

# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

AN EXPLORATION OF AMERICAN SOURCES,  
SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY



# Energy & Environment

An Exploration of American Sources, Security & Sustainability

<b>Sustainable energy starts with developing resources at home</b> . . . . 3 By Governor Mike Dunleavy	<b>Focusing on solutions: Clean hydrogen and CCUS</b> . . . . . 20 By Newton B. Jones, International President, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
<b>U.S. airlines lead the way in jobs and sustainability</b> . . . . . 4 By Tim Pohle, VP of Environmental Affairs, Airlines for America	<b>Administration's new rule muddies water for</b> . . . . . 22 <b>all Americans</b> By U.S. Rep. David Rouzer
<b>Time to end business as usual with China</b> . . . . . 6 By U.S. Sen. John Barrasso	<b>Unleashing American energy and mineral dominance</b> . . . . . 23 By U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber
<b>America can and should lead a nuclear energy future</b> . . . . . 7 By U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito	<b>Want to unleash American energy? Start with</b> . . . . . 24 <b>permitting reform</b> By Anne Bradbury, CEO, AXPC
<b>Unlock American energy, fix our outdated permitting process</b> . . . . 8 By Mike Sommers, President and CEO, American Petroleum Institute	<b>Rural America depends on domestic energy production</b> . . . . . 26 By U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse
<b>America deserves better than Democrats' fake green agenda</b> . . . . 10 By U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio	<b>OPEC+ production cuts underscore H.R. 1's importance</b> . . . . . 27 <b>to restoring U.S. energy dominance</b> By U.S. Rep. August Pfluger
<b>Keeping up with China means addressing its carbon emissions</b> . . . . 11 By U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, M.D.	<b>Congressional Republicans champion energy legislation</b> . . . . . 28 <b>to lower costs, boost economy</b> By U.S. Rep. Blake Moore
<b>A call to action from young Republicans on climate</b> . . . . . 12 By Benji Backer, Danielle Butcher Franz, Stephen Perkins, and Christopher Barnard, American Conservation Coalition	<b>U.S. writes its own destiny with energy independence</b> . . . . . 29 By U.S. Rep. Bob Latta
<b>Energy access should not be political</b> . . . . . 14 By U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin	<b>Fixing a broken energy permitting system</b> . . . . . 30 By Jeremy Harrell, Chief Strategy Officer, ClearPath
<b>The Lower Energy Costs Act is the environmentally</b> . . . . . 15 <b>friendly solution for everyone</b> By U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman	<b>Pro-consumer, pro-environmental energy solutions</b> . . . . . 32 <b>are attainable</b> By U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis
<b>America's energy strategy should be truly all-of-the-above</b> . . . . . 16 <b>to become the world's energy powerhouse</b> By Heather Reams, President, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions	<b>We cannot build American without permitting reform</b> . . . . . 34 By U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany
<b>Energy is the foundation of everything in American life</b> . . . . . 18 By U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan	<b>Home-grown fuel helps families, farmers and producers</b> . . . . . 35 By U.S. Rep. Don Bacon
<b>We're losing to China, H.R. 1 can change that</b> . . . . . 19 By U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter	



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# Sustainable energy starts with developing resources at home



By Governor Mike Dunleavy

Like all my fellow Governors, I've sworn an oath to uphold our state and federal constitutions, but that responsibility is a little different here in Alaska.

In Alaska, our resources collectively belong to the people and my charge as Governor under Article 8 of our constitution is to ensure that these resources are developed "for the maximum benefit of its people."

This collective ownership of resources is unique among all states, and in fact is our entire justification for statehood.

Before Alaska was admitted to the Union, we had less than a quarter of a million people spread out over nearly 680,000 square miles and there were many in Congress who believed that we would not be able to support ourselves without massive federal subsidies.

The discovery of oil in Cook Inlet in 1957 changed that perspective, and two years later Alaska became the 49th State under a compact with the federal government that we would be allowed to develop our resources.

More than 64 years later, however, the federal government has not lived up to its promises under the Statehood Act. Instead, all too often, it feels like Alaska is being sanctioned by our own government.

If that sounds like hyperbole, consider that while this administration vacillated over whether to approve the Willow project here in Alaska, it was making futile entreaties to Saudi Arabia to increase production, lifting sanctions on Venezuela, and draining our Strategic Petroleum Reserve to record lows.

The delays in approving projects like Willow point to another self-made obstacle to advancing the energy transition. Five- and 10-year permitting processes to develop domestic resources aren't just working against oil and



CONOCOPHILLIPS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

This 2019 photo provided by ConocoPhillips shows an exploratory drilling camp at the proposed site of the Willow oil project on Alaska's North Slope.

mining; this same cumbersome process is delaying renewable energy projects and transmission upgrades, and eroding the value of billions of public and private dollars in capital sitting on the sidelines.

To its credit, the Biden administration did the right thing and approved the Willow project, which will create thousands of jobs during construction and hundreds during operation, along with the associated domestic energy and economic activity that Alaska and the U.S. needs.

This approval would be grounds for celebration if it were a sign of a change in direction in response to the skyrocketing prices and energy supply instability caused by this administration's policies, inflationary spending, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Rather than acknowledge the benefits of this project and its overwhelming support among Alaskans, the approval read more like an apology, and went to great lengths to make a concurrent announcement that the approval of the 500-acre Willow project was accompanied by a plan to withdraw some 16 million acres of Alaska on and offshore lands to development.

This latest proposal to restrict development in Alaska has been the unfortunate norm under this administration. Alaska U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan's office has tracked nearly 50 executive orders or agency actions against Alaska since Jan. 20, 2021.

Stopping development in Alaska doesn't just hurt the people I serve and our fellow Americans, but it also does nothing to reduce the use of fossil fuels worldwide. In fact, because we don't flare natural gas to produce oil, sending energy production overseas will actually increase global emissions.

At peak production of 180,000 barrels per day, the Willow project is just 0.2 percent of current consumption, making it far from the "climate bomb" as it has been described and is easily replaceable from countries less concerned with environmental protections and human rights.

When it comes to goals for reducing carbon emissions, Alaska is not the enemy. We should be viewed and treated as partner.

Alaska is poised to be a global hub for innovation and research into emerging technologies such as hydrogen, tidal, and micronuclear, capturing and permanently sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>, and producing the necessary critical minerals responsibly along with the bridge fuels of LNG and oil without wasteful flaring – all under the highest environmental standards in the world.

Shutting down Alaska's economy will do more than deprive us of the resources we need to pursue these initiatives. Resource revenue funds our schools, our health care system, our State Troopers and Village Public Safety Officers, and a host of other state

programs that support and protect our people and drive economic activity.

If you care about the environment, we need to produce resources in Alaska. If you care about social justice, we need to produce resources in Alaska. If you care about enriching people and not dictators, we need to produce resources in Alaska.

In the end, stopping development in Alaska will set back national and global efforts to reduce emissions in return for no measurable gain compared to the immeasurable harm to the people I serve.

.....  
*Mike Dunleavy is the 12th Governor of Alaska. Born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, he moved to Alaska in 1983 and worked as an educator in Northwest Alaska for nearly 20 years, where he met and married his wife and Alaska's First Lady Rose, an Iñupiaq from the Kobuk River Valley village of Noorvik. They have three daughters, Maggie, Catherine, and Ceil, who all work at the Red Dog mine in the Northwest Arctic Borough.*

*Governor Dunleavy, who also served in the Alaska State Senate from 2013-17 before being elected Governor in 2018, has a degree in history from Misericordia University and a master's degree in cross cultural education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In November, he became the first Republican to win a second term as governor of Alaska since 1978.*



# U.S. airlines lead the way in jobs and sustainability



**By Tim Pohle, VP of Environmental Affairs, Airlines for America**

**E**arth Month represents the opportunity to celebrate the innovation and ingenuity that have allowed our industry to be cleaner and more efficient. For U.S. airlines, it is the time we recommit ourselves to leaving a better planet for future generations.

Airlines only contribute about 2% of domestic greenhouse gas emissions, and all while transporting over two million passengers and 65,000 tons of cargo per day. That's a stellar record—especially when you consider that U.S. airlines are the gold standard of transportation safety and all the jobs that airlines support here in the U.S. and around the globe.

Today, U.S. airlines directly employ 791,000 workers, supporting more than 10 million U.S. jobs and contributing nearly \$1.5 trillion in U.S. economic activity annually. And we are doing it while embracing our industry's responsibility to make our operations and our skies cleaner.

year for over 40 years.

Key to our achieving a net-zero carbon future is sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). Made from biobased and other non-petroleum feedstocks, SAF available today can reduce aviation carbon emissions by up to 80%. SAF is made today from inedible waste oils and fats,

procedures. U.S. passenger airlines are investing record amounts in 2022 and 2023 in aircraft, facilities, ground equipment, technology and other capital goods and projects. Our fleet is cleaner than ever, and some carriers are even investing in carbon capture and direct air capture technologies.

In the cabin, carriers are also making changes – like using recyclable packaging and utensils for food service – that further reduce our environmental footprint, while improving the passenger experience. In the cockpit, they are using cutting edge route optimization software. And, on the ground, our industry is improving efficiency by decreasing idling times and runway delays. We know that these “little” changes and upgrades matter to customers and to the planet, and they add up.

Becoming increasingly sustainable is right for the airline industry, for the planet, and it's what consumers expect. In fact, nearly 60% of travelers value airline commitments to real environmental improvements.

Along with getting customers to their destination safely and on-time, U.S. airlines will continue advancing their environmental goals and hiring the workforce to support these goals.

*Tim Pohle is the Vice President of Environmental Affairs for Airlines for America (A4A). A4A works collaboratively with airlines, labor, Congress, the administration and other groups to improve aviation for the traveling and shipping public.*

## U.S. airlines improved their fuel efficiency (on a revenue ton mile basis) by more than 135% between 1978 and 2021.

We are proud of our industry's track record of leading on environmental sustainability, and we are committed to meeting aggressive goals to build a brighter future for generations to come.

In March 2021, A4A member carrier airlines pledged to work with government and across the aviation sector to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. IATA followed suit and the U.S. government followed our lead, adopting parallel goals in October and November of that year. This is just one example of our nation's passenger and cargo carriers leading the world in their commitment to growing sustainably.

It's an ambitious goal, but we're continuing to build upon our record of success: U.S. airlines improved their fuel efficiency (on a revenue ton mile basis) by more than 135% between 1978 and 2021, saving over 5.5 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. That equates to taking more than 28 million cars off the road every

and in the near future will be made from sustainable crops, woody waste, or even municipal solid waste. One industry's trash is another industry's treasure!

Unfortunately, scaling up on SAF is challenging because its production costs significantly more than traditional jet fuel. Recent federal tax credits and grants incentivizing SAF represent precisely the type of public-private partnership the government and airlines called for to achieve our mutual goal of making 3 billion gallons of cost-competitive SAF available to U.S. aircraft operators in 2030. This is encouraging progress—but producers need long-term certainty to make their investments in SAF worth it.

Investments in SAF are not the only way airlines are working to create a more sustainable future. A4A member carriers have continuously invested in more fuel-efficient aircraft and engines and implemented more efficient

# DID YOU KNOW?



U.S. airlines contribute just

**2%**

of the nation's  
greenhouse gas emissions.

U.S. airlines help drive more than **10 million U.S. jobs** and **\$1.5 trillion in annual U.S. economic activity**. Every day, we transport more than **2.3 million passengers** and **65,000 tons of cargo**.

And we're doing our part to be environmentally responsible by supporting the development of sustainable aviation fuel, investing in fuel-efficient aircraft and more.

To learn more, visit [airlinesflygreen.com](https://airlinesflygreen.com).



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*We Connect the World*

# Time to end business as usual with China



By U.S. Sen. John Barrasso

**J**oe Biden's record over the last half century proves one thing — he will never get serious about China. As a result, America's energy security and national security are threatened.

In February we learned that U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) experts determined a Chinese lab leak was the likely origin of COVID. It was later revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had come to the same conclusion.

Just last month, the president reluctantly signed bipartisan legislation to declassify as much intelligence as possible about the origins of COVID. The administration needs to come clean with the American people about what it knows.

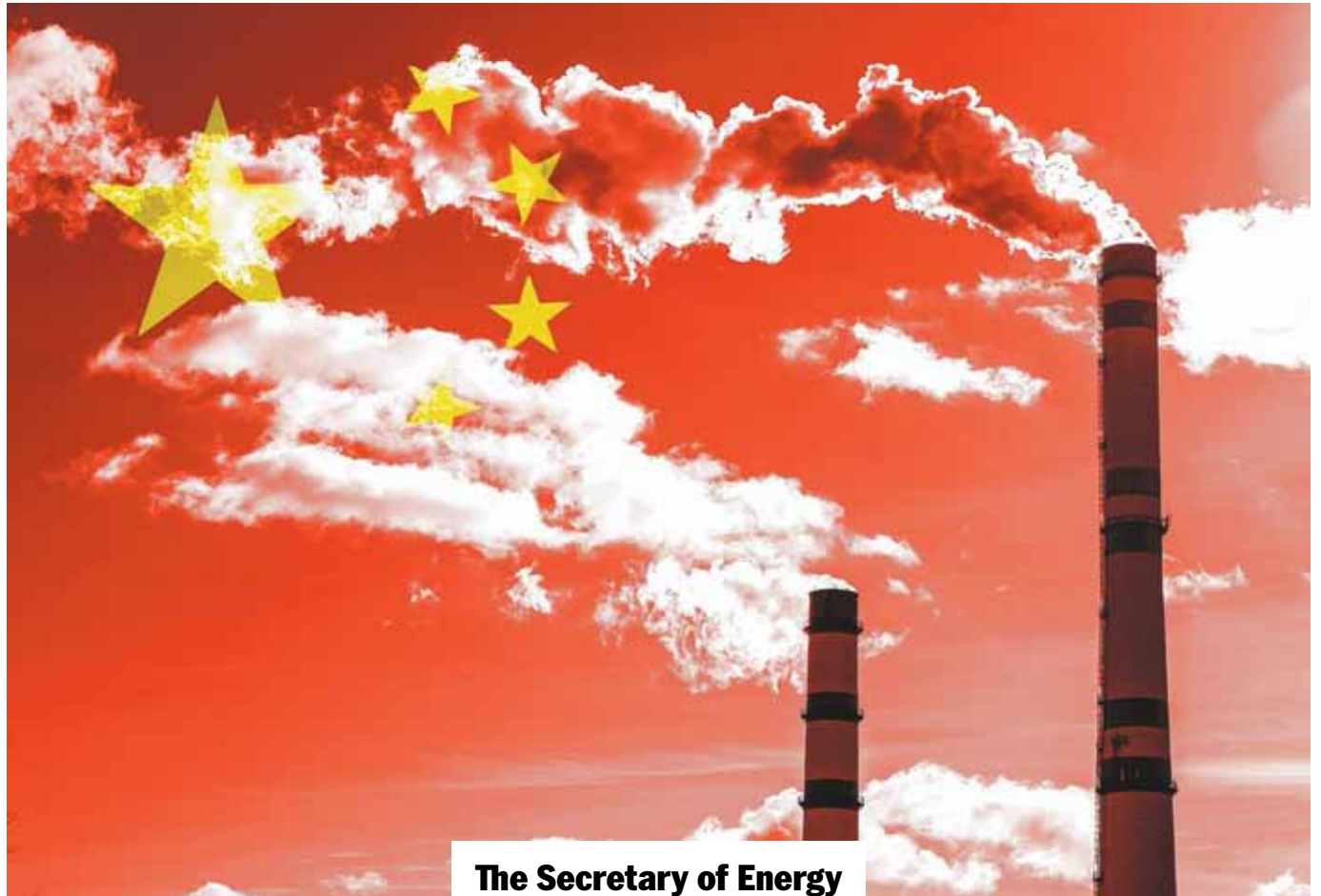
For decades, China has menaced its neighbors and threatened U.S. interests. The news that a lab leak there may have led to the death of a million Americans is deeply troubling. The fact that the Biden administration concealed this from the American people is reprehensible. The president cannot conceal nor ignore the implications of his administration's findings.

