricting the very energy infrastructure still needed to ensure affordability and reliability.

Over the past several years, New York has opposed or halted multiple pipeline expansion projects and adopted policies designed to phase out natural gas use in buildings. At the same time, utilities and consumers have faced rising delivery costs, mounting grid concerns, and increasing pressure from mandated clean-energy investments.



The political tension is no longer just between environmental advocates and the energy industry. Increasingly, it is between policymakers and ratepayers.

Supporters of the transparency legislation argued that consumers deserve to know exactly how much state climate mandates are contributing to monthly utility bills. Senator Tom O'Mara, sponsor of S6412A, stated that New Yorkers are "being kept in the dark" about the costs associated with Albany's climate agenda. ([NYSenate.gov](https://www.nysenate.gov))

Whether one supports or opposes New York's climate policies, the growing affordability debate highlights a reality the oil and gas industry has warned about for years: energy transitions become politically unstable when reliability declines and costs rise faster than consumers can absorb.

For energy-producing states and federal policymakers, New York may serve as an early case study in the risks of attempting to rapidly transform an energy system without preserving adequate dispatchable generation, pipeline capacity, and affordable fuel supplies.

Consumers rarely focus on energy policy until utility bills spike. Once they do, transparency and affordability quickly become political issues that cannot be ignored..

# AI'S MASSIVE POWER DEMAND IS CREATING A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR NATURAL GAS

The artificial intelligence boom is creating an energy challenge unlike anything the United States has faced in decades.

As AI technology rapidly expands, companies are racing to build enormous new data centers capable of handling the computing power required for everything from cloud services to advanced AI applications. But there is one major problem: all of those servers require enormous amounts of electricity — and America's electric grid is already under strain.

Hitachi and U.S.-based X LABS announced plans mid May to develop large-scale “energy parks” designed specifically to power AI data centers in North America.

While the announcement itself focused heavily on technology and infrastructure, the bigger story for the oil and gas industry is what it reveals about the future of energy demand in America.

Simply put, the AI revolution is going to require massive amounts of reliable, around-the-clock power.

The companies involved describe these energy parks as dedicated power hubs built directly alongside major AI data centers. Instead of waiting years for overloaded utility grids to expand transmission capacity, these facilities would generate and manage electricity on-site to guarantee uninterrupted power for hyperscale computing operations.

That matters because AI data centers cannot tolerate power interruptions or instability. Even brief disruptions can create major operational and financial consequences.

This growing demand for constant, dispatchable electricity is becoming one of the strongest arguments yet for maintaining and expanding America's natural gas infrastructure.

For years, policymakers in some states have pushed aggressive electrification mandates while simultaneously opposing pipelines, natural gas generation, and other traditional energy infrastructure. Yet many regions are now facing rising reliability concerns as electricity demand surges far faster than grid expansion.

AI is accelerating that pressure dramatically.



Industry analysts increasingly acknowledge that renewable energy alone cannot currently provide the consistent, high-density power required for large-scale AI operations without substantial backup generation and storage. As a result, utilities, developers, and technology companies are increasingly turning back toward natural gas as a practical solution for reliability and grid stability.

In many ways, the conversation around AI and electricity demand is beginning to reshape the broader national energy debate.

Just a few years ago, much of the policy discussion focused primarily on reducing fossil fuel use. Today, the conversation is shifting toward whether America can produce enough reliable electricity to support economic growth, manufacturing expansion, and emerging technologies like AI.

That shift presents a major opportunity for the domestic oil and natural gas industry.

Reliable energy is no longer simply an affordability issue — it is quickly becoming a national competitiveness issue.

As technology companies invest billions into AI infrastructure, access to dependable power may become one of the most important economic advantages a region can offer. States and nations that maintain strong energy infrastructure, pipeline capacity, and dispatchable generation sources will likely be far better positioned to attract investment and support future growth.

The AI boom may ultimately become one of the strongest reminders yet that modern economies still depend on abundant, reliable energy — and that natural gas remains essential to delivering it.

# North Dakota

## BAKKEN INNOVATION PROJECT SECURES FINAL FEDERAL FUNDING



North Dakota Senator John Hoeven announced mid month that the U.S. Department of Energy will provide \$36 million in funding for Crack the Code 2.0, completing the final federal funding component for phase one of the \$157 million initiative aimed at dramatically increasing oil recovery in the Bakken formation.

