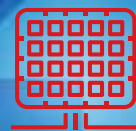


Energy & Environment

2021



The policies, the projects, the players, the impact

Energy & Environment 2021

The policies, the projects, the players, the impact

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Honest leadership, private sector innovation are key to an energy policy that benefits households and reduces emissions



By Governor Tate Reeves

After years, the debate on energy and climate is somehow lacking seriousness. If the White House and Congressional Democrats were being transparent about their intentions, they'd admit their climate policy agenda has two main goals: destroying the U.S. oil and gas industry and increasing government spending on favored projects, financed by higher energy costs on American households and businesses.

While the Democrats seek to incite panic, missing is the recognition of just how fundamental energy is to everything in the economy. Let's look at the facts. The U.S. is the world leader on energy not only in economic terms but also in environmental gains - for now at least. Why are we the leader in environmental gains? It's because the robust American economy innovates and finds new, cleaner solutions.

But that truth is too inconvenient for liberal Democrats in Washington. They use climate policy as a cover for their real intent - destroying the hydrocarbon industry and raising taxes to spend money on pet government projects.

The majority of Americans know that raising taxes on employers so that Congress can grow a government spending account is neither good public policy nor is it likely to go far toward solving problems.

To borrow a line from President Reagan, "Government is not the solution to our problem, government IS the problem." Real solutions are driven by the private sector through innovation, not through regulation and higher taxes. In the case of energy and climate change, serious policy solutions should be based

on the principles of what's best for the American economy and for emissions reductions. Problems are solved through public policy's ability to spur private investment and innovation.

One area in need of investment is carbon-free nuclear power. In the 1970s, power companies across the country built more than 100 nuclear reactors that have provided as much as 20% of our country's electric power. The effort was an enormous economic boon for the

sectors in the U.S. economy and a major competitive advantage for our country. The recently proposed, so-called Made in America Tax Plan, is actually pretty transparent in laying out President Biden's intention to destroy the oil and gas industry. Under Biden's plan, doing business in Iran would be easier than doing business in the U.S. Why would we want to go back to relying on the Middle East for our energy supply?

Thousands in my small state of Mis-

serious strategy - or an honest attempt to reduce emissions.

We need honesty out of Washington and that starts with admitting that domestic oil and clean-burning natural gas are permanent parts of our energy sector. Our objective is to make using and transporting energy a cleaner endeavor than it is today - not pretending this industry will or even could just go away. Our economy depends on it.

If it will make the Democrats feel bet-



In the case of energy and climate change, serious policy solutions should be based on the principles of what's best for the American economy and for emissions reductions. Problems are solved through public policy's ability to spur private investment and innovation.

country, and still employs many thousands in high-paying jobs. These plants have long lives but are nearing the end of their useful service.

If the Democrats were actually serious about emissions reductions, wouldn't you expect they'd be urgently working on the new generation of nuclear power plants to replace the old ones that are closing? They are not. Rather, their priority for energy is to tax oil and gas companies out of business and to balloon spending by doling out over \$300 billion to subsidize electric vehicles and build more wind and solar projects. While these technologies certainly have a place in the mix, relying on them exclusively is not a serious strategy.

Energy is one of the highest value

Mississippi work in the oil and gas industry. For the many young adults working in the business making \$70,000 or more per year for their families, simply telling them to go seek another job with similar wages is not feasible.

But tax increases on oil are not President Biden's only harmful decree. He has stopped construction on the Keystone Pipeline that would bring petroleum down the center of our country to the refineries on the Gulf Coast. He also has stopped offshore oil and gas exploration. Both of these moves will result in higher emissions. Products not transported by pipeline will be transported by trucks and trains instead. As we know, energy not produced in the U.S. is imported through big tankers travelling overseas. More emissions, not less. His is not a

ter to hear from someone on their side of the aisle, they should remember and ponder the words of Democratic strategist James Carville, "It's the economy, stupid." Biden's policies may be good for his liberal friends, but not so much for the environment or the economy.

..... Tate Reeves is the 65th Governor of Mississippi. In his State of the State address on Jan. 26, 2021, Gov. Reeves described Mississippi as "unconquerable," noting that its citizens continue marching forward though they've "been tested by every force of nature, disease, and human frailty." He touted that Mississippians have "improved our education, and we've shown the world that we're open for business." He is a husband and father to three daughters.

Natural gas is critical to our cleaner energy future



By U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if the Appalachian region were an independent country, it would be the third-largest natural gas producer in the world. Job creation and economic growth through the natural gas industry cannot be overstated. It's why I've pushed so hard to create a natural gas storage hub in West Virginia.

Sadly, natural gas growth faces tremendous headwinds over the next four years.