It is increasingly clear the Chinese Communist Party has brazenly lied to the world to cover up its guilt. China's treachery worsened and prolonged the global pandemic it created. Even today, China continues to lie about COVID's origins.

The question we must ask now is: What should we do about it?

It's a question the administration does not want to think about, much less answer. Doing something might interfere with the only thing this administration seems to care about—climate change. Everything else is secondary. The president's "whole-of-government" assault on American energy production is a self-destructive consequence of this worldview.

To the administration, China is considered an essential partner in the global



**The Secretary of Energy should make clear that no DOE money will be awarded to any entity connected with China.**

effort to address climate change. China, of course, is the world's largest carbon emitter. Joe Biden will not allow a threat to our national security to spoil the fiction that China is working with us.

China is playing the Biden administration for suckers. When a reporter confronted U.S. Climate Czar John Kerry about China's use of forced labor to manufacture solar panels, the former Secretary of State refused to condemn it. He meekly said, "That's not my lane here."

That was not an aberration. When Russia invaded Ukraine, Kerry voiced greater concern about the war's impacts on climate change than he did for the people of Ukraine.

The Biden administration's blind pursuit of any cooperation with China—even at the expense of national security—is sadly predictable.

This administration should have learned by now that China is not in the business of cooperation. It is in the business of global domination. America can no longer afford a president and an administration that uses climate change as a pretext for appeasement.

China must be made to pay a steep price for its COVID lies.

We can begin by cutting off taxpayer dollars to Chinese companies. Incredible as it may seem, DOE is awarding federal dollars to companies linked to Beijing. Why would we even think

about sending one cent to companies controlled by China?

A DOE official recently testified that Chinese companies are in line for grants because that is where the majority of manufacturing and intellectual property is. Ironically, Vice President Biden led a 2009 government spending spree to develop green industries here. Now President Biden wants to subsidize Chinese companies.

After the devastating report from her own department, the Secretary of Energy should make clear that no DOE money will be awarded to any entity connected with China. I will be pressing Energy Secretary Granholm to address these concerns when she appears before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee tomorrow.

DOE's National Labs host thousands of Chinese foreign nationals. As of 2021, an estimated 4,000 non-resident Chinese foreign nationals work within America's national laboratory system. We must ensure that we are not training the technology workers of our main adversary. Further, we must recognize that the labs are vulnerable to Chinese theft of American intellectual property.

China must not be able to profit from America's national labs, period.

China continues to take advantage of international institutions like the World Bank and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

China is the world's second-largest economy. Yet, China still gets treated like a developing country, making it eligible for funding and grants supported by U.S. taxpayers.

We should also block senior U.S. national security officials from going to work for China. I have introduced legislation to stop all three of these scandalous practices.

This should be just the beginning. We need a thorough "whole-of-government" strategic re-examination of our entire relationship with China. We cannot afford to continue business as usual.

China must be held accountable. We owe that to the Americans who have suffered and died because of China's corrupt misconduct.

.....  
*U.S. Senator John Barrasso, Wyoming Republican, is the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He also serves in Senate Republican leadership as Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference. During his 24 years as an orthopedic surgeon, he served as President of the Wyoming Medical Society and was named Wyoming Physician of the Year.*

# America can and should lead a nuclear energy future



By U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito

**F**or good reason, we often hear of the need to “unleash American energy” and “return to energy independence.”

To accomplish this, we should be enacting policies that actually make it easier to produce and export energy of *all kinds* here in the United States. That means sources that continue to provide baseload power generation like coal, oil, and natural gas, and also renewables like wind and solar.

That must also include the need to strengthen and advance nuclear energy, and take full advantage of its potential in a clean, reliable energy future.

Here in America, that potential is realized every day when we turn the lights on or charge our phones. Our 93 nuclear reactors in operation provide roughly 20% of our nation's electricity, and nuclear power currently generates more than half of our carbon-free energy. The Plant Vogtle site in Georgia, America's first new nuclear power plant in a generation, recently began generating electricity, which marked a historic step as we begin to build new reactors again.

Not only is it in our best interest to continue developing and deploying more nuclear energy reactors from an energy and environmental standpoint, it's also vital to our national security and good for our economy.

So, how can we encourage more innovation, development, and investment to ensure America will meet the moment and be prepared to lead the world in nuclear energy?

That was the mission I recently undertook with a bipartisan group of my Senate colleagues when we introduced the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy, or the ADVANCE Act.

It is ambitious legislation that puts us on a path to reestablish America as



GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

Unit 3 at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia.

the undisputed international leader for nuclear energy technologies.

Too often, employers looking to build nuclear reactors are hampered with unnecessary red tape and costs when navigating the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) licensing process. The ADVANCE Act encourages investment by facilitating more predictable licensing

build out their nuclear export sectors. Reducing the world's energy reliance on these two nations is critical. Russia is using its state-backed nuclear company, Rosatom, to fund its war in Ukraine. Meanwhile, China is building out its nuclear energy sector at a rapid pace and is on track to become the world's second largest nuclear energy genera-

tor. Previous American partners are now looking to China to deploy new nuclear reactors.

Another key provision is promising to communities like those in my home state of West Virginia and others that have a history of energy production. The bill would create a pathway for retired sites that once housed conventional energy source facilities, like coal plants, to host new nuclear facilities. Many of these sites have undergone previous environmental analyses and have existing supporting infrastructure available, making them suitable to redevelop for future use.

The ADVANCE Act also recognizes the NRC's vital role in enabling our nuclear energy sector to create jobs, reduce emissions, and boost domestic supply chains. That's why the bill gives the Commission more tools to hire, train, and retain highly specialized staff, with an emphasis on efficiency. We aim to put the right rules and resources in place so the NRC has the right expertise to meet its core nuclear safety mission.

This legislation can make a difference as we look to the next few decades, and even next century, of American energy production.

With an issue as critical as energy production, which impacts both the pocketbooks of every American and the political landscape of a world at war, we should be looking at every solution possible. Nuclear energy is good for our energy and national security, good for America's economic competitiveness, and good for the environment.

Let's take advantage of this momentum now with good, bipartisan policy so we can look back and say today's efforts positioned America as the undisputed global nuclear energy leader for the 21st century.

## The ADVANCE Act can make a difference as we look to the next few decades, and even next century, of American energy production.

reviews and reducing regulatory costs, while ensuring the NRC continues to meet its core mission to enable the safe use of nuclear technologies.

More timely and efficient licensing and incentives like the bill's prize programs for next-generation nuclear reactors, would invite more companies to jump in and build their ideas and workforce here in the United States.

While we make America a destination for new technologies, our legislation also directs the appropriate federal agencies to increase leadership abroad by collaborating with allies and developing nations that are looking to get into the nuclear energy game.

This partnership is especially important as Russia and China aggressively

tor. Previous American partners are now looking to China to deploy new nuclear reactors.

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The ADVANCE Act also recognizes the NRC's vital role in enabling our nuclear energy sector to create jobs,

# Unlock American energy, fix our outdated permitting process



By Mike Sommers, API

October marks the 50th anniversary of OPEC's oil embargo of the West, an event that accelerated the 1973 oil crisis and set the stage for years of persistent inflation here in America. That anniversary will not be marked by an Oval Office ceremony or a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. Instead, those old enough to remember will grimace at the thought of high prices and hours-long lines at gasoline stations.

Not everything Washington policymakers did back then to cope with the embargo worked. In fact, bad fiscal and monetary policy decisions layered into the global energy crisis, contributing to years of inflation.

This led to a lost economic decade for America.

But Washington did get one big thing right by enacting legislation to greenlight expedited construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Passed by a Democratic Congress and signed by Republican President Richard Nixon, this ambitious pipeline infrastructure project remains one of the largest in our history and showed that America had the foresight and capability to do big things in divided government.

More recently, President Biden's approval of the Willow Project in Alaska was welcome news. But given the scale of energy supply challenges around the world, even bolder actions in Washington are needed – and fast. We are again facing many of the same challenges posed a generation ago: chaotic international energy markets, crackling tension around the world and stubborn inflation right here at home.

It's a lot to go up against. Can Americans again unite across party lines for the sake of our energy future?

Fortunately, the answer is yes.



Washington policymakers have it firmly within their grasp to modernize our antiquated federal energy infrastructure approval process, put a down payment on our energy security, and unleash made-in-America energy.

First, let's examine the status quo. The delays to get infrastructure projects permitted are inconsistent and extensive. Getting an infrastructure project

U.S. leaned more heavily on foreign nations for access to energy. In the last two years, our own government is the obstacle at home.

Consider that, through the Biden administration's first 19 months in office, the U.S. Interior Department (DOI) leased fewer acres for drilling on federal lands and waters than any other administration in its first 19 months since the end

**Washington policymakers have it firmly within their grasp to modernize our antiquated federal energy infrastructure approval process, put a down payment on our energy security, and unleash made-in-America energy.**

through a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review – just one hurdle among many that must be cleared – now takes an average of 4.5 years. These routine delays, coupled with a host of other permits needed for a project, can discourage financial investments and subject sorely needed projects to sometimes frivolous litigation that can lead to their cancellation.

This is no way to do energy policy! But it gets worse. Fifty years ago, the

of World War II, when the U.S. economy was a tiny fraction of what it is today.

DOI has also been uneven in holding quarterly federal onshore lease sales, as required by federal law.

Meanwhile, we are waiting for DOI to issue a long-overdue, legally mandated, five-year leasing program to develop oil and natural gas via federal land and waters. Such development would help U.S. allies, too, with Russian energy blacklisted. As America again works to

become the world's biggest deliverer of liquefied natural gas (the U.S. supplied half of Europe's LNG in 2022), we need all viable energy projects.

The good news is that Washington is set up for success. Modernizing requirements to obtain federal permits means quicker approvals and will enable the faster movement of energy where it is needed most. This will increase American energy supply, which could lead to reduced costs across the economy.

Permitting reform will also create good American jobs, as featured in a recent joint column I wrote with Sean McGarvey, leader of North America's Building Trades Unions.

Last year, 46 Senators, including 38 Democrats, joined with their colleague, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, to advance the public debate and focus on permitting reform. Though unsuccessful, the vote on his bill underscored growing momentum for these important reforms. Last month, the House approved its own permitting bill on a bipartisan basis, with four Democrats joining their Republican colleagues.

Under the right circumstances, the bipartisan work underway in Congress could serve as a helpful blueprint for enacting permitting modernization this year, especially as part of a broader debt limit and federal spending deal, an idea actively promoted across the ideological spectrum.

Turning the clock back to the beginning of this year, President Biden's omission of permitting reform in his State of the Union speech did not go unnoticed, even by Senate Majority Leader Schumer (D-NY). Yet compared to any policy his administration has advanced so far, supporting speedier energy permits would signal that Washington is ready and willing to unleash American energy.

Why would we outsource that job to unstable regimes? Do we really want to go back to the long filling-station lines of the 1970s when the solution is here in America?

America has changed the world through energy policies enacted during divided government, as TAPS and the 2015 lifting of export bans on crude oil proved. With good policies in place, there is hope the U.S. still can build big things and be a global energy leader in divided government.

.....  
*Mike Sommers is president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute (API). API's nearly 600 members produce, process and distribute most of the nation's energy. The industry supports millions of U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans.*





# AMERICA CAN'T WAIT

Our economic success and national security depend on our ability to build new infrastructure and supply reliable, affordable energy.

*Right now*, inefficient and unpredictable permitting processes are holding up much needed projects across America. We must **reform the permitting process** to help fuel the economy of tomorrow.

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# America deserves better than Democrats' fake green agenda



By U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio

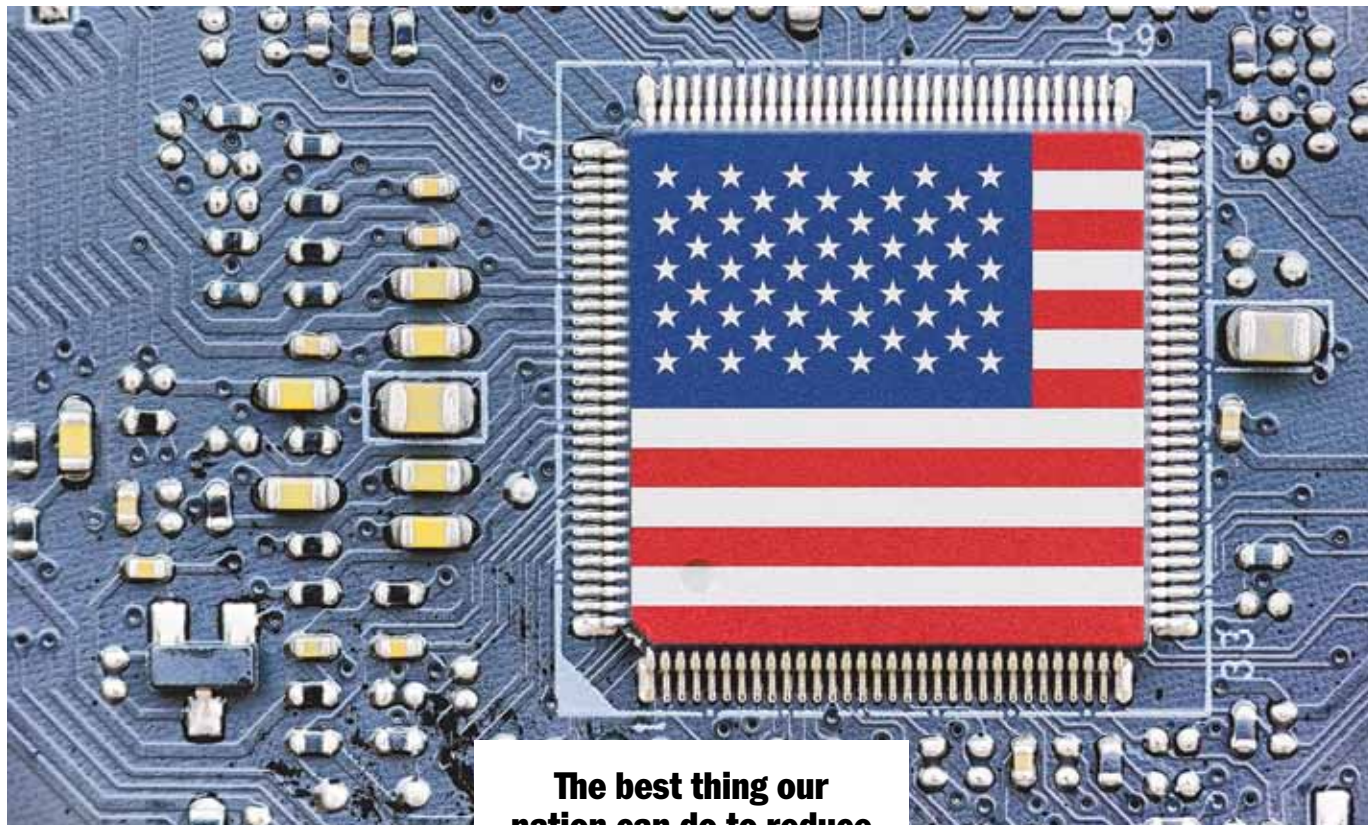
**A**nother year, another prediction of the climate apocalypse. The latest United Nations report on global warming, released on March 20, proclaims “the world is likely to surpass its most ambitious climate target...by the early 2030s,” after which “climate disasters will become so extreme that people will not be able to adapt.”

This is, of course, extreme hyperbole. When prophets of climate doom indulge in rhetorical excesses like the UN Secretary General’s announcement of “a code red for humanity,” they open themselves to ridicule. And when the so-called experts lock themselves into predictions that later prove false, they call their supposed expertise into serious question.

Nevertheless, as a policymaker entrusted to represent a state that is uniquely impacted by the climate, I recognize there is a legitimate public interest in improving America’s environmental sustainability and adaptability. Far from denying the value of climate-conscious efforts, I have led them for years, including improvements to Florida’s coastal resilience through ecosystem restoration, flood risk reduction, and other nature-based solutions.