The project represents one of the most significant enhanced oil recovery research efforts currently underway in the United States and could have major implications for the long-term productivity of America's shale basins.

The Bakken has already transformed North Dakota into one of the nation's leading oil-producing states, but industry experts estimate that a substantial portion of the oil originally in place remains unrecovered using today's standard drilling and completion methods. Crack the Code 2.0 is focused on changing that.

The initiative brings together producers, researchers, and technology developers to better understand how oil moves through tight shale formations and how advanced recovery techniques can unlock significantly more production from existing wells and acreage.

According to project leaders, the goal is ambitious: potentially doubling oil recovery rates in portions of the Bakken over time.

That matters not only for North Dakota, but for the broader U.S. energy outlook.

Unlike conventional reservoirs, shale formations typically leave a large percentage of oil trapped underground after primary production. Even small improvements in recovery rates can translate into billions of additional barrels of domestic oil production without the need to discover entirely new fields.

For the oil and gas industry, projects like Crack the Code 2.0 highlight the importance of innovation and technology in extending the life and productivity of America's existing resource base.

The initiative also reinforces a point often overlooked in national energy discussions: the United States still has enormous untapped potential within currently producing basins.

Advances in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing unlocked the shale revolution over the past two decades. Now, the industry is increasingly focused on the next phase of technological advancement — improving efficiency, maximizing recovery, and producing more energy from existing infrastructure and leaseholds.

Supporters say the project could strengthen American energy security, support high-paying domestic jobs, increase tax revenues for state and local governments, and improve the long-term economic outlook for producing regions throughout the Bakken.

The funding announcement also underscores continued bipartisan recognition that domestic oil production remains strategically important to the U.S. economy, even as energy demand continues to rise worldwide.

As global energy markets remain volatile and electricity demand surges from manufacturing expansion, data centers, and artificial intelligence development, efforts to maximize reliable domestic energy production are likely to become even more critical in the years ahead.

For the Bakken region, Crack the Code 2.0 could become one of the most important next-generation technology initiatives since the early days of the shale boom itself.



May 26, 2026

### Request for Co-Sponsorship H.R. 8990 and S. 4619 Protect Domestic Oil and Gas Small Business Act of 2026

The [National Stripper Well Association](#) (NSWA), the [Domestic Energy Producers Alliance](#) (DEPA), the [Independent Petroleum Association of America](#) (IPAA) and the [Texas Alliance of Energy Producers](#) (TAEP) are proud to support Congressman Pfluger of Texas and Senator Lummis of Wyoming on **H.R. 8990** and **S. 4619**. This is common-sense legislation that protects American energy, American jobs, American small businesses, and rural American royalty owners.

The bill advances thoughtful, focused regulatory reform for marginal wells. Approximately 8,500 small businesses across 32 states operate these wells, meaning nearly two-thirds of the U.S. Senate represents

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The bill advances thoughtful, focused regulatory reform for marginal wells. Approximately 8,500 small businesses across 32 states operate these wells, meaning nearly two-thirds of the U.S. Senate represents constituents with a direct stake in this legislation (at least 168 U.S. House Districts). This is not a Texas issue or a Wyoming issue. This is an American energy issue. These wells on their own produce modest, in many cases de minimis, amounts of oil and gas. Together, they deliver about one million barrels of oil per day and one hundred sixty-six million cubic feet of gas per day, accounting for 7 percent of total U.S. production. That is real energy security, real jobs, and a real tax base for rural communities across our country.

Marginal wells are at serious risk of being shut in under current EPA emission rules. NSWA, DEPA, IPAA and TAEP respect EPA's mission and share the goal of cleaner, safer production. Our industry is full of operators who are committed to operating safely and with the highest environmental standards. The challenge is that current rules apply a single framework across very different categories of production, and marginal wells were never the intended focus. According to multiple studies and government data, eliminating every ounce of emissions from marginal wells would reduce total

U.S. emissions by less than one-half of one percent.

**H.R. 8990 and S. 4619** rectify this misapplication of EPA resources by creating a right-sized regulatory pathway for marginal production, while preserving the EPA's broader authority across the industry. The result is a smarter framework that protects America's distributed domestic supply and supports our shared environmental goals.