Despite calls for "unity," in some of his first actions President Biden managed to kill thousands of jobs and paralyze America's energy industry with executive orders. The Biden moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal lands is an economic, energy, and national security disaster rolled into one.

This order moves America from energy independence back to relying on foreign adversaries for energy—countries that have much laxer environmental standards. This action is indicative of the incoming climate agenda that will have drastic impacts on our nation's energy sector.

The forces against natural gas are growing. And they're against natural gas, nuclear, or any other energy source that's not blessed by the Green New Deal.

Ironically, Democrats are targeting natural gas production and use it as a primary target for additional legislation and regulation though increased natural gas production actually helped lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. oil and gas industry reduced emissions by nearly 2% between 1990 and 2018. A 24% reduction in methane emissions is impressive, but what is

more remarkable is that these reductions took place during a time when production increased by more than 70%.

By the way, a huge part of reducing those emissions was through the development of natural gas pipelines, which most environmentalists don't even want built!

On top of this, President Biden installed Gina McCarthy and John Kerry as his climate czars. Both are unaccountable to Congress and have made clear they're the ones in charge of the admin-

istration's ambitious climate agenda. Tell that to the Keystone XL pipeline workers.

Where are their clean energy jobs? Do they get a new clean energy job tomorrow? Next month? Next year?

Coal, natural gas, oil, solar, wind, nuclear, biomass: our country has been incredibly blessed with a variety of energy resources, and using all of them keeps America safe and running.

Natural gas, in particular, burns cleaner, moves safely and efficiently in our world-class national pipeline

network, and is an essential feedstock for several domestic supply chains like medical supplies, which are critical now more than ever during this pandemic.

Environmentalists fighting against natural gas can't see the forest for the trees. Eliminating natural gas from our energy mix will lead to higher utility costs and less reliability — just ask California.

Renewables can't power our country at 100% of the time, and battery technology can't fill the gaps. But, we can address climate change together through innovation and technology.

Sadly, President Biden's climate executive orders really alienated key players in the solution. That's not a way to build unity. That's picking winners and losers. That's pitting American jobs against each other. That's creating resentment.

This country has always risen to every challenge we've faced. This climate challenge is no different. Through American ingenuity, we will find solutions.



Coal, natural gas, oil, solar, wind, nuclear, biomass: our country has been incredibly blessed with a variety of energy resources, and using all of them keeps America safe and running.

istration's ambitious climate agenda.

By claiming every policy issue touches climate, McCarthy and Kerry have broad jurisdiction do their bidding. They've made no secret of their ultimate goal: banning fossil fuels. In fact, Kerry suggested folks should "Go work on solar panels."

I have great skepticism when I hear this administration talk about giving industry time to transition and giving workers clean energy jobs.

Environmentalists fighting against natural gas can't see the forest for the trees. Eliminating natural gas from our energy mix will lead to higher utility costs and less reliability — just ask California.

Renewables can't power our country at 100% of the time, and battery technology can't fill the gaps. But, we can

.....
Senator Shelley Moore Capito, West Virginia Republican, is the Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee and serves on the Appropriations Committee; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; and the Rules and Administration Committee. She is the first female elected in West Virginia to the U.S. Senate and with the largest margin of victory for a Republican in state history.

Innovation is the political sweet spot for climate solutions



By Rich Powell

When you hear that climate change is real, and industrial activity around the globe is the dominant contributor, you may assume a Democrat or environmental organization said it. But, today it's coming from leaders in the Republican party and most oil and gas companies.

Climate change is not partisan – the challenge it poses to society merits significant action at every level of government and the private sector. And solutions shouldn't be partisan either.

We must all think globally when approaching this challenge. Halting pipelines or moratoriums on oil and gas production in the U.S. in the name of climate change has little or no impact on domestic carbon dioxide emissions, let alone the rest of the world. The

reality is simply this: unless we limit, and reverse, the rapid growth of emissions in the developing world, which now accounts for the majority of emissions and future emissions growth, we will not solve this challenge.

Solutions to climate change must be technologically realistic, economically feasible, and politically sustainable. To reduce global emissions as quickly and cheaply as possible, better cost-effective clean technology is necessary so the developing world will consistently choose those tools — preferably made in America — over the higher-emitting options they are choosing today.

That's why we were so excited to see one of the biggest advancements in clean energy and climate policy in over a decade — the monumental Energy Act of 2020 — check all of those boxes.

Tucked away in the 5,000 page end-of-year omnibus back in December was a bipartisan, clean energy innovation roadmap.

The resulting technological innovation will provide options for both American and global energy systems to go clean and address the global climate challenge. It will lead to smarter, more targeted investments by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) focused on real-world outcomes that will reduce global emissions.