It exposes the Left’s slander that all Republicans want to do is “block climate action.” To the contrary, what common-sense Republicans like me want to do is block Democrats’ fake green agenda, because it is Democrat policies, not the GOP, that pose the greater threat to America’s environment.

For one, just look at how the Left’s renewables-only approach undermines efforts to create a truly sustainable domestic energy grid. People who are serious about increasing America’s climate resilience agree that we cannot operate on solar and wind alone, because in their



**The best thing our nation can do to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions is to relight the fires of American manufacturing.**

current state, those technologies cannot supply enough power to keep our nation running. In recent years, transitioning from coal to natural gas, a comparatively green fossil fuel, has actually reduced U.S. emissions more than renewables have, while also reducing consumer costs. Expanding the natural gas industry and investing more resources in nuclear power plants are probably the two surest ways our leaders could lighten America’s carbon footprint and ensure energy affordability. And yet, President Joe Biden is actively trying to “end fossil fuels,” including natural gas.

Not only is that bad news for the environment, it would also have a severe price inflation effect. In a global food economy run by natural gas-based nitrogen fertilizer and diesel-fueled transportation, increased input costs can make the difference between the world’s poorest people being able to afford their next meal and their going hungry. It should be obvious that forcibly “ending” fossil fuels would kill many more people than global warming.

Similarly, forcibly transitioning to renewables would exacerbate unique threats that the “clean” energy industry poses to both basic human rights and the environment. Currently, most supply chains for renewables begin and end in poorer nations, where greedy companies regularly commit ethical and ecological horrors. Research from 2020 reveals “widespread child labor, the subjugation

of ethnic minorities, toxic pollution, biodiversity loss, and gender inequality along the length of the supply chain” for cobalt, a key electric vehicle component. Until that changes, a renewables-only approach should remain unthinkable.

The craziness doesn’t end there, though, because Democrats’ green agenda is also strengthening China. This happens when federal subsidies intended to support the domestic renewable energy industry end up supporting Chinese companies. It happens when the U.S. government’s encouragement of solar panels and electric cars enriches the Chinese manufacturers whose intellectual property theft and economic bullying have allowed them to corner the market on those products. And it happens when Washington goes soft on China to encourage Beijing’s cooperation on the “climate crisis.”

This isn’t just problematic because the Chinese Communist Party is America’s foremost geopolitical adversary. It’s also bad for environmental reasons, because any climate “gains” that depend on shifting industry from the U.S. to China are no gains at all. China is the greatest source of greenhouse gases in

the world, and those emissions are only set to increase, despite this administration’s talk of striking a climate deal with Beijing. Paradoxically, the best thing our nation can do to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions is to relight the fires of American manufacturing.

Democrats know this, but they are too beholden to multinational corporations and hedge fund managers who benefit from the status quo to care. President Biden even appointed their operatives to the highest levels of his administration. The Left has adopted the vocabulary of fanatical activists to greenwash and obfuscate its grift while it doubles down on cheap coal-powered and slave-driven foreign supply chains.

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*U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, Florida Republican, serves as Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He is also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Appropriations Committee, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging. He was born in Miami, after his parents came to the United States from Cuba in search of the American Dream.*



LEWIS DIRECTED FILMS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

A gorgeous aerial view of the greenery that surrounds the countryside of Saint Bernard.

# Keeping up with China means addressing its carbon emissions



By U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, M.D.

**A**ny smart initiative to lower global carbon emissions needs to meet at the nexus of climate policy, energy policy, national security, and the economy. A foreign pollution fee is the most efficient tool to accomplish this task.

China is the world's largest driver of climate change. China's increase in emissions since the 2000s is greater than the decrease in emissions of the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), and the U.S. combined. Their pollution created per product produced—or pollution intensity—is amongst the worst in the world.

I represent Louisiana. We are

losing coastline due to sea level rise and hurricanes. However, hundreds of thousands of Louisianans work in the energy industry, producing oil and gas and products essential for a modern economy. But unlike China, Louisiana's pollution intensity for the products we produce is lower than almost every global competitor.

If products are not made in the U.S. using American environmental standards, those jobs often move to China where environmental and pollution standards are ignored. A foreign pollution fee would fix this dynamic.

We have this advantage because, over the past 40 years, the U.S. has enforced stricter pollution regulations and extensively funded research for cleaner energy sources like natural gas, renewables, and nuclear. It is time America and our workers receive a return on investment for these efforts. By adopting policies like the foreign pollution fee, we and our allies can create global markets for cleaner American products that would enhance the American economy and workforce and displace dirtier Chinese products.

Without this policy, our current

our detriment when the U.S. should be capitalizing on it for the positive.

If the U.S. applied a foreign pollution fee to goods produced in countries like China, it would encourage more manufacturing in the United States, which strengthens our economy creating American jobs. In the same stroke, it decreases global emissions. And as our economy further strengthens, it allows the U.S. to maintain its global position.

This is a realistic alternative to proposals for job-killing regulations and domestic carbon taxes that would increase the cost of American production and encourage more of it to move overseas. I oppose any policies that punish American industry, lead to higher global emissions, and hurt workers in my state. A foreign population fee, coupled with permitting reform, is a solution that meets at the nexus instead. It would hold China accountable, increase opportunities for the American family, and is a policy we should all get behind.

*Dr. Bill Cassidy, Louisiana Republican, is the state's senior United States senator. He is the Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee (HELP) Committee. He also serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Finance Committee and Veterans Affairs committees. Prior to the U.S. Senate, he served in the U.S. House, State Senate and taught LSU medical students and residents at Earl K. Long, a hospital for the uninsured.*

**By adopting policies like the foreign pollution fee, we and our allies can create global markets for cleaner American products that would enhance the American economy and workforce and displace dirtier Chinese products.**

A foreign pollution fee is a fee on foreign imports, like Chinese steel and chemicals, produced with lower environmental standards than cleaner American production. It curtails China's ability to undercut U.S. manufacturers by penalizing China for not meeting the same reasonable environmental standards to which domestic manufacturers are held. Importantly, it levels the playing field for American workers, making it less likely that jobs migrate to China.

system undercuts U.S. and EU steps to protect the environment and incentivizes countries like China, India, and Vietnam to ignore environmental standards. To illustrate, in the early 2000s, China was 19th and 20th in manufacturing and emissions. Today, China is number one in both categories with no close second. This economic development allows China to extend its military and geopolitical influence worldwide in competition with American interests. China harnesses this nexus to

# A call to action from young Republicans on climate



**By Benji Backer, Danielle Butcher Franz, Stephen Perkins, and Christopher Barnard, ACC**

As the clock wound down before Easter Recess, House Republicans, joined by four Democrats, passed an energy package that would unleash the power of American energy by freeing up domestic production and cutting red tape.

The long-anticipated *Lower Energy Costs Act* (H.R.1), prioritizes an all-of-the-above energy approach. In addition to expanding fossil fuel capabilities, the bill focuses heavily on clean energy production by, for example, modernizing our current permitting process, which disproportionately inhibits clean energy infrastructure. The bill also seeks to re-shore the mining and refining of critical minerals. Materials like cobalt, lithium, and nickel are crucial ingredients for energy technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, and electric-vehicle batteries.

H.R.1 stakes a firm House Republican position on the importance of American energy, which is a crucial step toward claiming leadership on an unnecessarily partisan issue. But the job's not done.

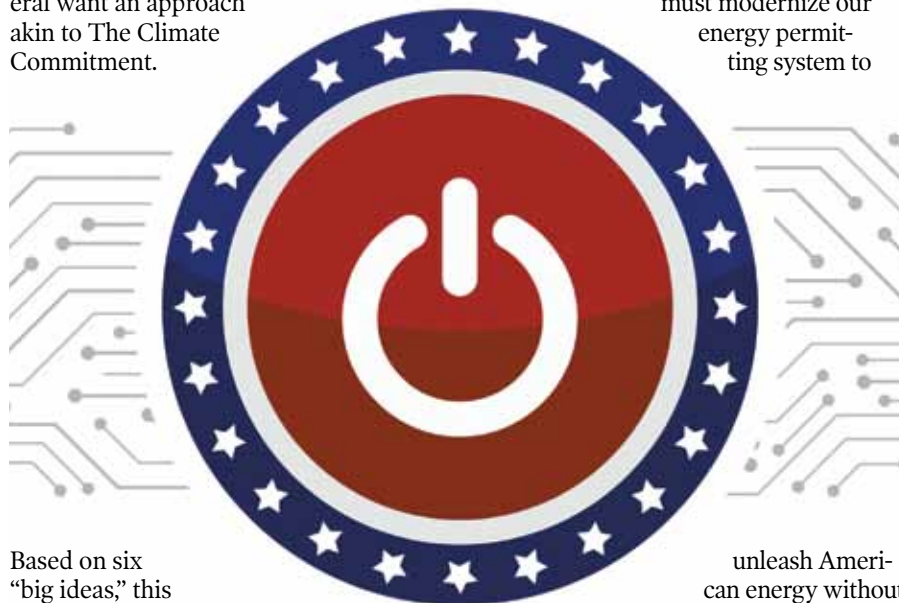
Realistic environmentalists know that fossil fuels aren't going away tomorrow. In fact, their cost-effective benefits will be needed, likely for decades, to fuel economic vibrancy and a better quality of life. An all-of-the-above energy approach includes traditional energy sources, but emphasizes the importance of further developing clean energy sources for the future.

While House Republicans presented a strong case for American energy dominance in March, young Republicans want strong champions of not only American energy, but American energy that is increasingly *clean*.

According to polling we conducted immediately after the 2022 midterms, 80% of Republicans aged 18-29 wanted both economic and environmental issues addressed at the same time, not

prioritizing one over the other. Data indicate this demographic wants more renewables, more low-emission nuclear energy, and more natural climate solutions, like planting trees or restoring ecosystems. To retain youth support, Republican policymakers should prioritize strong, actionable policies that bolster and decarbonize our economy.

Young Americans in general want an approach akin to The Climate Commitment.



Based on six "big ideas," this climate policy framework (championed by our organization) charts a path forward on effective climate action that doesn't sacrifice human flourishing in the name of emissions reductions. In order to address climate change, we must do six things: innovate, streamline, compete, unlock, conserve, and protect.

As has been said by climate-conscious conservatives for many years now, we cannot regulate our way out of climate change; we have to *innovate*. The next, game-changing, emissions-reducing technologies have not been invented yet, and we need the brightest American minds working to find those solutions. From next-generation nuclear reactors, to carbon capture and sequestration

technologies, to advanced battery storage, the possibilities are truly endless.

In order to innovate, we have to *streamline* the labyrinthine regulation of environmental and energy regulations in this country. While laws like the National Environmental Policy Act are well-intentioned, the United States is not the same country as when the legislation was passed in 1970. We must modernize our energy permitting system to

unleash American energy without lowering environmental standards.

Then, we must tackle climate change in a way that strengthens America on the international stage. We must *compete* with authoritarian nations like China and Russia to export energy to developing nations, rather than cede the ground to nefarious actors who prioritize power over actual climate progress, or blindly trust unenforceable international agreements. We must work with our allies to develop crucial technologies such as nuclear power, carbon capture, and advanced battery storage for renewables.

If we are to compete on the world stage, we have to *unlock* the power of American energy. Whether we are talking about natural gas (produced more

cleanly in the U.S. than anywhere else), or crucial resources for clean energy technologies, we must tap into the resources with which we have been blessed.

Unlocking our resources does not mean disrespecting our natural heritage, though. We must *conserve* what makes our country so beautiful by stewarding our land, managing our forests, restoring ecosystems, and empowering farmers. Harnessing nature to fight climate change could account for more than one-third of our emissions-reduction goals.

Finally, we must *protect* the American people and their communities by ensuring clean air and clean water for every single American. We so clearly saw this fail in East Palestine, Ohio, earlier this year. We must also adapt to the effects of climate change we're already experiencing and prepare for what comes next, by protecting communities from extreme weather, flooding, and water shortages.

The Climate Commitment is a framework that works for all Americans, is rooted in innovation and common sense, and sets our country on a path to prosperity and safety. Together, these six big ideas represent a future that young Republicans want to see their leaders champion.

Millennials and Gen-Z will represent our country's largest voting bloc by the 2028 presidential election. With this in mind, Republicans in the House and the Senate must not stop at H.R.1, but pursue an approach to climate issues that mirrors The Climate Commitment.

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*Benji Backer is the president and founder of the American Conservation Coalition (ACC). Danielle Butcher Franz serves as ACC's Executive Vice President. Stephen Perkins and Christopher Barnard are Vice Presidents of Grassroots Strategy and External Affairs, respectively. Follow them on Twitter @BenjiBacker, @DaniSButcher, @Stephen\_Perkins, and @ChrisBarnardDL. Follow ACC at @ACC\_National.*

# The Climate Commitment

## When **conservation** meets *common-sense*.

The future is green in more ways than one. Can we interest you in six big ideas to fight climate change while building a cleaner, more prosperous future for all Americans? Climate action is not about making the nicest promise or yelling the loudest. It's about leading with **action that is good for people, and good for the planet.**



### Innovate

Unleash American innovation to create clean & affordable technologies for all



### Streamline

Cut red tape to build our clean energy future



### Unlock

Free American resources to protect energy independence & build a clean energy future



### Compete

Empower American workers to build & export the cleanest products in the world



### Conserve

Take good care of America's natural heritage



### Protect

Ensure clean air, clean water, and resilient infrastructure for all Americans

[TheClimateCommitment.com](http://TheClimateCommitment.com)

# Energy access should not be political



By U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin

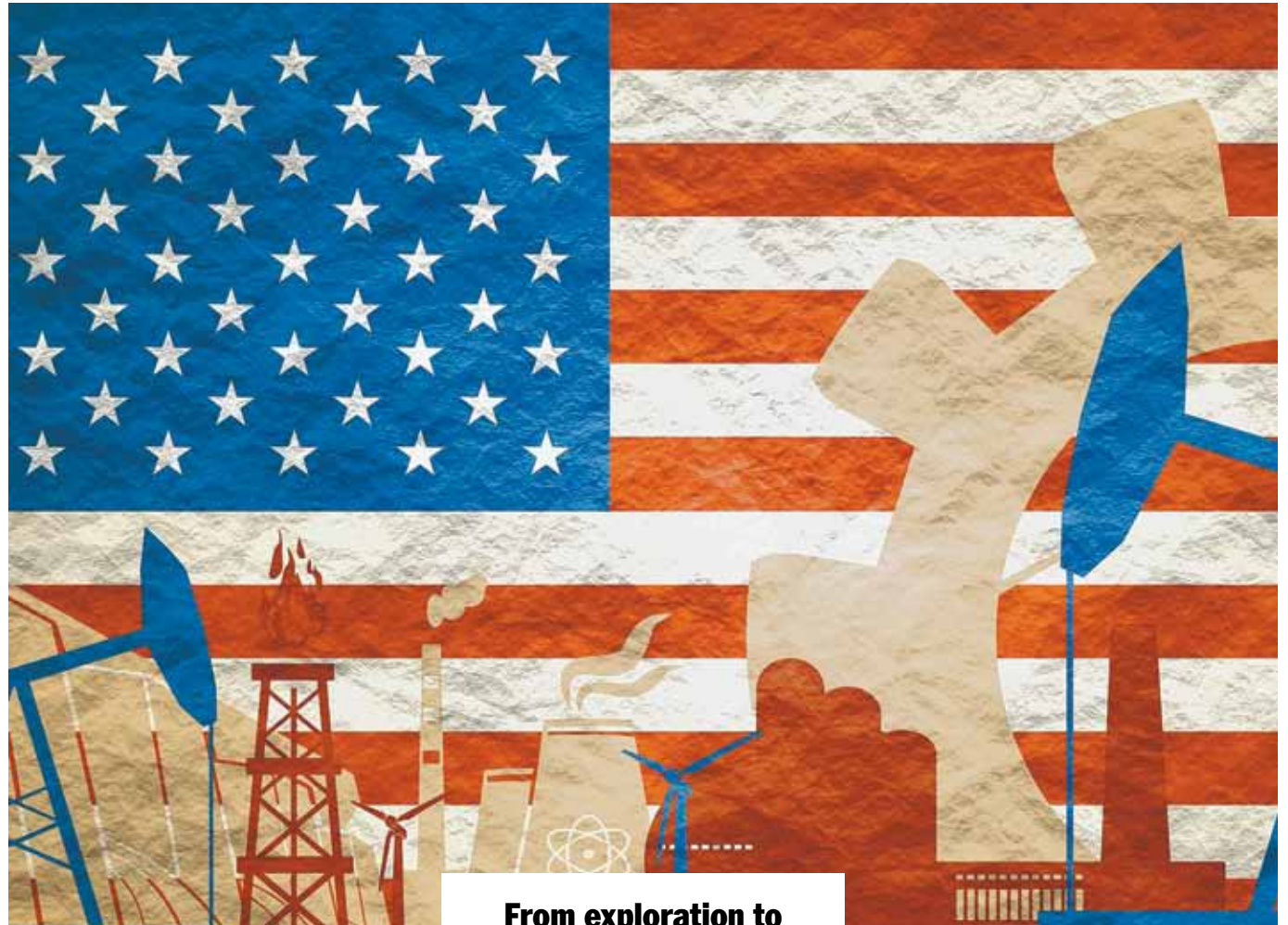
**E**very American deserves affordable, dependable energy – this fact should not be political.