Marginal wells are not marginal to America. They are vital energy infrastructure, distributed domestic supply, a broad rural tax base, and high-paying jobs woven into the fabric of communities across this country. Over six million royalty owners depend on marginal well royalty income to sustain their farms, ranches, and families. America should be doing everything in its power to keep these wells producing.

We respectfully ask that you support this legislation through co-sponsorship and reach out to the legislative contacts listed below with any questions. The small business operators who deliver American energy every day are counting on leaders willing to act, and we are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Montalban**, Chairman,  
NSWA & Treasurer, DEPA

**Jerry Simmons**, President/CEO, DEPA

**Sam Bradley**, Board Member, NSWA

**Edith Naegele**, President/CEO, IPAA

**Karr Ingham**, President, TAEP

**Jennifer Mull**, Board Member, NSWA/DEPA



## THE RFS DEBATE RETURNS: REFINERS, RETAILERS, AND DRIVERS FEEL THE PRESSURE

Congress is once again debating the future of America's fuel supply, this time through H.R. 1346 — legislation that would allow year-round sales of E15 gasoline while also revising portions of the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS).

The vote puts renewed attention on one of the most far-reaching federal fuel mandates in the country: the requirement that gasoline and diesel contain minimum volumes of renewable fuels, primarily corn-based ethanol.

For many Americans, the ethanol mandate remains poorly understood despite the fact that it directly affects fuel prices, refining operations, retail fuel infrastructure, and vehicle performance.

Originally created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded in 2007, the Renewable Fuel Standard requires refiners and fuel importers to blend increasing amounts of renewable fuels into the nation's transportation fuel supply or purchase compliance credits known as Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs).

Today, most gasoline sold in the United States is E10 — gasoline blended with 10 percent ethanol. H.R. 1346 would expand the sale of E15, a gasoline blend containing up to 15 percent ethanol, by permanently allowing its sale year-round rather than relying on temporary summer waivers from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Supporters argue the legislation would increase fuel choices and support domestic agriculture. But critics warn that expanding ethanol mandates further embeds government distortion into the fuel market while increasing costs throughout the supply chain.

One major issue is infrastructure cost.

As energy expert Alex Epstein recently noted in his *Energy Talking Points* Substack:

*“The ethanol mandate has demanded significant investments from refiners into ethanol transport systems and ethanol blending equipment, on the order of billions of dollars so far. To accommodate E15, some gas stations would be required to make upgrades ranging anywhere from \$13,000 to \$71,000.”*

Those costs affect nearly every segment of the fuel industry.

Refiners face significant operational and compliance burdens under the RFS program. Ethanol cannot be transported through conventional petroleum pipelines because it absorbs water and contaminants, meaning refiners and fuel distributors must invest in separate blending and transportation systems.

In addition to infrastructure expenses, refiners must comply with annual Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) established by EPA. Companies that cannot blend sufficient renewable fuel themselves must purchase Renewable Identification Numbers on the open market, creating another layer of volatility and expense.

For independent and small refiners, those compliance costs can be particularly damaging.

According to Congressional Budget Office analysis released on H.R. 1346, current law allows EPA to grant certain small refinery exemptions when facilities demonstrate “disproportionate economic hardship.” The legislation would phase out many of those exemptions beginning in 2028

while restructuring how relief is granted.

The CBO notes that the bill would permanently remove EPA’s authority to broadly exempt small refineries from Renewable Volume Obligations based on hardship claims, replacing the system with narrower exemptions for “at-risk” refineries and limited exemptions for qualifying small refining companies.

Fuel retailers also face major costs under expanded E15 requirements.

Because E10 and E15 often require separate or upgraded tanks, pumps, seals, and dispensers, many retailers would need to make expensive modifications to offer higher ethanol blends. The Congressional Budget Office acknowledged that “retailers wanting to sell E15 would confront the additional expense of installing new equipment.”

Large chain retailers may be able to absorb those expenses more easily, but independent fuel stations — especially rural operators working on thin margins — may struggle with the cost of compliance.

Consumers ultimately pay many of these costs indirectly.

Although ethanol is sometimes cheaper per gallon, ethanol contains less energy than traditional gasoline, meaning drivers generally receive fewer miles per gallon with higher ethanol blends. The CBO itself acknowledged that “higher ethanol blending would reduce fuel economy and increase gasoline consumption.”

That means drivers often must purchase fuel more frequently to travel the same distance.