The Energy Act modernizes and refocuses DOE's research and development (R&D) programs on the most pressing technology challenges — scaling up clean energy technologies like advanced nuclear, long-duration energy storage, carbon capture, and enhanced geothermal. Crucially, across all of these technologies, DOE is empowered to launch the most aggressive commercial scale technology demonstration program in U.S. history — setting up more than 20 full commercial scale demonstrations by the mid-2020s.

It also sets ambitious goals for America to maintain global leadership and increases key clean energy program authorizations by an average of over 50% over the next five years.

For example, it re-gears the Office of Fossil Energy to focus on the carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says are critical to reaching net-zero goals. It authorizes a comprehensive carbon capture R&D program, including six, large, first-of-a-kind demonstrations for natural gas, coal, and industrial facilities. Additionally, it starts serious R&D on carbon removal technologies via creative X-prizes on removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

It reinvigorates advanced nuclear energy by formally authorizing the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program started during President Trump's administration. And, you can't run those reactors without advanced fuel — it also creates a temporary program to provide high-assay low-enriched uranium fuel.

The new law establishes a comprehensive grid scale storage demo program, effectively authorizing the Energy Storage Grand Challenge that Secretary Brouillette launched at DOE last year and that Secretary Granholm has committed to continuing — along with a joint initiative with the Department of Defense to develop long-duration storage technologies. If variable energy sources like wind and solar are going to bring more power to the grid, we will need to store the energy for use when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

It also includes provisions for advanced always-on renewables like geothermal energy, including programs to demonstrate technologies to enable geothermal anywhere. There are exciting opportunities to transfer technologies from the oil and gas industry and demonstrate the co-production of critical minerals with geothermal energy.

In addition to those key clean energy authorizations, the Energy Act includes a comprehensive crosscutting clean industrial technologies R&D program to lower the cost of cleaner chemicals, materials, and manufacturing. Add in the important tax credit extensions for technologies like carbon capture and offshore wind, and a phase out of greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons, and you have a huge climate bill.

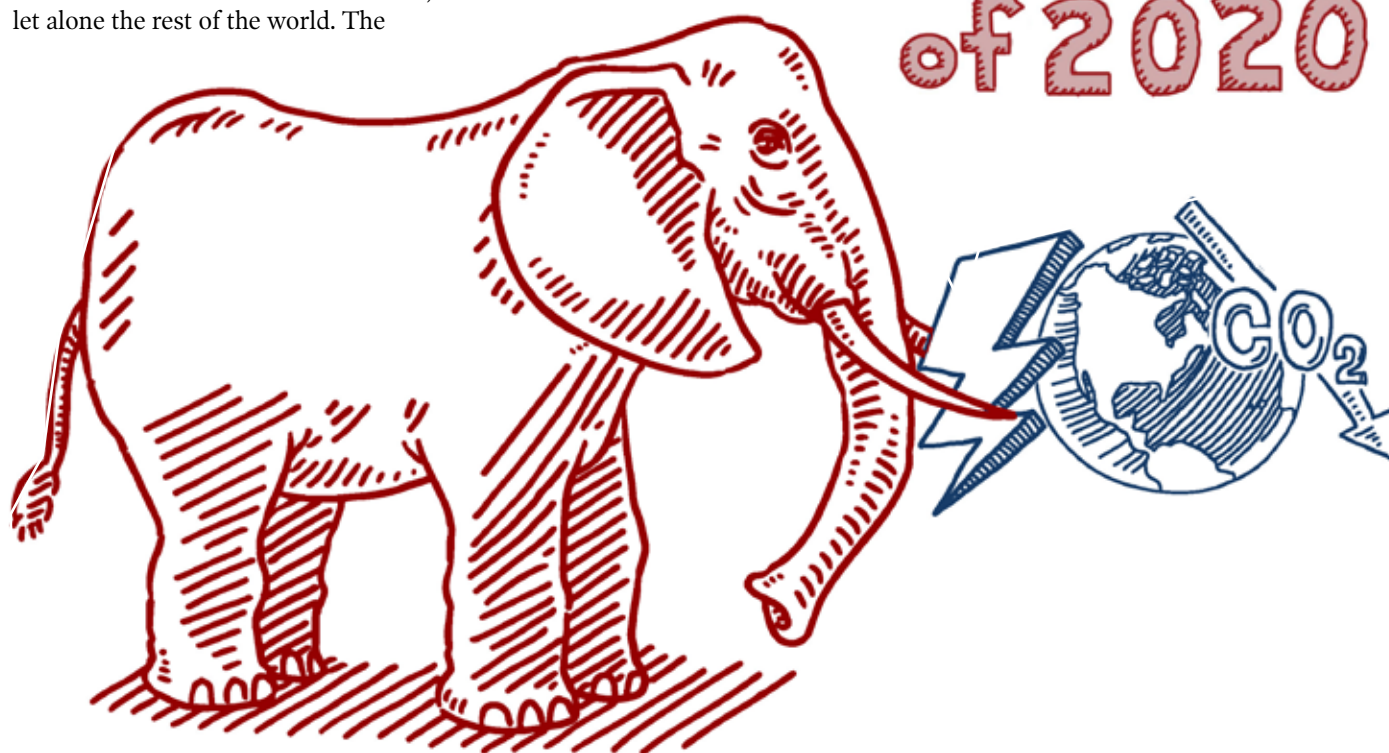
All of these provisions in the bill were led by, or cosponsored by, Republicans.