Yet on Joe Biden's first day in office, he signed an executive order to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline and rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement – setting the tone for his administration's all-out war on our domestic energy producers. While President Biden attempts to court favor with the far-Left by suspending new lease sales and funneling trillions of taxpayer dollars towards his Green New Deal agenda, the American people are left shouldering the burden of this unnecessary assault.

Time and again, we have seen the Biden administration enact legislation to hinder American energy production, while blaming domestic producers for the shortfall of energy resources, skyrocketing prices, and diesel shortages. Try as they might, the American people are smarter than this. Energy prices have risen 37% since Biden took office, and while the administration refuses to take the blame for this economic pain, it's not hard to see who caused it.

The Biden administration has been gas-lighting our domestic energy producers for the past two years. The White House even used faulty statistics to justify its refusal to comply with timely onshore and offshore federal oil and gas lease sales. After peddling the false notion that domestic producers were not making use of Approved Permits to Drill, they quietly walked it back when the truth came to light.

Biden has also blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for high gas prices when it is Joe Biden who made America reliant on Russian oil and gas in the first place. Under President Trump, the U.S. was a net energy exporter. Putin's war never should have affected our energy supply. Now, thanks to President Biden, we're left at the mercy of OPEC+ who just announced they would cut output



**From exploration to transport, this legislation will streamline the permitting process, reduce the burden of federal regulation, and empower states to have more authority over their energy production.**

by 1.6 million barrels per day, causing another surge in energy prices.

President Biden knows our country needs oil and gas. He said so himself during his State of the Union speech. He still pursues a political agenda anyway. In a leaked memo, a Biden Department of Interior official admitted lower royalty fees for oil and gas sales would provide “greater energy security.” Clearly, this administration will do whatever it takes to abide by their partisan agenda, rather than face the reality of what's best for the American people. Another fact they don't want you to know, is even renewable energies rely on plastics made from petrochemicals, and the vast majority of petrochemicals are derived from oil and gas. Isn't it ironic that fossil fuels are powering Biden's Green New Deal.

Just like Biden's Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said, “Pipe is the best way to go,” in reference to the safest means to transport fuel, even after Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and the more than 12,000 American jobs that came with it.

The Biden administration prioritizes politics over American prosperity.

So, how does our country restore American energy independence and lower prices for all Americans? The solution is simple. We must take energy policy away from the White House

and put it back in the hands of the states and agencies like Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Oklahoma has proven its ability to provide affordable, dependable energy solutions to our nation. From the invention of fracking to breakthroughs in wind energy, our state's all-of-the-above energy approach has led to a cleaner environment and the most robust economy our country has ever seen. This success is a testament to the generations of Oklahomans who have lent their skills to the industry, proving the best of American ingenuity.

My first legislative act as U.S. Senator was to introduce a package of three energy bills to put states in the driver's seat when it comes to the energy resources within their borders. From exploration to transport, this legislation

will streamline the permitting process, reduce the burden of federal regulation, and empower states to have more authority over their energy production.

We don't want California's so-called “green” policies in Oklahoma. We want abundant, affordable energy, so let's get the White House out of the way and take advantage of the God-given resource under our feet.

My bills, the Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act, Fracturing Regulations are Effective in State Hands (FRESH) Act, and the Federal Lands Freedom Act will empower states to control their own energy resources and do what is best for their people. It's time to end the Left's political attack on the industry and unleash American potential.

.....  
*U.S. Senator Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma Republican, brings over 25 years of firsthand experience and entrepreneurial leadership to address some of the biggest issues impacting the U.S. economy and Oklahoma's small business community. He serves on the Armed Services; Environment and Public Works; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Indian Affairs Committees. He is an enrolled member of Cherokee Nation and is the first Tribal citizen to serve in the U.S. Senate in nearly two decades.*

# The Lower Energy Costs Act is the environmentally friendly solution for everyone



By U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman

“We need a renewables revolution, not a self-destructive fossil fuel resurgence,” United Nations Secretary General António Guterres announced earlier this year when calling for a total shutdown on fossil fuel power

**The Energy Information Administration predicts a 50% increase in global energy consumption by 2050, and the cleanest place to get that energy is right here at home.**

generation. He’s not alone. Voices across the world are demanding immediate shuttering of baseload power sources and a swift switch to renewables. The only problem? Our infrastructure hasn’t gotten that memo.

We’re already seeing blackouts in states like California that claim to have the answers for our energy demands. We’re already seeing our adversaries completely dominate our critical mineral supply chain. We’re seeing energy prices skyrocket in the European Union as they rushed their energy transition. We’re already seeing the reality of EV production – it requires a significant increase in mining and is extremely energy intensive. Optimists forecast that the number of EVs in the world will rise from today’s nearly 4 million to 400 million in two decades, but a world with 400 million EVs by 2040 would decrease global oil demand by only 6%. No amount of lofty goals from climate activists will change reality: we cannot simply wake up and cease fossil fuel usage. President Biden himself said during his State of the Union address that we’re going to depend on oil and gas



for years. The Energy Information Administration predicts a 50% increase in global energy consumption by 2050, and the cleanest place to get that energy is right here at home.

It really is this simple: If we want to lower global emissions, we must produce energy and mine critical minerals in America.

As a conservative and avid outdoorsman, I will always advocate for policies that allow us to be the best possible stewards of our environment. Why would we want anything less? That’s why earlier this month we passed the Lower Energy Costs Act to responsibly face the reality of our world’s energy demands and prove there are real bipartisan solutions coming out of Washington. The legislation unleashes American energy production and gives us real solutions to meet the rapid increase in energy demands we can expect over the next 25 years.

If we can make the planet a cleaner place by producing more energy here in America, what are we waiting for?

If we want to talk about emissions, why not talk about the fact that Russian natural gas has a 47% higher emissions profile than American natural gas? Why not acknowledge that no country on earth has lowered emissions like the United States? We have the world’s most advanced technologies for clean energy, but why do we continue buying energy and minerals from adversaries when we can do it cheaper and cleaner, with the highest standards for labor and worker safety?

The Lower Energy Costs Act takes an all-of-the-above approach to energy policy that recognizes the role of conventional and renewable energy sources to meet our current and future energy needs. It supports the responsible development of all forms of energy, including oil, natural gas and renewables, and encourages continued innovation in energy technologies. It’s a no brainer for bipartisan support.

Critics of the Lower Energy Costs Act may argue that it prioritizes fossil fuels over renewable energy sources.

However, the reality is that renewable energy sources alone cannot currently meet our nation’s energy demands, and we need to use a balanced approach that includes a mix of energy sources to ensure affordability and reliability. The bill acknowledges the important role of renewables in our energy mix and encourages their development through innovation and responsible permitting reform. By streamlining the permitting process for all kinds of energy sources we will ensure America has abundant and affordable energy now and into the future.

.....  
*U.S. Representative Bruce Westerman, Arkansas Republican, is the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources and serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. An engineer and forester by trade, he was named Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers in 2013. Prior to representing the state’s Fourth District in Congress, he served in the Arkansas General Assembly.*

# America's energy strategy should be truly all-of-the-above to become the world's energy powerhouse



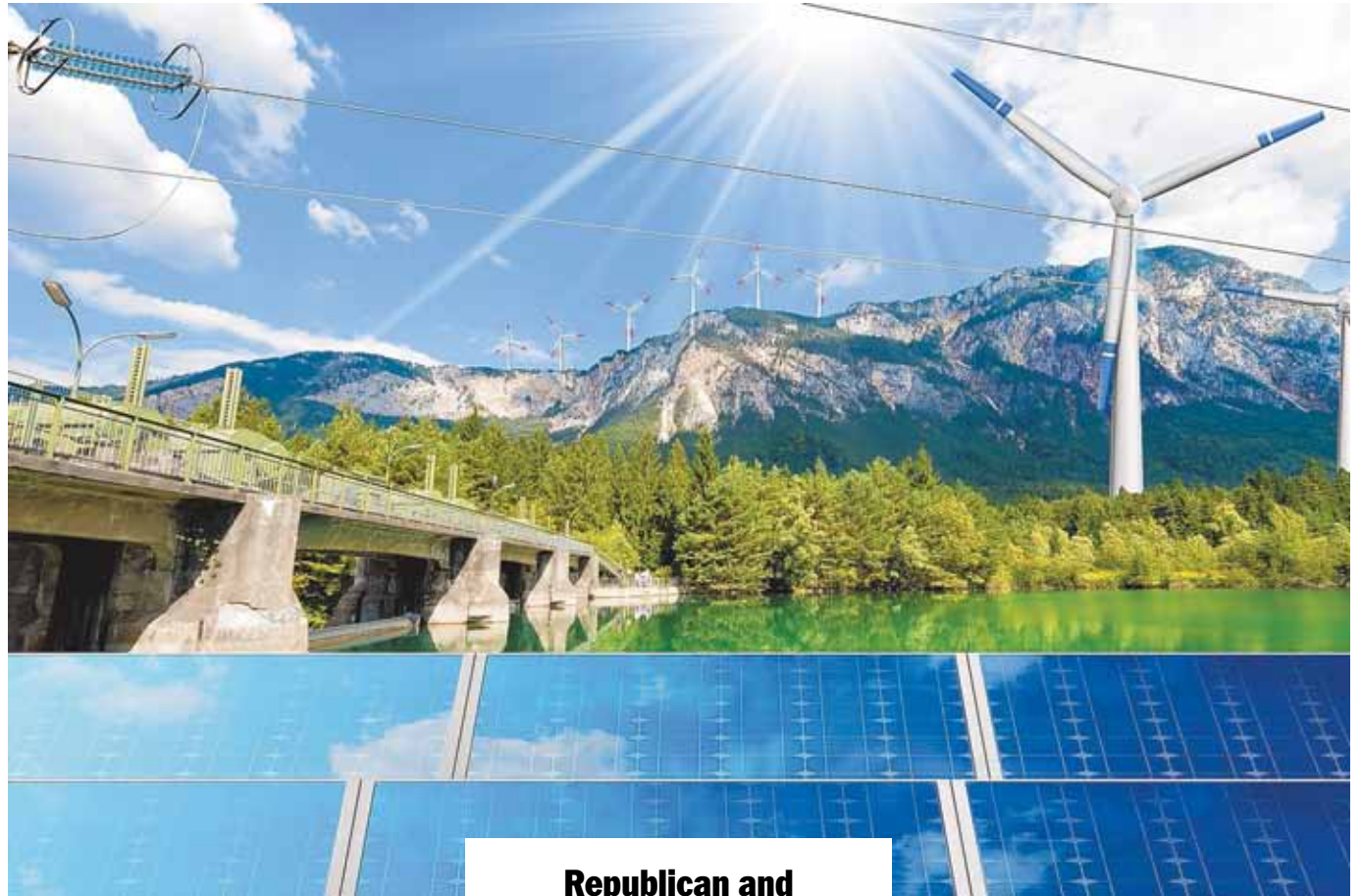
By Heather Reams, CRES

**R**epublicans have long spearheaded environmental stewardship, dating back to President Teddy Roosevelt, one of our nation's most prominent conservationists. It was under Republican President George W. Bush and a Republican-led Congress that American carbon emissions growth was stopped and reversed, resulting in the United States leading the world in emissions reduction. In fact, U.S. carbon emissions have trended down under each administration since. It was under a Republican Senate and administration that the Energy Act of 2020 passed, the largest advancement of clean energy innovation in over a decade.

We all want to leave our planet better than we found it, and—with support for clean energy development growing in red districts across the United States—Republicans are implementing effective solutions to do so: Cutting energy costs, not energy choices. Furthering innovation, not regulatory hurdles. Exporting American resources, not American jobs. Reducing global emissions, not our economy.

Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES) works with Republican lawmakers to advance effective, commonsense climate and clean energy solutions to invigorate the U.S. economy, strengthen our national security, and lower emissions.

As President of CRES, I hear firsthand—from policymakers and communities across the country—when it comes to our energy resources, we should be saying “and,” not “or.” By embracing an all-of-the-above energy portfolio, the United States can become the world's energy powerhouse, and according to recent CRES Forum polling, 83% of Republicans and Independents nationwide support an



**Republican and Independent voters are embracing all-of-the-above energy, and we should continue to make it easier to responsibly develop and deploy energy resources.**

approach that includes the development of resources such as nuclear, natural gas, wind, solar, and hydropower.

By increasing responsible domestic energy production and promoting investment in clean energy innovation, the U.S. will strengthen energy security while supporting allies abroad. For example, Russian natural gas exported to Europe results in 41% more lifecycle emissions than American-produced liquefied natural gas exported to Europe. Therefore, it's not surprising that over 80% of conservative and moderate voters believe developing this resource in America is better for the planet.

There is also strong support for other renewable and zero-carbon energy resources. Our polling shows that 86% of voters support hydroelectric dams, 85% support solar power, 79% support wind power, and 58% support nuclear generation. Those numbers only increase among those who have these resources in their backyard, which creates jobs and lowers energy costs for families within their communities.

If that's not an overwhelming message to Congress, I don't know what is. Republican and Independent voters are embracing all-of-the-above energy, and we should continue to make it easier to responsibly develop and deploy energy resources.

Earlier this year, House Republicans acted to do just that. They passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, with bipartisan support to unlock our energy resources and solidify America's global energy leadership. By removing regulatory barriers to new energy development and ensuring the United States has a strong domestic supply chain of critical minerals necessary for clean energy technologies, this legislation will accelerate our clean energy future, reduce our reliance on foreign adversaries like China, lower global emissions, and continue to ensure our environment is protected.

The Lower Energy Costs Act will combat the status quo, which includes permitting processes that can add decades to a project's timeline and ensure bureaucratic red tape doesn't continue to serve as a roadblock to renewable and other vital energy projects.

This legislation is a big step toward achieving what voters want: U.S. clean

energy innovation, further development of low-carbon technologies, energy security, and American leadership on the world stage to reduce global carbon emissions.

As communities across the United States increasingly embrace an all-of-the-above energy portfolio, Congress should follow suit and empower the U.S. energy industry to continue to innovate and deploy technologies that reduce our impact on the environment. CRES will continue to ensure Republicans have a seat at the table because it takes all of us to advance America's clean energy leadership.

*Heather Reams is the President of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), a right-of-center non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. that engages policymakers and the public about responsible, conservative solutions to address our nation's energy, economic, and environmental security while increasing America's competitive edge. She has led the CRES team since 2016 and oversees the core activities of the organization, ensuring the successful expansion of conservative clean energy policies across the nation. Heather is also the Chair of National Clean Energy Week—described by POLITICO as “a veritable who's who of the Clean Energy World.”*





**Clean energy is...**  
**Made in America.**  
**Affordable, reliable, and secure.**  
**Commonsense.**

According to recent CRES Forum polling, **85%** of **Republicans** nationwide **support** a **commonsense all-of-the-above energy strategy**, including natural gas, nuclear, wind, solar, and hydropower.