The CBO also found that expanded E15 sales would likely increase demand for corn-based ethanol and modestly raise corn prices over time. While that may benefit portions of the agricultural sector, it illustrates how federal fuel mandates ripple far beyond energy markets and into broader commodity pricing.

At the same time, the CBO concluded that changes to refinery exemptions under H.R. 1346 would likely reduce demand for biomass-based diesel fuels because exempted renewable fuel volumes could no longer be reallocated to larger refiners.

That reduction in demand would likely lower soybean prices and affect agricultural markets for crops including soybeans, corn, wheat, and sorghum.

The debate surrounding the Renewable Fuel Standard increasingly highlights the tension between free-market fuel competition and government-directed energy policy.

While ethanol producers and agricultural interests continue pushing for expanded blending requirements, many in the oil and gas industry argue the mandate artificially reshapes fuel markets, forces billions in infrastructure investments, and transfers compliance costs throughout the economy.

The vote on H.R. 1346 serves as a reminder that the Renewable Fuel Standard is no longer simply an agricultural policy — it is now deeply embedded in America’s refining sector, fuel distribution system, retail fuel market, and ultimately the price consumers pay every time they fill their tank.



# EPA CLARIFIES WHEN OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCERS CAN FLARE AFTER PHASE OUT DEADLINE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidance clarifying that current federal regulations allow oil and natural gas producers to continue routine flaring of associated gas at new oil wells in limited circumstances after the May 7, 2026, phase out deadline. This clarification is in direct response to concerns from several oil and natural gas owners and operators' that circumstances beyond their control could otherwise force them to halt production of American energy. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), EPA's clarification will allow for the continued production of tens of thousands of oil barrels per day, helping to reduce gasoline and diesel prices nationwide.

*"America already produces energy better and cleaner than anywhere else in the world. That should not stop," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. "EPA is providing certainty that oil operators and owners already have the flexibility under our regulations to navigate situations beyond their control and continue unleashing American energy. In doing so, the Trump EPA is advancing American energy dominance and lowering energy costs across the nation."*

*"The world needs more American energy, and we're delivering it responsibly," said Secretary of the Department of Energy Chris Wright. "This action gives operators the certainty they need to keep producing while continuing to reduce emissions. Forcing unnecessary shut-ins doesn't reduce demand, it just raises prices and shifts production elsewhere."*

The Biden-Harris Administration's 2024 Clean Air Act (CAA) rules for oil and natural gas, commonly known as OOOOb/c, phase out routine flaring of associated gas by May 7, 2026. Producers operating in the Williston Basin, including the Bakken Formation, and the Permian Basin, raised concerns that scenarios outside their control could require flaring past that deadline, with the alternative being the shutdown of production at some well sites.

After assessing the concerns, EPA determined that current regulations for oil and natural gas already provide flexibility to temporarily flare after the phase out deadline in the specific scenarios raised by the stakeholders. Therefore, EPA is reaffirming this in today's guidance to ensure the continuation of essential energy production.

EPA's guidance is consistent with current regulations, as well as the agency's rulemaking record for OOOOb/c flaring regulations. Today's guidance reaffirms that flexibility. It does not change any regulation or rule; it serves as a clarifying reference for EPA's regulatory entities.

Over the last year, the Trump Administration has prioritized energy dominance and has made significant progress in reducing the cost of living for American families. The Trump EPA understands we can both protect human health and the environment and grow the economy at the same time. This guidance supplements the comprehensive reconsideration of OOOOb/c the Trump EPA is currently undertaking to provide relief and bring commonsense back to oil and natural gas rulemaking.

EPA's guidance can be found [here](#).

## Background

On March 12, 2025, Administrator Zeldin announced a [comprehensive reconsideration](#) of the 2024 CAA rule for oil and natural gas, commonly known as OOOOb/c, to unleash energy dominance and continue the Nation's trajectory as a leader in clean energy and emissions reductions.

On July 31, 2025, EPA [issued](#) an Interim Final Rule (IFR) to extend several compliance deadlines in the 2024 Final Rule to provide more realistic timelines for owners and operators to comply with the 2024 Final Rule.

On December 3, 2025, EPA [issued](#) a final rule reaffirming the extensions in the IFR. In response to comments received on the IFR, the December 3, 2025, final rule also provided an additional 180-day extension to the compliance dates related to net heating value monitoring of flares and enclosed combustion devices, as well as a 360-day extension for owners and operators to submit initial annual reports.