Learn more at [cresenergy.com](https://cresenergy.com).



# Energy is the foundation of everything in American life



By U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan

**O**ur nation is blessed with abundant natural resources but is cursed with regulatory red tape that restricts our ability to utilize them. That's why H.R. 1, the

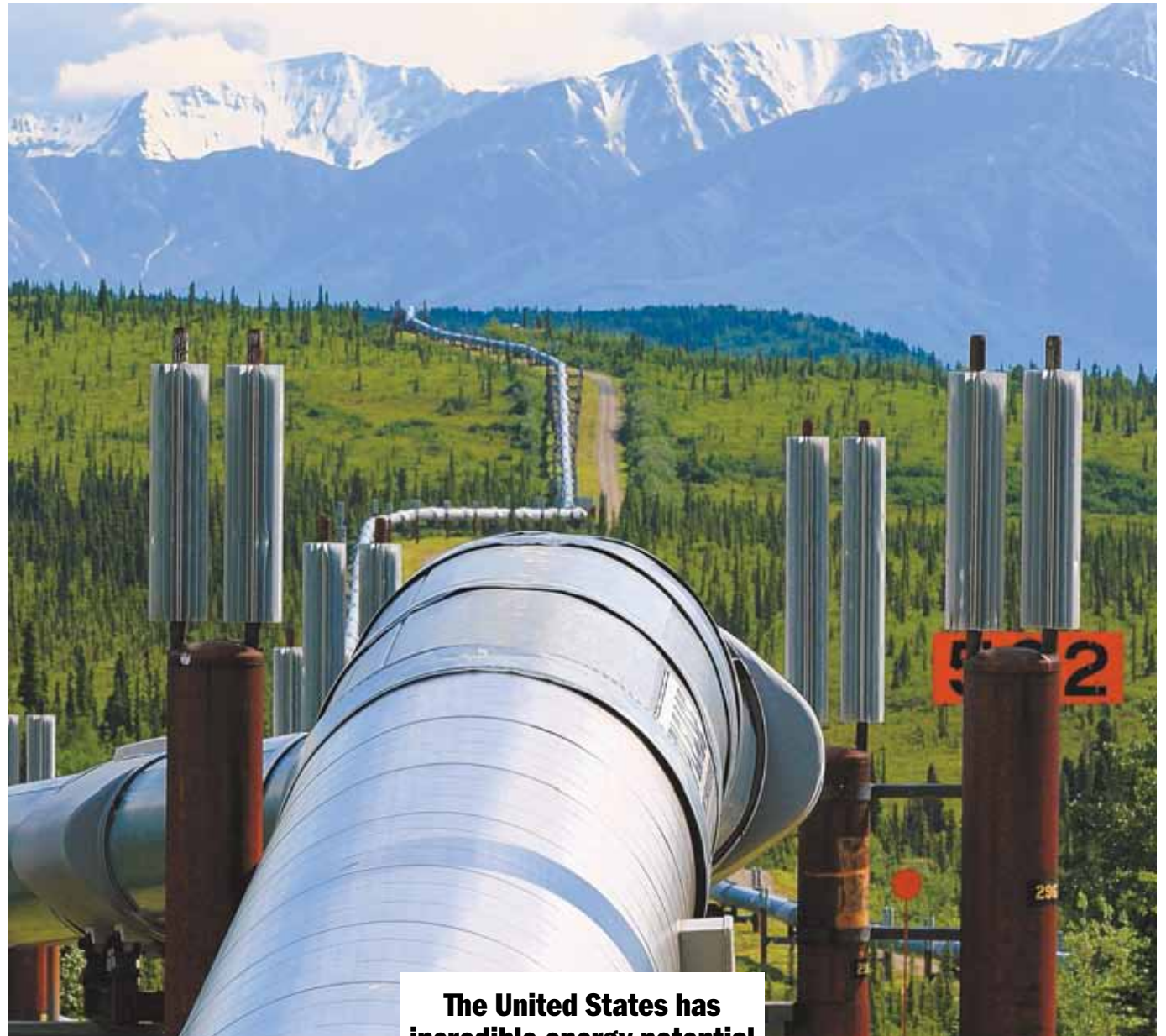
*Lower Energy Costs Act*, which unleashes our vast energy supply to meet the needs of Americans, was a leading priority for House Republicans this Congress.

H.R. 1 will utilize our domestic supply to produce energy here at home and improve the standard of living for Americans and our allies. Last month, we saw H.R. 1 through the finish line in the House with bipartisan support.

So, why is H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*, so important? The war on American energy production began on Joe Biden's first day as President and has caused Americans to suffer from record-high energy prices across the board. Lowering energy costs is a leading priority because energy is the foundation of everything in American life—when the cost of energy goes up, everything else does too. When Biden took office just over two years ago, the national average for a gallon of gas was \$2.39. At the time of this writing, that number is now \$3.66, and we saw the national average for a gallon of gas reach a historic high of over \$5 in June 2022. In Joe Biden's America, many have been forced to choose between gas or groceries due to a self-imposed energy crisis.

Joe Biden's policies shut down the Keystone XL pipeline, sent energy jobs overseas, imposed crippling regulations on the oil and gas industry, stifled domestic production, and emboldened our adversaries by forcing dependence on them for our energy needs.

H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*, will take bold action to unleash our nation's energy potential by reversing



**The United States has incredible energy potential with vast reserves of oil, natural gas, and other critical minerals essential for energy dominance.**

the President's anti-American energy policies, cutting excessive bureaucratic red tape, helping to lower global carbon emissions with cleaner American liquefied natural gas (LNG), and increasing domestic production to lower costs. This will also allow us to export more clean American natural gas to help our allies break free of the grip of Vladimir Putin's oligarchy that funds his energy-fueled war machine.

Instead of picking and choosing the winners and losers in the energy sector and relying on less-reliable forms of so-called "clean" energy, we should utilize all-of-the-above energy production here in the United States where we produce cleaner energy than nearly anywhere else in the world.

Why wouldn't we produce energy domestically instead of relying on dirty energy from countries like China with virtually no environmental standards

or regard for human rights?

Energy security is national security, and Americans should never have to rely on our adversaries to supply our energy needs. The United States has incredible energy potential with vast reserves of oil, natural gas, and other critical minerals essential for energy dominance. H.R. 1 will allow us to unleash our potential to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy here at home and to our freedom-loving allies worldwide.

As Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee Chairman, I will continue to advocate for American

energy to improve the standard of living for Americans and reestablish our energy leadership at home and abroad.

H.R. 1 will put Americans first and bring about actual solutions to the energy crisis. Passing H.R. 1 is a win for all Americans and will reestablish American energy dominance by unleashing domestic energy production.

*U.S. Representative Jeff Duncan, South Carolina Republican, serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security of House Energy and Commerce. He represents the state's Third Congressional District and has received awards including the Freedom Fighter Award, Friend of the Farm Bureau, National Security Patriot Award, Guardian of Small Business, Hero of Main Street, Taxpayer's Hero, and the prestigious Order of the Palmetto awarded by the Governor of South Carolina.*



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Morenci copper mine open pit in Morenci, Arizona.

# We're losing to China, H.R. 1 can change that



By U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter

**T**he Energy and Commerce Committee recently heard from David Hickman, a farmer, who described our current economy as, quote, “the most perilous time for American agriculture.” He’s right, and he’s not alone.

Every day that I’m in Georgia’s First Congressional District, whether I’m talking to a parent, a farmer, a teacher, a trucker, or a small businessowner, I hear the same concern: “Inflation is too high.” Everything, from diesel to food, is more expensive under this president, who cannot stop himself from spending your money, stealing your retirement funds, and stomping on your small business.

The average household is paying \$10,000 more per year because of Biden’s policies. That puts a significant dent into household’s budgets; but for this administration, your hard-earned dollars are just padding for its left-wing wish lists disguised as policy proposals.

What’s worse is that pain is the point.

On day one of his presidency, Biden declared war on American energy, and at breakneck speed ended American energy independence and killed thousands of jobs. What came next? Inflation, high

that this bill will make our energy sector more affordable, more efficient, and will create more jobs.

The American people told us that inflation and high energy prices were their number one concern, and we are listening by making it the House’s number one priority.

I’m also glad that my bill, H.R. 1070, was included in this legislation and will bring necessary permitting reform and investment in America’s critical mineral processing.

**This bill is just one part of a much larger effort to fix permitting in our country and extends the official invitation to those who wish to invest in critical mineral processing to do so here, in America.**

interest rates, small businesses closing their doors, and even more inflation.

When you plunge a knife into the heart of our economy, you can’t be surprised when it begins bleeding out.

Fortunately, House Republicans are stepping up and delivering solutions for the American people. H.R. 1 will increase American energy production, reform the permitting process for all industries, reverse this administration’s anti-energy policies, streamline energy infrastructure, and boost the production and processing of critical minerals.

That’s a long-winded way of saying

We are losing to China in the race to supply the world with critical minerals, and it’s not even close. This bill is just one part of a much larger effort to fix permitting in our country and extends the official invitation to those who wish to invest in critical mineral processing to do so here, in America. My District, which includes all 100 miles of Georgia’s pristine coastline, is one of the few places in America that still mines critical minerals. We know how important it is for us to bring this life-saving supply chain home and we can do that by signing H.R. 1 into law.

While the President may begrudgingly acknowledge that “We’re going to need oil for at least another decade” – despite most evidence pointing towards much longer timelines – my colleagues on the other side of the aisle pursue policies that openly seek to put these essential, reliable fuels out of business, jeopardizing our energy security.

It’s both naïve and foolish to think we can power our lives and economy without the baseload, reliable power that these traditional fuels provide. We are already seeing the detrimental and often disastrous impacts of this in Europe, which transitioned too quickly to less reliable forms of energy, leading to winter and summer blackouts and brownouts. We cannot afford to allow our policies to get ahead of our innovation and succumb to the same fate.

The question is not whether we need American energy, the question is how can we produce more of it so that we are reliant on ourselves, not China, to meet these basic needs? H.R. 1 is the answer and I urge the Senate to swiftly take up this legislation so we can deliver relief to the American people.

*U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter, Georgia Republican, serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Budget Committee. A pharmacist by trade, he represents the state’s First Congressional District, which includes the entire coast of Georgia.*

# Focusing on solutions: Clean hydrogen and CCUS



**By Newton B. Jones,  
International President,  
International Brotherhood  
of Boilermakers**

**F**or well over a decade, the Boilermakers union has beaten the proverbial drum as an advocate for common sense in the debate about energy production and climate change mitigation, seeking real—and realistic—solutions.

While extremists, misguided evangelists and self-serving politicians on all sides of the issue pound their chests and loudly shout their divisive (usually hypocritical and often simply *wrong*) rhetoric that serves only to stymie any real efforts to save our planet, Boilermakers have been busy studying, steadily raising awareness and building traction around a critical solution: carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS).

This is not a new role for the Boilermakers union. Throughout our history, Boilermakers have been vital advocates and instigators as new technologies have emerged that both satisfy the ever-growing demand for energy and protect our planet.

In fact, Boilermakers have spent decades installing bag houses, scrubbers, dry and wet precipitators and other controls to successfully reduce particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, mercury and other emissions.

CCUS is the logical and meaningful next step in pollution control as the world grapples with strategies to quickly lower carbon dioxide emissions. The truth is: In order to maintain affordable, reliable energy and remain energy independent from nations, like Russia, that would leverage dependence as a weapon, we need a mix of *all* energy resources, from gas and coal to wind and solar and more, all working together and built or retrofitted with CCUS.



We have written, spoken extensively and even produced a film about how and why CCUS is a solution that can *truly* reduce CO<sub>2</sub>—and preserve jobs, economies and social stability. CCUS is the bridge to our clean energy future.

CCUS is also, in part, what led the Boilermakers to Ian MacGregor. MacGregor is a visionary, innovator, doer, builder and entrepreneur based in Alberta, Canada, and Boilermakers were first introduced to him to help build his Sturgeon Refinery (now part of North West Refining) in Alberta.

That refinery project was the first greenfield refinery to be built in Canada since 1984, and it is the world's first refinery designed to capture CO<sub>2</sub> process emissions from the outset. MacGregor also believes it to be the largest “blue” hydrogen plant in the world.

Further, he developed and constructed the Alberta Carbon Trunk line (ACTL), the world's first and largest hub cluster to transport and store carbon dioxide.

Ian MacGregor is the kind of person who likes to tackle big problems, and he only takes on problems he is certain he can solve—problems like meeting energy needs while mitigating climate change.

MacGregor's next project aims to do exactly that. His project, Hydrogen Naturally, is set to finance, build and

operate hydrogen plants that will produce large quantities of clean hydrogen while removing millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

He will do this by using scrap wood fiber as feedstock in a closed gasification process that, through partial combustion, produces hydrogen and carbon dioxide. The hydrogen becomes a valuable energy commodity, and the carbon dioxide is liquified and sequestered permanently underground.

It's a smart idea rooted in science and reality. Trees harvested from forestry operations are already replaced as a part of a continuous replenishing cycle. If the wood scraps are left to rot or are burned in slash piles, they *contribute* to the current problem by emitting CO<sub>2</sub>.

By instead turning the wood waste into pellets for feedstock to produce hydrogen, and by replanting with climate resilient tree species to create natural carbon sinks, the process becomes not just net-zero in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but actually carbon *negative*. Because of this, MacGregor calls the end hydrogen product Bright Green™ Hydrogen.

To reduce cost and gain efficiencies, he will build multiple “natural air capture plants” based on modularization. MacGregor told an audience at a recent U.S. Energy Association briefing that he

has his eye on locations on the United States' Gulf Coast and Canada's East Coast and the prairie region.

MacGregor understands the urgency and the complexity of the energy and climate change conundrum. He will not waste time arguing or pontificating. Just like Boilermakers, he is focused on actually *doing* something that can make a real difference.

“A lot of people have opinions on (climate change solutions), but they don't have the calculators to show if they work,” he has said. MacGregor has used his calculator and his past, proven experience. He has shown he's done the math.

Ironically, when so-called “green” extremists rally support through either (unfounded yet sadly effective) fear tactics or pie-in-the-sky “solutions” in their winner-takes-all agenda, progress toward real solutions is delayed, valuable time is squandered and our planet and people suffer.

The time is ripe for real, common-sense solutions like Hydrogen Naturally's Bright Green™ Hydrogen. We need more of this kind of innovative, science and reality-based action.

The Biden administration and today's Department of Energy are to be commended for aggressively addressing the issue of energy and climate change mitigation. Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, carbon capture deployment in the United States is finally accelerating. And with billions of dollars earmarked for CCUS enhancements to the 45Q tax credit, for example, CCUS has become an attractive climate change solution option.

We need all solutions working together if we truly care about our future and want to save our planet, continue accessing reliable energy and preserve our socio-economic stability.

It's high time to focus on solutions. It's high time for the extremist rhetoric to stop, for common sense to prevail and for the actual work to begin. Our planet and our future depend on it.

To learn more about CCUS and to view short films on Hydrogen Naturally's Bright Green™ Hydrogen project and about CCUS, visit [www.CleanerFuture.org](http://www.CleanerFuture.org). To learn more about Hydrogen Naturally, visit [www.h2naturally.com](http://www.h2naturally.com).

Headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, AFL-CIO represents North American workers engaged in field construction and maintenance, shipbuilding, cement making, railroads, manufacturing, mining and other industries.

# THE BOILERMAKERS ADVANTAGE: FORWARD THINKING TOGETHER

Just what is a Boilermaker? We're the skilled craftsmen and craftswomen trained and committed to stand apart as the best. We work with our hands and our brains to solve the hardest problems. To step up when others step back.

That's why we're committed to supporting carbon capture, use and storage and clean hydrogen technology as solutions to mitigate climate change—*real* solutions that provide reliable energy production through a mix of renewables and clean fossil fuels. All while preserving our workforce and economic growth.