On April 9, 2026, EPA took another step in the comprehensive reconsideration by [finalizing revisions](#) to certain aspects of the 2024 OOOOb/c rule. The agency is currently developing another proposal to further amend the 2024 Final Rule to address additional issues raised by stakeholders that will further drive down the cost of living for all Americans.



# SCOTT TINKER ON THE INTERNET FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT. THANKS SCOTT!

## Scott W. Tinker, PhD

Chairman, Switch Energy Alliance. CEO, Tinker Energy Associates.  
Chairman, Energy Corps. Director Emeritus, Bureau of Economic  
Geology. Professor and Endowed Chair Emeritus, UT Austin.

Michael Walsh, with respect to you and this person you follow, Mike Hudema, your posts are to the point of silly. I see you're both global citizens, justice seekers and communicators, crafting a narrative. As you do that kind of work, perhaps it would be helpful to cite the sources you use for your numbers. And then consider the physics and economics of your statements. And then use actual data compiled by world organizations to compare scale of different types of energy. Not just capacity, but actual generation. And then consider the benefits as well as the costs and impacts (so called externalities) of all forms of energy. I could continue, but I think you're starting to get the picture.

As you are a "crafting the narrative" try to craft something that is even partially "factually complete." Unless, of course, that would run counter to the narrative you're trying to craft, and the people you're trying to influence.

Much of what you post violates physics and runs counter to economics.

I put out a simple piece over five years ago now that might be a starting point.

<https://lnkd.in/g8hP9aUV>

Try to tell the whole truth. At the end of the day, the environment will be better for it.

A few hours later:

I rarely block anybody because I like listening to and reading many perspectives. But yours are so unfounded and unreferenced that I find them to be disingenuous and deceptive.

For anyone interested in what's actually happening with emissions, take a look at this most recent paper.

The scientists who create the future emissions scenarios have dramatically reduced them from the prior version. Along with the forecast of future temperature.



# INDUSTRY VOICES CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR AMERICAN ENERGY IN WASHINGTON

## TESTIMONY OF TIM TARPLEY, PRESIDENT ENERGY WORKFORCE & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Before the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Section 301 Committee Hearing on Section 301 Investigations of Acts, Policies, and Practices of Certain Economies Relating to Structural Excess Capacity and Production in Manufacturing Sectors  
May 5, 2026



At a time when American energy policy is being debated at nearly every level of government, it is encouraging to see leaders from across our industry continuing to step forward and advocate for the workers, companies, and communities that power this nation.

This month, DEPA member and collaborating association leader Tim Tarpley testified before the Section 301 Committee in Washington, D.C., delivering a strong message about the importance of protecting American energy competitiveness while confronting unfair foreign trade practices.

Tarpley, who serves as President of the Energy Workforce & Technology Council (EWTC), represented an industry that supports more than 625,000 American energy workers, manufacturers, and innovators across all 50 states.

His testimony focused on an issue increasingly impacting domestic oil and gas production: rising costs driven by tariffs and supply chain pressures on critical energy equipment and materials.

While expressing support for the Administration's goals of strengthening U.S. manufacturing and achieving energy dominance, Tarpley emphasized that trade remedies must be carefully designed to avoid unintentionally harming American energy producers, manufacturers, and service companies that depend on integrated global supply chains.

"The remedies in this investigation must target the foreign bad actors," Tarpley testified, "and care must be taken not to unintentionally target the American manufacturers and workers who depend on critical inputs and materials."

His remarks highlighted the enormous role the domestic energy sector plays in the American economy. The United States remains one of the few industries consistently operating with a trade surplus, exporting energy, equipment, and advanced technologies around the world.

Tarpley also reminded policymakers that American energy leadership depends on maintaining affordable access to critical materials such as steel casing, tubing, drilling equipment, fracking systems, and artificial lift technologies — many of which rely on international supply chains.

According to testimony presented during the hearing, tariffs on key inputs have already increased drilling and completion costs across the industry, creating additional pressure on producers and service companies at a time when the Administration is calling for expanded domestic energy production.

Perhaps most importantly, Tarpley emphasized that America's energy workforce is not standing still. He detailed major investments already being made by member companies in U.S. manufacturing, processing facilities, technology development, and infrastructure projects across states like Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, and California.

His testimony serves as an important reminder that our industry is not only producing energy — it is investing in American jobs, strengthening domestic manufacturing, driving technological innovation, and supporting national security.

DEPA is proud to work alongside leaders like Tim Tarpley and organizations like EWTC that continue fighting for policies that protect American energy competitiveness and ensure the United States remains the world's energy leader.

As political and economic pressures continue to mount in Washington, strong advocacy from industry voices remains more important than ever.

# GREENPEACE'S LEGAL STRATEGY HITS ANOTHER ROADBLOCK IN DAKOTA ACCESS FIGHT

It seems Greenpeace International is still struggling to come to peace with the fallout from its long-running legal battle over the Dakota Access Pipeline.

In the latest development, the North Dakota Supreme Court ruled that Greenpeace International cannot move forward with a lawsuit in the Netherlands aimed at undermining the massive damages verdict previously awarded to Energy Transfer in North Dakota.

The decision marks another significant victory for Energy Transfer in a case that has become one of the energy industry's most closely watched legal battles involving activist organizations, protest activity, and corporate liability.

As many in the industry will remember, Energy Transfer previously secured a jury verdict totaling hundreds of millions of dollars against several Greenpeace-related organizations tied to protests surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline nearly a decade ago.

Following that verdict, Greenpeace International attempted a new legal strategy by filing a countersuit in the Netherlands, arguing that Energy Transfer's original lawsuit amounted to what activists commonly call a "SLAPP" case — short for Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation.

The environmental organization argued that the lawsuit was intended to silence opposition through costly litigation. However, North Dakota's Supreme Court sided with Energy Transfer's position that Greenpeace should not be permitted to use a foreign court system to effectively challenge or bypass a North Dakota jury verdict.

Energy Transfer attorney Trey Cox praised the ruling, stating that it protects "the authority of the North Dakota judicial system and the jury's unanimous verdict from an improper end-run abroad."

The ruling is noteworthy not only because of the pipeline dispute itself, but because courts rarely attempt to limit relat-

ed legal proceedings in foreign countries. The case now highlights the increasingly international nature of legal and political fights surrounding major U.S. energy infrastructure projects.

For the oil and gas industry, the broader significance may be even larger.

For years, energy companies have faced highly organized activist campaigns designed not only to oppose specific projects, but also to increase financial, legal, and reputational pressure on developers, investors, insurers, and operators. The Dakota Access Pipeline protests became one of the most visible examples of that strategy.

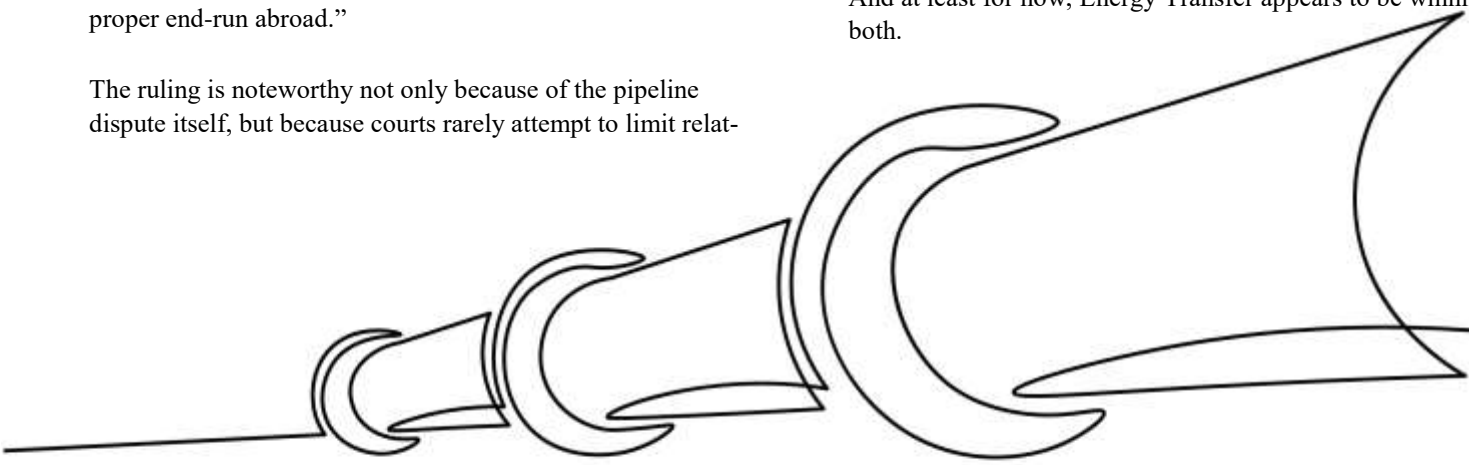
At the same time, many within the industry have argued that companies also deserve protection from coordinated campaigns that cross the line from lawful protest into deliberate disruption, misinformation, property damage, or interference with lawful business operations.