Find out more. Watch our short films on carbon capture and hydrogen technologies at [www.CleanerFutureCCUS.org](http://www.CleanerFutureCCUS.org)

We're forward thinking...together.  
We're the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

LET'S GET TO WORK TOGETHER.

**BOILERMAKERS**

[www.boilermakers.org](http://www.boilermakers.org)



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# Administration's new rule muddies water for all Americans



By U.S. Rep. David Rouzer

**H**ouse Republicans have maximized the first 100 days of our majority to follow through on our Commitment to America, and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has been instrumental in this effort. In the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee where I serve as chairman, we have passed legislation repealing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent and most significant regulatory power grab to date as well as permitting reform to lower energy costs.

Chairman Sam Graves and I, along with 152 of our colleagues, introduced a

joint resolution under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), a law enacted in 1996 that empowers Congress with the ability to overturn rules issued by federal agencies, to repeal the Biden administration's flawed "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. Congress voted to approve the joint resolution with a bipartisan vote of 227-198 in the House and a bipartisan vote of 53-43 in the Senate. It is unfortunate the President chose to veto this legislation.

The administration's new rule is a nuclear warhead aimed squarely at our farm families, small businesses, homebuilders, every property owner, and entire communities because of its ambiguous and subjective definition of a "navigable water." Proponents cite the list of exemptions for farmers and others. With such a subjective definition in place, exemptions are in the eye of the beholder. Or to put it another way, you are exempt until you are not exempt.

This burdensome WOTUS rule expands the federal government's control over states, localities, and private landowners making it harder to farm, build, and generate economic prosperity at a time when it is sorely needed. For example, in areas like North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District storms can bring very heavy rain. Meanwhile creeks, streams and rivers are everywhere throughout the landscape. Water lingering for short periods of time after a rainfall no matter how close to a body

of water could easily be classified as a WOTUS depending on the viewpoint of the bureaucrat making the judgment. Hefty fines, litigation and even prosecution can result. In fact, it already has under previous versions of the many entangled interpretations of a WOTUS. This new rule will just make it worse.

While many may not yet realize just how consequential the WOTUS rule will be on their everyday lives, everyone in America is all too familiar with the ramifications of the administration's ongoing assault on American energy production and distribution. To make good on our promise to help cut energy costs, House Republicans passed H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*. As one of many key components in this package, H.R. 1 includes a bill I was proud to sponsor, H.R.1152 – the *Water Quality Certification and Energy Project Improvement Act*, which would help ensure the development of our Nation's energy infrastructure by preventing the abuse of the permitting process under the Clean Water Act.

For too long, the water quality certification process has been, and continues to be, weaponized by certain states to stifle important energy projects opposed for political reasons. In my home state of North Carolina, the Mountain Valley Southgate Project was denied under Sec. 401. However, it was not denied because of a water quality issue. It was denied because a pipeline for natural gas ran counter to the ideological agenda of the

bureaucracy. The same has happened in other states.

Reliable, low-cost energy is fundamental to prosperity. It is not only critical to our economy, but is critical to our food supply, our national security, and a cleaner environment. Rather than an assault on American energy production and distribution, our federal government should be focused on ensuring America can build the energy infrastructure necessary to responsibly utilize our natural resources and unleash American energy. By doing so, we can once again be energy independent, provide more oil and gas for the world and put downward pressure on prices lowering the cost of energy for all. This is exactly what H.R. 1 does.

While there is a lot more work to be done, I'm proud of the solutions House Republicans have delivered in our first 100 days. Though we only have the majority in one chamber of a legislative branch that requires a supermajority in the U.S. Senate on just about every policy matter, under the leadership of Speaker McCarthy we are changing the narrative and the debate for the benefit of the American people. We are fulfilling the promises of our Commitment to America.

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*U.S. Rep. David Rouzer, North Carolina Republican, represents the state's Seventh Congressional District. He serves as Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.*

# Unleashing American energy and mineral dominance



By U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber

**T**he American people asked, and the House Republican majority delivered by passing H.R. 1, the Bipartisan *Lower Energy Costs Act*, which includes my own bill, the *Permitting for Mining Needs (PERMIT-MN) Act*, through the House of Representatives. This bipartisan bill does just what its title says: it makes Americans' lives affordable and lets us get red tape out of the way to keep building the infrastructure we so desperately need.

As the Chairman of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, it is a great privilege to have a direct impact on moving our country forward with commonsense energy policies. My subcommittee's jurisdiction includes energy development across our great nation. This means mining for the various minerals we need for everyday life; drilling for the oil and gas we use to heat our homes and farms and fuel our vehicles; and generation of energy on federal lands.

And this Chairmanship is especially important to my district. We have been mining for iron for the last 140 years, helped build this country, and won two world wars with minerals from the Iron Range in Minnesota. Today, the Iron Range accounts for 80% of America's steelmaking alone. And, occurring alongside our iron, are massive, untapped deposits of minerals needed for national security, energy generation, healthcare, everyday life, and more. In fact, in northern Minnesota alone, we have 95% of America's nickel, almost 90% of America's cobalt, 75% of America's platinum, and more than one-third of our nickel.

However, this administration and the broken permitting process are simply not letting us mine our minerals. In the district I represent, we have one mining project on year 20 of

endless permitting and litigation. For two decades, it's undergone a rigorous environmental review process and has won every single lawsuit thrown its direction. And we have another project 10 years in on federal land that had its federal leases pulled and was slapped with a 20-year ban from the Biden

for your car? We need to permit rights-of-ways for oil and gas projects. Want lower power bills? We need to permit projects like the Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Superior, Wisconsin. Want more wind or solar energy? We need to permit mining projects so we can access our minerals here.

our minerals, H.R. 1 will empower the American workforce to mine American resources with American technology, securing our energy future.

And now, it's time to keep moving forward. It's time for the Senate to continue building on our progress by moving the Bipartisan *Lower Energy*



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The Hull Rust Mahoning mine is one of the largest open pit iron ore mines in the world.

administration on taconite, copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, and more.

While we have a dire need for mine permitting reform, H.R. 1 also addresses the need for permitting reform across *all* sectors. Our energy grid is vulnerable and we need more transmission built to deliver power from power plants to homes and businesses. Yet, it's taking years for any sort of project to get done. For example, the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line is on its *seventh* year of permitting, just to complete a remaining mile-long segment in Iowa. Whether it be mines, transmission lines, roads and bridges, refineries, forest management, farming, or more, we desperately need permitting reform.

Having these projects wither on the vine are what makes everyday life expensive for Americans. Need liquid fuels

Enter the bipartisan H.R. 1. Americans reminded us during the election about these issues, and we delivered. We moved the bill's sections through regular order, meaning we held oversight hearings, legislative hearings, markups, and consideration on the Floor. We had witnesses from the mining sector, from labor, from public works employees, from the clean power sector, and more. Everybody had buy-in.

Additionally, this bill is key to making America competitive when it comes to energy and mineral production. We are currently over reliant on Communist China for minerals and on nations like Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for our other energy needs, risking both our energy and national security. Instead of relying on the Chinese Communist Party for

*Costs Act* one step further to becoming the law of the land. If our Senators value lower energy prices, building renewable energy infrastructure in a timely fashion with domestically mined minerals, and returning power back to Americans from the broken bureaucracy, they will build on our across-the-aisle momentum and pass H.R. 1.

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*U.S. Representative Pete Stauber, Minnesota Republican, chairs the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee. He represents the state's eighth Congressional District and has a remarkable record of public service. Prior to Congress, he worked as a St. Louis County Commissioner, City Councilor in Hermantown, and Duluth police officer for over two decades.*

# Want to unleash American energy? Start with permitting reform



By Anne Bradbury, CEO, AXPC

**M**embers of Congress on both sides of the aisle have called for permitting reform to ensure we can build the energy infrastructure our country needs – and AXPC believes that modernizing federal permitting is an essential reform that can get bipartisan support this year.

American families have been crushed by the impacts of inflation. Reforming the permitting process for infrastructure and energy projects will help ease this burden by increasing access to U.S. energy production, which will lower costs on everything from groceries to gasoline to electric bills. Modernizing permitting for these projects will also help boost our economy by creating jobs and economic investment in communities and states across the country.

While efforts to address permitting as part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) fell short last year, it shows political will to get something done across party lines and in both Chambers.

H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*, which passed the House with bipartisan support, included many provisions to reform, streamline, and cut red tape for America to build more energy infrastructure. And, just a few weeks ago, Senators Shelley Moore Capito and John Barrasso penned an op-ed highlighting the economic consequences of delayed permitting, activist efforts to exploit the broken process, and the national security concerns associated with a supply chain reliant on China due to our inability to build in America. They also highlighted how serious reform must benefit everyone, not just a few select interests.

Modernizing our permitting system can benefit all Americans by helping us build “all-of-the-above” infrastructure



COTERRA

that we desperately need to meet growing energy demands.

Congressional Democrats and the President celebrated the IRA as a “historic climate bill,” but without significant permitting reform, those efforts will fall short. Renewable energy also needs permitting reform, as the regulatory burdens and layers of red tape don’t just affect oil and natural gas, they affect all energy infrastructure. The IRA was written to generously fund renewable projects, but if you cannot get the permits or the supplies to construct them or connect and upgrade the electrical grid, those subsidies will be for naught.

America’s oil and natural gas producers invest hundreds of millions of dollars in new technologies and innovations to further our nation’s climate leadership. However, the current system causes delays in the deployment of the very technologies and resources necessary to reduce global emissions and combat climate change. For example, we need permits to build infrastructure for hydrogen and CCUS – and to build

the pipelines needed to transport more natural gas and accelerate the transition away from coal.

Modernizing permitting will still protect the environment and incorporate community input. It will also provide clarity and predictable timelines for companies developing projects in America. And it would encourage investment in innovative and flexible technologies, and ensure we are meeting the world’s demand for clean, affordable, and reliable energy.

To this end, AXPC has outlined specific and actionable ways to modernize federal permitting, including reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), leasing, permitting and associated judicial review, Clean Water Act certifications, the Endangered Species Act, and mitigation policies.

For instance, NEPA must be modernized to ensure Congressional intent in enacted laws is acted upon by agencies. The NEPA process has been misused as a basis for endless litigation, and Congress should adopt reforms to NEPA to provide much-needed clarity and

certainty into the legal process to the benefit of the agency, project proponents, and the American people. The current process benefits lawyers more than workers.

Congress should also make clear that the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) cannot be circumvented to cancel quarterly oil and natural gas lease sales that are prescribed by law. Federal drilling permits, often intermingled with private mineral estates, should be streamlined to provide for quicker approval of projects known or estimated to have minimal impacts. Congress must ensure that consultations under the Endangered Species Act and state certifications under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act are applied fairly and not used as regulatory roadblocks.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts that global energy demand is expected to grow 47% in the next 30 years, and the world is going to need all sources of energy to meet that demand. The question is: will the United States be in a position to help meet that demand? Or will we continue to be hamstrung by a nebulous permitting process from the last century?

Modernizing federal permitting will increase energy supplies and decrease energy prices. It can also ensure Congress and the Administration can move forward to implement energy policies that benefit all Americans.

Washington policymakers across the ideological spectrum see that more efficient permitting will reduce costs and encourage investments in a range of energy projects. In addition to industry-wide efforts to reduce emissions from operations, many oil and natural gas producers are innovating to support the development of hydrogen, carbon capture, and other projects that will be needed in a lower-carbon future. Reducing regulatory burdens and cutting layers of red tape will benefit all energy development.

As part of a broader energy mix, American oil and natural gas production is an essential part of any successful long-term strategy to meet our security and energy needs. And, bipartisan solutions are essential, and more durable, to address our nation’s toughest challenges – including taking a 20th century permitting environment and modernizing it for the 21st century.

.....  
*Anne Bradbury is CEO of the American Exploration and Production Council (AXPC), which represents America’s leading independent oil and natural gas producers. Prior to AXPC, Ms. Bradbury served as a top leadership aide for over a decade for some of the most important leaders in Congress.*



The logo for the American Exploration & Production Council (AXPC), featuring the letters 'AXPC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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Skagit County, Washington, is a vibrant, highly productive agricultural hub.

# Rural America depends on domestic energy production



By **U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse**

**R**ural communities are the beating heart of this Nation. Folks in urban communities often forget the food they eat, the clothes they wear, and the fuel they burn would not exist without the blood, sweat, and tears of hardworking men and women in rural America. Right now, these same men and women feel sidelined or even ignored by mainstream media, coastal elites, tech giants and most egregiously, the current administration.

The Biden administration singlehandedly decimated our nation's domestic energy production by cancelling the

Keystone XL Pipeline, placing a moratorium on all oil and gas leasing, drilling permits, and lease extensions on federal land, and cancelling lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska and turning to other countries to account for our diminished supply. Their bloated bureaucracy has allowed millions of acres of forests to go up in flames annually, unfairly

This has placed a huge burden on America's farmers and ranchers and has had a massive impact on everyone up and down the supply chain. From the local community to the end consumer who faces higher food prices and even food shortages, this administration's disastrous policies can be felt everywhere. And we haven't forgotten.

**If rural America is to continue producing the food, resources, and power our Nation depends on, the Senate needs to pass H.R. 1 now.**

punished the agriculture industry with unclear and ever-changing federal regulations, stalled vital infrastructure and energy projects for years, failed to meet our conservation and species management needs, and stifled American industries with their Green New Deal agenda.

In doing so, this administration has devastated rural America.

Supply chain issues and rising energy costs have been exacerbated by President Biden's policies and caused input costs to reach record highs. The Biden administration is so intent on catering to the environmental lobbyists who want to "flip the switch" to green energy they forget that when the sun goes down and the wind stops blowing, Americans still need to heat their homes, run their farms, and provide for their families.

For the last 30 years, the Congressional Western Caucus, a group of almost 100 Members of Congress from across the United States, has advocated for our rural and western way of life in Washington, D.C. We know responsible access to domestic resources and secure mineral supply chains are essential to every aspect of our lives, from energy, communications, and healthcare, to manufacturing, infrastructure, and new technological advancements. That's why we endorsed and passed H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*.

H.R. 1 unleashes domestic energy production, streamlines and modernizes our broken permitting process, and boosts the processing of critical minerals to let Americans mine, farm, manufacture, process, and build infrastructure

so we can get shovels in the ground and move our country forward. For far too long, we've sat idle and let bureaucrats in Washington and radical activist lawyers hamstring American workers by suing at every opportunity, long after decisions have been made and permits have been issued.

The Western Caucus is committed to fighting for rural America, protecting our values, and defending the local communities we represent. As Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, I see the threat the Biden administration poses to rural communities across the country and am acting against it. But if rural America is to continue producing the food, resources, and power our Nation depends on, the Senate needs to pass H.R. 1 now, before it's too late. Failure is simply not an option.

*.....*  
U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse, Washington Republican, is Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.

*He is a lifelong resident of Central Washington and represents the state's Fourth Congressional District. A third-generation Yakima Valley farmer, he brings real-world experience to Congress as a businessman, former state legislator, and former Director of Washington State's Department of Agriculture.*



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# OPEC+ production cuts underscore H.R. 1's importance to restoring U.S. energy dominance



By U.S. Rep. August Pfluger

**T**here is one facet holding together the economic and national security of a Nation that allows businesses to grow and families to save for the future. The linchpin for all of this and more is energy.

Without access to affordable, reliable energy, nations crumble. Perhaps the most shocking example in recent years of the importance of reliable energy can be seen through Eastern Europe's reliance on Russia for natural gas, which no doubt emboldened Vladimir Putin to wage war on Ukraine.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's anti-American energy policies are putting our country on a similar path of reliance, and it does not have to be this way. Only four years ago, the U.S. be-

OPEC's announcement and consequences in the market underscore the importance of H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*, which affirms that energy is the number one priority of this Congress.

**While Russia and others use energy as a weapon of war, we must use energy as a tool of diplomacy to help our allies, fight our foes, lower costs for consumers, and provide prosperity to the rest of the world.**

came energy dominant for the first time since the 1950s—largely thanks to industry innovation in the Permian Basin, also known as the shale revolution. We could again achieve energy independence to bring down costs for American consumers and end our reliance on foreign governments for energy.

Within the last few weeks, the Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+), announced they would cut more than a million barrels of output per day starting in May. This announcement immediately led to a jump in crude prices. Make no mistake, this oil output cut is a message from Riyadh to the U.S. that they will capitalize on President Biden's energy retreat, control the global energy market, and take whatever measures necessary to keep oil prices at levels that benefit them.

H.R. 1, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support, will lower costs for families by rolling back the Inflation Reduction Act's taxes on energy production, costs that will be borne by the consumer. Additionally, this legislation will strengthen our energy security by increasing domestic energy production, updating our permitting process, streamlining energy infrastructure and exports, and boosting the production and processing of critical minerals.

While President Biden chose to target American energy since day one, this Republican majority has prioritized American energy since day one. Just weeks into the 118th Congress, we have passed legislation to depoliticize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, prohibit sales of that oil to the Chinese Communist Party, and

now reduced barriers to the production of all American energy through H.R. 1. It is a complete rejection of the Biden Administration's anti-energy policies and provides an opportunity to make OPEC+ irrelevant in the global energy market.

While Russia and others use energy as a weapon of war, we must use energy as a tool of diplomacy to help our allies, fight our foes, lower costs for consumers, and provide prosperity to the rest of the world.

Energy produced in the Permian Basin helped the United States and the Allies win World War II, and it can help us reclaim our economic and national security prowess today. Congress must respond to Riyadh's "Saudi First" message with a message of our own by unleashing American energy and advancing the free-market policies of H.R. 1.

*U.S. Representative August Pfluger, Texas Republican, represents the state's 11th Congressional District which includes the Permian Basin—our nation's largest secure supply of energy. He serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Homeland Security Committee, and co-founded the MACH 1 Caucus and the Texas Ag Task Force. He served twenty years as a decorated fighter pilot, later as an advisor on the National Security Council, and still serves as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserves.*

# Congressional Republicans champion energy legislation to lower costs, boost economy



By U.S. Rep. Blake Moore

America produces energy that is cleaner and more affordable than many foreign countries. Yet our energy prices have skyrocketed, we're reliant on oil from the Middle East, and domestic energy projects are stalled. So, how did we get here? And how do we fix it?

While America has the capability to produce clean, reliable, and affordable energy, our cumbersome permitting process—detailed in the outdated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—disrupts and kills both traditional and renewable energy projects. This results in less American-made energy, fewer jobs, and more reliance on foreign nations to meet our needs.

Take for instance our allies in Australia, where mining permits—critical to obtaining lithium and cobalt for batteries, copper for wind turbines and solar panels, and more—can be secured in just two to three years. Meanwhile, in the United States, a similar project can take up to 10 years or more, disincentivizing private investment and hindering new job creation.

If the goal of our environmental policies is to kill energy projects, particularly clean energy projects, then we are greatly succeeding. But if we want to champion environmental conservation, economic growth, workforce expansion, and national security in our energy approach, we must improve our system.

On March 30th, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*. This legislation cuts red tape, boosts domestic energy and critical mineral production, enhances transparency on lease sales from the Department of the Interior (DOI), repeals unnecessary fees on energy producers, and more. Additionally, H.R. 1 reforms the permitting process by

streamlining NEPA so that energy projects can be reviewed and implemented faster, thus boosting our economy, providing good-paying jobs, and lowering energy costs for Americans.

Even though H.R. 1 passed the House with bipartisan support, the bill faces a gloomy prospect in the Senate, where Senate Minority Leader Schumer has declared it “dead on arrival.” However, the irony is that without this key permitting reform, Democrats’ flagship green energy projects will fail or struggle to get off the ground due to NEPA’s complex and arduous processes.

House Republicans recognize the need to solve our permitting issues and

delays in the domestic energy permitting and leasing process by requiring DOI to issue any eligible permits within 30 days, submit a report to Congress on nominated parcels, and publish the number of pending and approved applications to drill. At the time of introduction, the Biden administration was sitting on over 4,600 permits to drill even though the DOI must meet a statutory requirement to issue permits within 30 days. My bill would have simply required the issuance of these permits

support our workforce needs, and be on the forefront of innovative energy solutions, we must address our energy permitting processes. As the 118th Congress gets going, I am proud to support the *Lower Energy Costs Act* and work with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to find commonsense solutions and allow America to become a dominant energy producer yet again.



have kicked off the 118th Congress coordinating across committees, caucuses, and working groups to introduce legislation. For example, the House Natural Resources Committee is working on the *Transparency, Accountability, Permitting and Production of American Resources Act* to minimize delays for mining projects on federal lands. The House Energy and Commerce Committee has already put forth several bills this congress to support American energy production, strengthen our supply chains, and lower gas prices, including the *Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining Act*, the *Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act*, and the *Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act*.

Last year, I introduced the *Protecting Energy Independence and Transparency Act* to hold the Biden administration accountable for their consequential

**If we want to champion environmental conservation, economic growth, workforce expansion, and national security in our energy approach, we must improve our system.**

that had already successfully completed environmental review, lowering our dependence on foreign energy.

If we want to reinvigorate our economy, strengthen our national security,

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*Blake Moore, Utah Republican, represents the state's first congressional district, which includes Hill Air Force Base. He serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Budget Committee, and as co-chair of the bipartisan Depot, Armed Forces and Future caucuses. Active and valued within the House Republican Conference, Moore also serves as Assistant Whip. He is a native of Ogden, Utah, and has four sons with his wife, Jane.*



# U.S. writes its own destiny with energy independence



By U.S. Rep. Bob Latta

**W**hen President Joe Biden assumed the office of the presidency, he stated, “America writes its own destiny.”

I agree. As Americans, we write our own destiny. It’s through the core tenants of freedom, self-responsibility, hard work, entrepreneurship, and free markets that have helped write and shape America’s destiny.

While I would hope President Biden’s remarks would be rooted in these values, it’s clear his actions as president have reflected otherwise.

Since President Biden’s first day in office when he canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline, he has made it clear that writing our own destiny when it comes to energy security is off the table. His administration launched a war on American energy, which has driven energy prices through the roof and hurt everyday Americans.

But beyond the sky-high prices, the Biden administration has also

compromised national security by forcing more reliance on foreign adversaries to supplement our depleted energy reserves.

Look no further than the foreign energy cartel, OPEC. Its recent announcement to significantly cut oil production is poised to drive up U.S. energy prices even more. It is entirely unacceptable for the actions of a foreign adversary to have a direct effect on how much Americans pay for gas. If we had an energy strategy focused on production here in the United States, their actions wouldn’t be a concern to American consumers. But that is not the case.

anti-energy policies, streamlining energy infrastructure and exports, and boosting the production and processing of critical minerals.

H.R. 1 also includes my bill, the REFINER Act, to help increase fuel refining capacity in the U.S. At the beginning of 2020, the U.S. held the title for the largest refining industry in the world – with 135 operable petroleum refineries with a capacity to refine 19 million barrels per day. Now, we have 128 operable refineries and refining capacity has dropped to 17.9 million barrels per day. My REFINER Act will provide the crucial blueprint to expand

world for decades in the development of nuclear energy, the United States has fallen behind its allies and rivals and has seen its competitive edge diminish. This lack of investment has forced the U.S. to import 90% of the uranium fuel used in our nuclear reactors from foreign countries. This is a threat to our national security and our energy independence.

To avoid this threat, I am leading the bicameral Nuclear Fuel Security Act alongside Senators Joe Manchin, John Barrasso, and Jim Risch to expand critical U.S. nuclear fuel programs to boost domestic uranium mining, production, enrichment, and conversion capacity. This legislation would set us on the right path to strengthen our nuclear energy capabilities which will create a safer and more secure America.

America can only write its own destiny if we continue to fight our future both at home and on the global stage. I am proud that the bipartisan *Lower Energy Costs Act* pushes back against radical, anti-America first energy policies pursued by this Administration so we can secure American energy independence and lower costs for families across America. Together, we can reverse course on failed energy policies.

.....  
*U.S. Representative Bob Latta, Ohio Republican, represents Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District and is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He is Chair of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology and is a senior member of the Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee and Health Subcommittee. Latta also serves as a Deputy Whip; Co-Chairs the Rural Broadband Caucus, Grid Innovation Caucus, and Congressional Propane Caucus; and is an active member of the House Energy Action Team (HEAT).*

## **My REFINER Act will provide the crucial blueprint to expand refining capacity in the U.S., which will help lower energy costs and restore America’s energy independence.**

Now is the time to reverse this energy affordability crisis. House Republicans advanced a commonsense, bipartisan pro-energy bill – H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act* – to counteract the Biden administration’s misguided energy policies.

Through H.R. 1, we are working to restore energy independence and lower energy costs. We are ensuring the United States is not just capitalizing on one energy sector, but instead, expanding the reach of American energy production through an all-of-the-above energy approach.

The *Lower Energy Costs Act* will unleash American energy and lower costs for families by increasing domestic energy production, reforming the permitting process across industries, reversing the Biden administration’s

refining capacity in the U.S., which will help lower energy costs and restore America’s energy independence.

But even with the great progress we’ve made with H.R. 1, House Republicans will continue pressing for more commonsense, pro-energy growth policies. As a member of the Energy Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we are looking at this energy crisis from all angles and how it affects varying parts of our nation – including Ohio.

This includes advancing clean energy resources like nuclear energy. As the demand for power generation continues to increase and Americans look to reduce emissions to address climate change, investing in nuclear energy will help keep our lights on and economy chugging.

Unfortunately, after leading the

# Fixing a broken energy permitting system



By Jeremy Harrell, ClearPath

America's energy demands are rapidly increasing. Some estimates say the U.S. will need to double the capacity of our grid by 2050 if there is any chance of meeting net-zero goals.

Financing and building enough clean energy infrastructure projects to keep up will not be easy. But under the current regulatory environment, it's procedurally impossible. Delays that can last over a decade are making projects more expensive, impeding America's ability to deploy billions of dollars of capital that would create American jobs, enhance U.S. energy security, and reduce emissions.

The current system benefits those who seek to delay as opposed to those who seek to build. That dynamic may have made sense four decades ago when policymakers enacted laws focused on stopping bad outcomes. Today, this system is outdated. The pace and scale necessary to build clean energy infrastructure projects to reliably meet our energy demand and lower emissions is not something the authors of the 1970s environmental laws could have imagined.

Fortunately, fixing this outdated, broken system is at the top of the agenda for Republicans and many Democratic policymakers this Congress. House Republicans have rightly put permitting reform front and center this year, passing with bipartisan support their signature energy package, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*, as H.R.1.

This bill addresses many bottlenecks that make our current system a quagmire: unnecessary duplication, clear timelines throughout the process that enhance predictability, and a limit to superfluous legal action. Solving those problems could reduce emissions, increase production and boost global energy security, all while protecting the safety and balancing the environmental

concerns of our communities.

However, enacting H.R. 1 – or any meaningful permitting reform package – remains a challenge. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has declared the bill “dead on arrival” in the Senate, and the Biden Administration has already issued a veto threat to House Republicans’ permitting plans.

The ironic part of this posture is the Inflation Reduction Act they celebrate

power by 2026, but Idaho National Laboratory's permitting analysis shows that it would be difficult to add any new renewable geothermal power, even if the permitting process started today. This system is clearly broken.

Given the recent passage of the overwhelmingly bipartisan Energy Act of 2020, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and other federal funding over the past five years, American

project on a brownfield site should not require a yearslong permitting process. Congress should establish approval criteria that pre-qualify and approve these types of “win-win” projects without delay.

Second, streamline the approval process for projects where there are unique environmental impacts. In these cases, the review process should focus specifically on those factors that compli-



at every turn will have very little impact without permitting reform. In fact, the top adviser to the President for clean energy innovation and implementation, John Podesta, recently talked about how we'll only get 20% of the benefits of the IRA if we don't improve permitting.

Project developers and innovators are not amused with partisan politics; they are ready to build. There is real opportunity for the Senate to now work on a bipartisan basis to modernize the permitting process. The important thing is policymakers keep an eye on the prize. Senate action cannot simply water down H.R.1 into something milquetoast that fails to fundamentally change the current regulatory regime.

Right now, it can take six years to permit storage sites needed to store billions of tons of captured CO2 from industrial sites, 13 years to permit an offshore wind farm in Massachusetts, or up to 15 years for a new transmission line from Wyoming to Utah.

The California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) issued an order to procure 1000 MW of renewable geothermal

private sector entrepreneurs have the wind at their backs to deploy more clean energy projects now.

But simply throwing money at new technologies will not necessarily make them a reality. Without meaningful permitting reform, there is a real risk that these major investments for clean energy technologies like carbon capture, energy storage, and geothermal, will go unrealized.

The same is true for the major investments in the CHIPS and Science Act, a new law supporting the U.S. semiconductor industry, putting American manufacturing on a more competitive path than China, and recently enacted energy tax incentives.

Squandering this momentum with needless bureaucracy would be malpractice. It is essential that a final deal on permitting includes three principles.

First, projects that do not have an environmental impact should be granted immediate approval. Replacing a retiring power plant with a zero-emissions advanced nuclear generator at an existing site or building a solar

cate their review, driving scant federal resources towards issues of the highest impact, resulting in more efficient timelines that still ensure compliance with existing environmental laws.

Third, resolve any legal disputes in less than one year. Once a project is approved, any further adjudications must include a final decision timeline to ensure that protracted litigation does not undermine project viability.

Republican and Democratic policymakers have never been closer-aligned on the need for significant permitting reform. Whether the motivation is climate, economic growth, more production, and/or energy security, we need to fix what's broken. Neither side is going to get 100% what they want, but our country's energy and environmental future depends on sweeping reform.

.....  
*Jeremy Harrell is the Chief Strategy Officer of ClearPath Action, Washington, D.C.-based organizations that develop and advance policies that accelerate innovations to reduce and remove global energy emissions.*

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# Pro-consumer, pro-environmental energy solutions are attainable

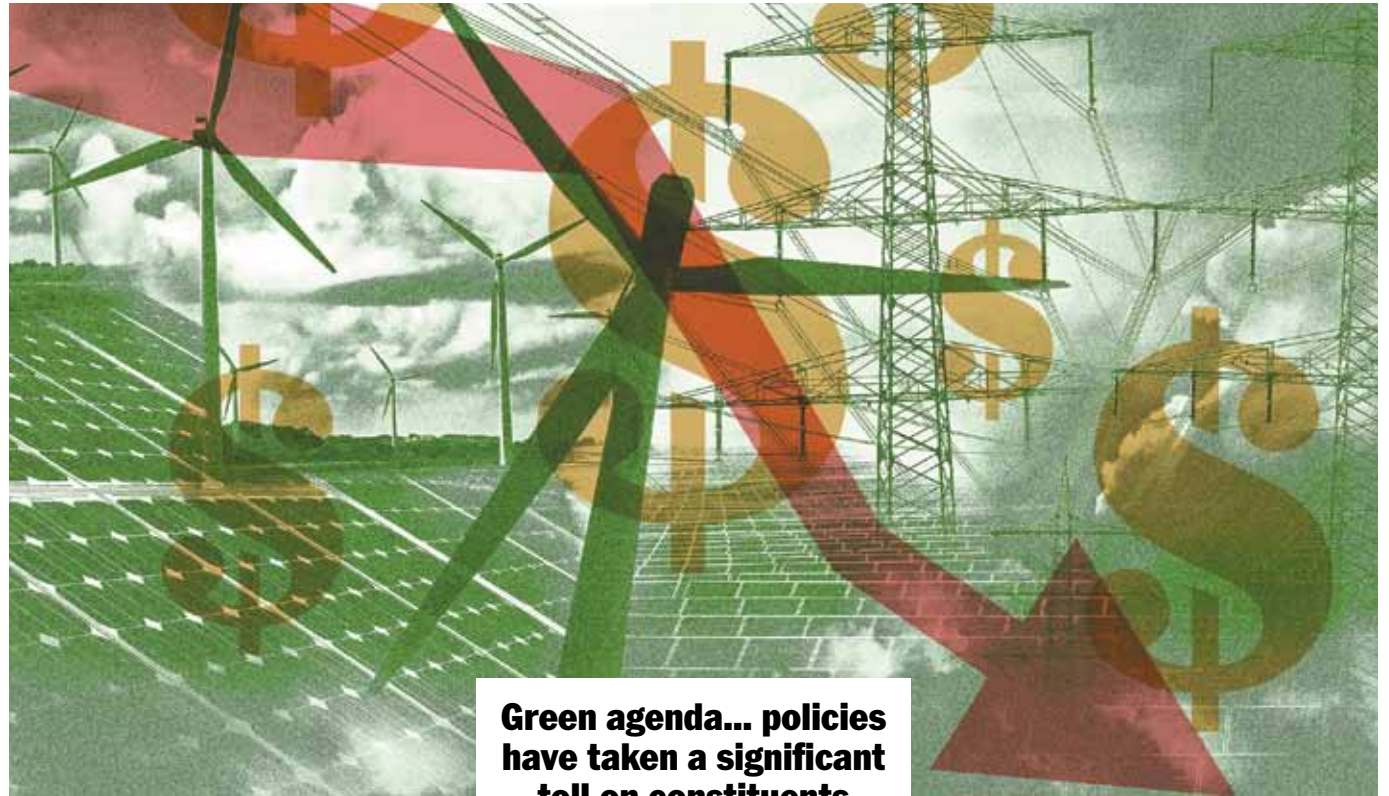


**By U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis**

**W**hen President Biden was sworn into office, a gallon of gas cost \$2.39. Today, the price is 44% higher, at \$3.44. In June of 2022, the price per gallon exceeded \$5.00. This winter, American families are expected to pay the highest energy costs in more than 15 years. These dramatic spikes are not a fluke, but rather the result of deliberate policies designed to destroy domestic energy production in favor of a rush to green agenda.