This latest ruling suggests courts may be increasingly willing to uphold the legal rights of energy companies to defend themselves against such actions.

The continued fallout from the Dakota Access litigation also serves as a reminder that battles over American energy infrastructure rarely end once construction is completed. Increasingly, those conflicts continue for years through courts, regulatory systems, financial institutions, and international political channels.

For companies operating in today's energy environment, legal resilience has become nearly as important as operational resilience.

And at least for now, Energy Transfer appears to be winning both.



# HEY CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS, HERE'S AN UNCOMFORTABLE REMINDER

By Sean Wallentine, VP of Gov't Affairs, CIPA

Hey California lawmakers, here's an uncomfortable reminder:

California still needs oil produced in California to feed California refineries.

Not someday. Not theoretically. Now, and for a long time.

You have been shutting down in-state oil production, refining, pipelines, and fuel infrastructure way too fast, then acting shocked when gasoline prices go through the roof.

That is not leadership. That is lighting the barn on fire, then holding a press conference about smoke.

Yes, global events matter. Yes, war in the Middle East matters. Yes, Trump's Iran war is part of the story.

But it is not the whole story, and you know it.

California has built one of the most fragile fuel markets in America. We are geographically isolated. We use a special gasoline blend. We have no crude oil pipeline connection to the rest of the country. When we need replacement gasoline, it only can come by marine shipment, and the California Energy Commission says those imports can take three to four weeks to arrive. Prices have to rise high enough to attract those cargoes into our market.

That is not a "mystery surcharge." That is a policy-created vulnerability with a very expensive receipt.

Imported crude and refined fuel now come from Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East. So apparently California's grand climate strategy is to shut down local production, import more oil by tanker, expose working families to global supply shocks, and then blame someone else when gasoline hits the moon.

Brilliant. Truly. A master

class in performative scarcity.

And spare us the lecture that local production "doesn't matter" because oil is globally priced. That is economist-speak for missing the practical point. Local crude matters when local refineries need feedstock. Local refining matters when families need gasoline. Local pipelines matter when supply chains are stressed. Supply and demand did not stop being real because someone at Berkeley found a more complicated way to say it.

California cannot run the fourth-largest economy in the world on slogans, lawsuits, press releases, and imported fuel panic-buying.

If you want to brag about being the fourth-largest economy in the world, stop acting like you are trying to become the 104th.

Invest in California oil producers. Keep California pipelines operating. Keep California refineries open. Protect working families, small businesses, agriculture, construction, trucking, logistics, public safety, and everyone else who cannot fuel their lives with political talking points.

Get your act together. And make it fast.

Thank you. -Small Oil

*"As DEPA has long maintained, energy security begins at home. Policies that discourage domestic production while increasing reliance on foreign imports do not reduce demand—they simply outsource supply. California families and businesses deserve reliable, affordable energy, and that starts with maintaining a strong, resilient in-state energy infrastructure."*

— Jerry Simmons, President & CEO, DEPA

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



Continental Resources ✓

3w • 🌐



We are proud to see our founder, Harold Hamm, recognized on the 2026 **Forbes** Self-Made 250 list—honoring the greatest self-made Americans.

From his Oklahoma roots to building Continental Resources into one of the world's leading oil and gas producers, Harold's journey reflects the entrepreneurial spirit, resilience, and long-term vision that continue to define our company today.

His story is a powerful reminder of what's possible through hard work, innovation, and a relentless pursuit of excellence—and it continues to inspire how we operate across every basin and community we serve.

We are honored to carry that legacy forward.