These policies have taken a significant toll on constituents who can least afford to absorb the increases. One of my constituents, Patricia is an 84 year-old resident of Hudson, Florida, who lives on a very restricted income with her 62 year-old disabled daughter. Their electric bill has gone up an average of \$50.00 per month in the past year. In Florida, where the summers have always been long and hot, their electricity rates are expected to climb even higher. When coupled with other inflationary increases in the price of food and medicine, this mother-daughter duo has faced severe financial hardship. Daniel owns a lawn business in my district. Skyrocketing fuel prices have forced him to restrict his service territory and increase his rates by 30%. Another constituent, Brian, owns a small trucking company. His costs have gone up 70% since 2020, primarily due to the surge in energy costs. He is worried about being forced to close. These are just three stories of constituents who are struggling and need relief now.

The good news is that the House just passed the *Lower Energy Costs Act*. This critical bill will provide relief to consumers by: reversing the anti-energy policies of the Biden administration, reforming the permitting process, boosting



**Green agenda... policies have taken a significant toll on constituents who can least afford to absorb the increases.**

domestic energy production, streamlining energy infrastructure and exports, and supporting the production and processing of critical minerals. Specifically, our legislation would:

- Prohibit President Biden from banning hydraulic fracturing,
- Repeal all restrictions on the import and export of natural gas, including LNG,
- Prevent states from blocking interstate infrastructure projects,
- Repeal President Biden's \$6 billion natural gas tax,
- Roll back President Biden's \$27 billion EPA slush fund for special interests,
- Disapprove of President Biden's canceling of the Keystone XL pipeline,
- Require the Department of the Interior to resume lease sales on federal lands and waters,
- Repeal harmful royalties and fee increases imposed on energy production,
- Ensure parity in energy revenue sharing for states with onshore and offshore energy development, and
- Require publication of the 2023-28 offshore oil and gas lease sales plan with deadlines for future 5-year plans.

The bill reforms the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permitting process to streamline federal reviews for all sectors of the economy, including at our international borders. We need to limit the scope of environmental review under NEPA to reasonably foreseeable and economically feasible impacts and

set reasonable deadlines for completion of NEPA reviews. Imposing a 120-day deadline on filing litigation on final agency actions concerning energy and mining projects and excluding low-impact activities and activities in previously studied areas on public lands from NEPA review will increase certainty and spur vital investment in the sector.

Our bill also ends the current abuse of the water quality certification process by streamlining the permitting process under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, it would enhance America's ability to develop critical energy resources by improving the environmental permitting processes at critical minerals refining and process facilities. We cannot continue to be reliant on foreign adversaries for the development and refinement of these critical minerals, as it jeopardizes our long-term national security and energy stability.

We all want clean air, clean water, and environmental protection, but those goals do not have to be achieved at the expense of jobs, prosperity, and national security. As Chair of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, I am also very supportive of protecting Florida's pristine environmental resources, improving water quality, and addressing resiliency issues. I firmly support an "all of the above" energy strategy that includes increasing

domestic production, providing incentives for the development of renewable resources, and promoting conservation. The federal government should not be in the role of picking winners and losers among the various energy sources. Additionally, we must foster a prosperous energy future that provides a competitive advantage against China - the world's top carbon polluter.

New and emerging technologies will allow the United States to better harness the existing swath of renewable and nonrenewable energy sources that are available. By embracing these solutions, we can help modernize our infrastructure and ensure America continues to lead the world in reducing emissions - while keeping energy costs low for Americans. These pro-consumer and pro-environmental energy solutions are our nation's best hope for the future!

.....  
*U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis, Florida Republican, is the Chairman of the Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus. He is also a Senior Member of the Health Subcommittee and the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. Representing the state's 12th congressional district, he was recently designated as Florida's Most Effective Member in Congress by the Center for Effective Lawmaking at Vanderbilt University.*



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## We cannot build American without permitting reform



By U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany

**B**uild American. President Biden tagged this phrase when he visited my congressional district last year, and I hear it from my Republican colleagues on my side of the aisle nearly every day.

Regardless of political party, there's no question we all want to build American... There's just one problem.

It's nearly impossible to "Build American" under the federal government's burdensome permitting and regulatory framework.

Whether it is tapping into our domestic energy resources, constructing the transmission lines that power American homes and businesses, building roads

and bridges, preventing wildfires, or responding to droughts, you can thank the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for holding up these critical projects, and in some cases effectively killing them altogether.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "The NEPA process begins when a federal agency develops a proposal to take a major federal action." In other words, if you want to drill for oil on public lands, you must go through NEPA. If you are building a natural gas plant, you must go through NEPA. If your local highway project receives federal funding or traverses a strip of federal land, you must go through NEPA.

Its scope is broad, ambiguous, and given the number of projects that get swept up in its expansive dragnet, compliance adds years – sometimes even a decade – to project completion times.

For instance, it takes more than ten years to permit a mine in America. Yet, Canada and Australia, both with similar environmental standards, can permit one in less than three.

And that's just one sector.

Take, for example, President Obama's federal pilot program in 2011 to accelerate the permitting process for seven major transmission line projects. More than ten years and two presidents later, only two of them have been completed. The rest remain stuck in various stages of NEPA's byzantine no-man's-land, incomplete, or abandoned.

The costs of consigning major infrastructure and development projects to this never-ending bureaucratic treadmill are not simply academic.

We are already seeing the effects today as home heating bills were up 18% nationwide this winter, many states continue to receive rolling blackouts warnings, and as the United States imports 80% of its rare earth elements directly from Communist China, despite being the leader in element production 40 years ago.

We are also seeing the effects of NEPA as it relates to keeping our federal forests and lands healthy. This "bedrock environmental law" delays the mechanical treatments needed to prevent catastrophic wildfires.

As Americans struggle under the weight of soaring energy prices, sit in gridlocked traffic, or prepare to face another wildfire season, NEPA continues to hold important land management and construction projects hostage, trapped in a permanent state of analysis paralysis.

Meanwhile, the workers and employers mobilized to do this work face uncertainty, delays, and potential layoffs, while taxpayer dollars are frittered away on paperwork and red tape instead of concrete and steel.

It's time for lawmakers to roll up our sleeves and modernize this antiquated, half-century-old law.

One key first step was House passage of H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*.

The bill holds federal decisionmakers

accountable. By setting time limits for completion of NEPA reviews at one year for environmental assessments and two years for environmental impact statements. It also puts limits on endless litigation by imposing a 120-day deadline on legal challenges to final agency actions concerning energy and mining projects. These reforms will ensure that key projects are not constantly subjected to death by delay.

Furthermore, H.R. 1 cuts through bureaucratic red tape by requiring that certain low-impact activities and activities in previously studied areas on public lands are not classified as major federal actions under NEPA. This would allow a wide variety of projects to be expedited and completed in a timely manner.

America produces the cleanest oil, gas, and critical minerals in the world, but that doesn't do us any good if they are locked up in a straitjacket of archaic policies and perpetual legal action.

If we are serious about "Building American," and ensuring that the 21st century will be an American Century and not a Communist Chinese century, it starts with getting our own house in order. That starts with enacting the kind of commonsense NEPA reforms included in H.R. 1.

.....  
*U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, Wisconsin Republican, is Chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands. He represents the state's 7th Congressional District.*

# Home-grown fuel helps families, farmers and producers



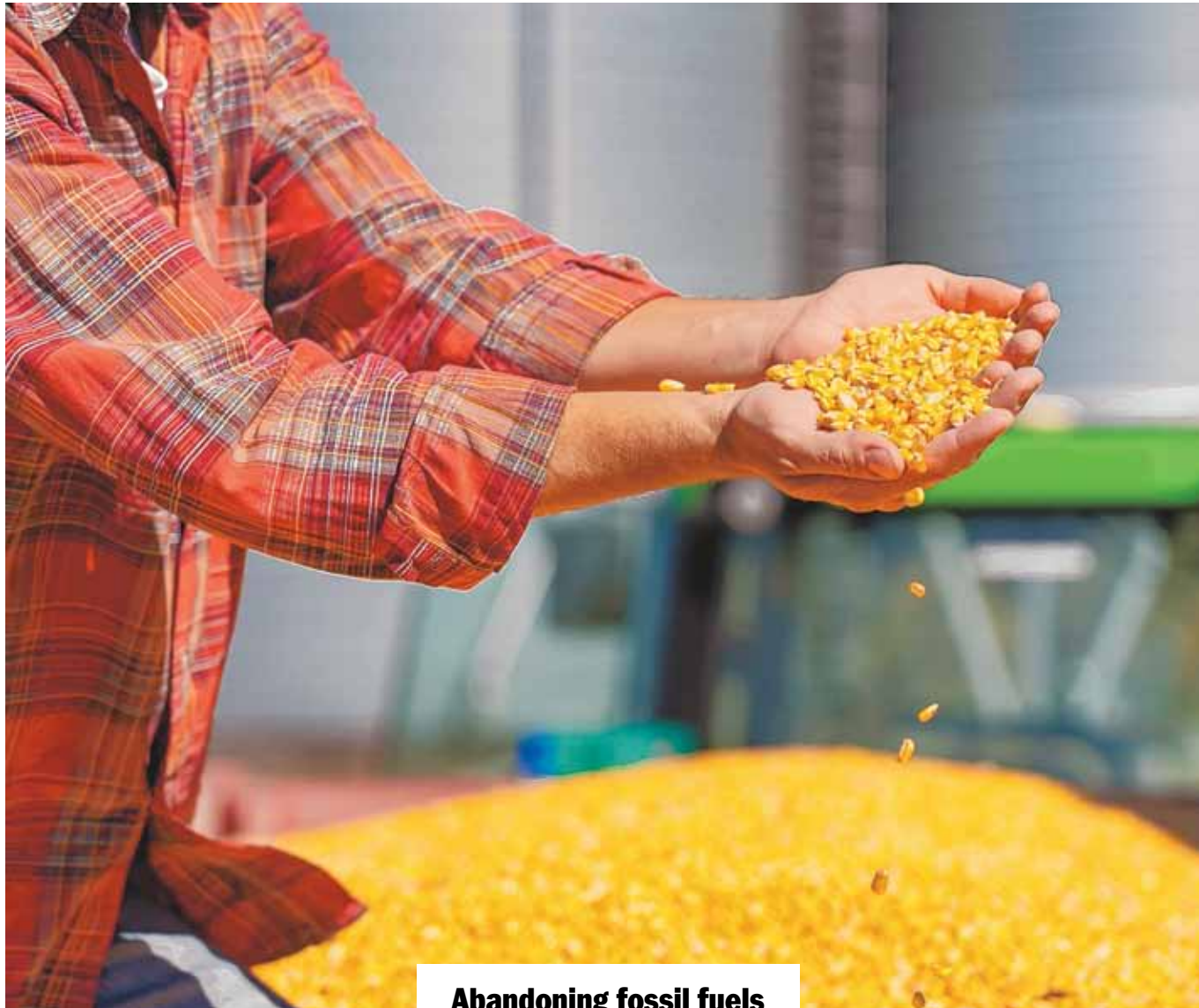
By U.S. Rep. Don Bacon

Last year recorded the highest gas prices most Americans had seen in their lifetimes. We were shocked when the cost to fill up our cars and heat our homes doubled. This was caused by a myriad of problems— the administration’s halt on domestic oil drilling and domestic energy infrastructure, supply chain issues and the Russian aggression against Ukraine. But most of this was self-inflicted by this administration’s energy policies. We’ve heard some cry that our current situation is illustrative of why we should abandon fossil fuels and switch entirely to renewables. I’m all for diversifying energy sources for energy security, lower prices, and a cleaner environment. But abandoning fossil fuels altogether is not a viable solution to today’s energy needs unless you want periods with no electricity and sky-high fuel prices.

Today, 97% of vehicles – essentially all vehicles made after 2001– can switch to E15 fuel. E15 is made from field corn, much of which is grown in Nebraska, the number two state for ethanol production. Making E15, a domestically grown and more affordable fuel option, available to drivers year-round is a way to combat market volatility, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and it is cleaner for the environment.

Two weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act*. The designation of “1” as a bill number is reserved for the Speaker of the House as a way to highlight priorities and signature legislation. The goals of H.R. 1 are twofold – to increase domestic energy production and permitting reform for domestic drilling. Energy is something we don’t often think about until something goes wrong.

With Americans being forced to



choose between buying groceries and paying our energy bills, it’s safe to say energy has been on Americans’ minds a great deal in the past year. While H.R. 1 is a top priority for the House GOP, with a Democrat majority in the Senate and a Democrat in the White House, both sides of the aisle must strike a compromise to make America more energy independent, lowering everyday costs for our citizens.

Ethanol is a good stopgap in this scenario, yet the government still regulates when this homegrown fuel can be sold. Until recently, the sale of E-15 was banned in the summertime due to emissions concerns, but recent studies have shown that the difference between E-10 (legal to be sold year-round) and E-15 are negligible. Even more, in a study, the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory confirmed that ethanol reduces carbon emissions by 44–52% compared to regular gasoline.

The administration moved to make

**Abandoning fossil fuels altogether is not a viable solution to today’s energy needs unless you want periods with no electricity and sky-high fuel prices.**

the sale of E-15 permanent, but due to bureaucratic delays, this will not go in effect until summer 2024. This ‘will-they or won’t-they’ for lifting the ban on summertime sales of E-15 is volatile for farmers and producers and has created a hodgepodge of regulations that vary state by state. The time is now to end this indecision and vacillation and close the deal now for year around E-15.

There is plenty of room for innovation in the biofuel industry – the distiller’s grain can be fed to cattle, and processes can be refined to reduce emissions. We have seen higher yields from corn as our agricultural technology improves but have spent so much time doubting E-15, while we purchase

oil from our adversaries. However, since 2005 when the Renewable Fuel Standard was put in place, the United States’ crude oil imports dropped approximately 50%.

One of the best ways to help defeat Putin’s aggression is to stop buying Russian oil and switch to American grown ethanol.

Americans should have access to E-15 year-round, and as demand grows, so will the availability.

*U.S. Representative Don Bacon, Nebraska Republican, serves on the House Agriculture Committee and Armed Services Committee. He represents the state’s Second Congressional District and served in the Air Force until 2014. During that time, he served 16 assignments including four deployments across the globe. His military decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, two Legion of Merits, five Meritorious Service Medals, and the Aerial Achievement Medal.*

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