Read more: <https://lnkd.in/gceUy46R>



Forbes Self-Made 250: The Greatest Living Self-Made Americans

[social-www.forbes.com](https://social-www.forbes.com)



C. Olivia Simonson ✓ • 1st

Legal & Communications at CalNRG

3d • 🌐



Adding energy history and heritage preservation to the running list of fun things happening in our world! Our energy education non-profit, The Responsible Energy Council, is now the proud steward of the former California Oil Museum collection on the second floor of the historic Union Oil Building in Santa Paula. This is a massive undertaking, and we are looking for a dedicated Archival and Collections Management Fellow who is passionate about preserving the community's energy history and heritage to do the job.

Send me a message or DM me if you're interested. For our Ventura County locals with University connections, please reach out. This a great opportunity for further collaboration.



**Jodie Muller, CAE, IOM** • 1st  
Western States Petroleum Association President & CEO. Advocating for affordable, ...  
20h • 🌐

The consequences of California's energy policies have been exposed with the ongoing global unrest. Decades of attacks on California's oil & gas industry have made us increasingly vulnerable to disruptions in our fuel supply. I enjoyed speaking with KCRA's Political Director Ashley Zavala about the very real risks we are currently facing due to these policies. We cannot continue down this path - too much is at stake. And we need a different approach from policymakers. [Ashley Zavala](#) -



**Imad Khanafer** • 2nd  
AMERICA FIRST USUSLBUILL, work for travel , World explorer, ...  
1d • 🌐

+ Follow

The next time the Dems scream that the price of gas is Trump's fault, show them this video of Joe Biden's Energy Sec. Jennifer Granholm saying, "The president does not control the price of gasoline."



In a White House Press Briefing November 23, 2021 Secretary Granholm said:

***“Obviously, the President does not control the price of gasoline. No president does.”***

The comment came while discussing rising fuel prices and the Biden Administration’s release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The official transcript is here:

[White House Press Briefing Transcript \(Nov. 23, 2021\)](#)

And the C-SPAN video clip is here:

[C-SPAN Clip of Granholm Statement](#)



## MORE INFORMATION ON THE JOBS AVAILABLE:

The Responsible Energy Council (REC) has an open job posting for up to **4 people**. If you know any candidates who might be interested, please email Olivia Simonson at the address below!

**About the Project:** We are transitioning the historic Union Oil Company Collection—located in the original 1889 corporate headquarters in Santa Paula—into a professional, closed-stack Research Archive. This is a rare opportunity to gain hands-on, AAM-standard experience building an archive from the ground up!

**The Details: Role:** Archival & Collections Management Fellow (Multiple Tracks Available)

**Location:** On-Site (Historic Union Oil Building, Santa Paula, CA)

**Type:** Part-Time / Internship (Full-Time may be available)

**Compensation:** DOE

**What You'll Do (Depending on Experience Level):**

Archival Fellows: Execute physical macro-inventory, condition triage, barcode tagging, metadata entry (PastPerfect), and rehouse artifacts into acid-free enclosures.

Advanced/Conservation Fellows: Operate high-res digitization equipment, conduct provenance research, and execute delicate preservation on at-risk 1890s corporate documents, blueprints, and pioneer photographs.

**Who We're Looking For:** Highly motivated students, recent graduates, or professionals with backgrounds in: Museum Studies • Art History • History • Anthropology • Cultural Heritage & Conservation • Archival Studies / Library Science.

**Requirements:** Ability to work on-site in Santa Paula. • Strict adherence to AAM handling and ethical protocols.

• High attention to detail in a structured, "clean room" lab environment. • (Note: Must be capable of lifting standard 30 lb archival boxes and comfortable working in spaces that may initially contain dust).

### How to Apply:

Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your academic focus and why you are interested in industrial/corporate heritage preservation to:

[Olivia.Simonson@CalNRG.Com](mailto:Olivia.Simonson@CalNRG.Com)





# 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!**

## [Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma](#)

ANNUAL MEETING- IRVING TX, JUNE 2-5

## [Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association](#)

ANNUAL MEETING— WICHITA KS, AUGUST 24-26



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jerry Simmons, DEPA President/CEO

Thank you  
for joining



MEMBER INFORMATION

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

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

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

Primary

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

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

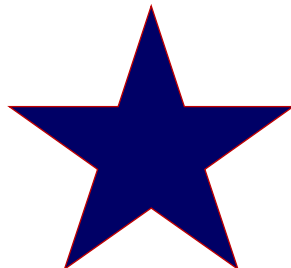
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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.  
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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**

## REQUIRED DONOR INFORMATION

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

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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
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- \$500 SPONSOR
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**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**

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