And, ahead of the White House's virtual Leaders Summit on Climate and the Administration's new carbon emissions reduction targets, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives offered a strong clean energy innovation agenda, showcasing their ideas to lower emissions, create jobs, and keep energy prices affordable.

If we are to truly tackle the global climate challenge, we will need some common ground and a dose of technological, economic, and political realism. Clean energy innovation just makes the most sense.

Rich Powell leads ClearPath, a DC-based non-profit that develops and advances policies that accelerate breakthrough innovations that reduce emissions in the energy and industrial sectors.

Energy Act of 2020



Natural gas infrastructure plays essential role in our low carbon energy future

Innovating today to meet our customers' energy needs tomorrow



By Donald "Blue" Jenkins

Many people take infrastructure for granted whether it be roads and bridges or energy delivery systems that power our lives. The experience for most consumers when it comes to energy infrastructure has largely remained unchanged—the outlets in our homes and offices look the same and we are using the same furnaces and stoves to warm our spaces and cook our food.

However, the energy fueling this equipment is undergoing a remarkable and vital transformation. Washington Gas and our fellow utility companies are innovating to leverage existing infrastructure that provides exceptional reliability, versatility and storage capability to meet the needs of the future. This work is core to our company's mission—to improve the quality of life within our communities by safely and reliably connecting customers to affordable sources of energy today and tomorrow.

As decisionmakers at every level of government look for sensible and responsible investments in infrastructure to meet climate and equity goals, it's critical to understand the role that natural gas distribution systems play in providing affordable, reliable, sustainable and resilient energy.

The reliability of natural gas is unmatched. Natural gas infrastructure is less vulnerable to interruption than other energy delivery systems, especially during the winter when heating can be a matter of not just comfort, but also health and safety.

Our country's natural gas infrastructure comes with "built-in" energy storage. Unlike electricity which cannot be easily stored without adding very expensive and short duration batteries,

As decisionmakers at every level of government look for sensible and responsible investments in infrastructure to meet climate and equity goals, it's critical to understand the role that natural gas distribution systems play in providing affordable, reliable, sustainable and resilient energy.

natural gas infrastructure can store energy for days, weeks, months, and years with on-demand delivery.

And the natural gas delivery network is reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. The EPA recently released its Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and reported that emissions from the nation's natural gas infrastructure continue to decline, now making up 1/10th of 1% of overall natural gas emissions.



Natural Gas infrastructure provides exceptional reliability, versatility and storage capability to meet the energy needs of the future.

Our systems are also remarkably versatile—able to deliver carbon neutral fuels including renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen. Generated from biomass, waste, or other renewable resources, RNG is a pipeline-ready, carbon neutral gas that is compatible with the existing natural gas system and equipment. Natural gas customers can realize significant emissions reductions with RNG without making costly equipment substitutions.

There also are many initiatives underway to advance hydrogen in our energy mix—taking advantage of technology to produce clean hydrogen from water and electricity that has been commercially available for more than 50 years. As

more sources of carbon-free electricity become available and enabling technology costs decline, the viability of using this energy as a means for generating green hydrogen is increasingly attractive.

Washington Gas has grown with and promoted the growth of our region over the last 172 years. Natural gas use has similarly fueled the nation's economy, while also contributing to the reduction of the nation's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Using natural gas in power

production is the single largest factor in power sector emissions reaching 27-year lows, while natural gas distribution companies, like Washington Gas, have reduced emissions associated with the delivery and use of their product by 73% since 1990. We are well-positioned to build on this success in the next chapter of our history, keeping our commitment to provide our customers with affordable, reliable, modern and, now, even more sustainable energy.

In 2011, Washington Gas was one of the first natural gas distribution companies to set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. After achieving these reductions ahead of schedule, we aligned our targets in 2016 with the Paris

Agreement. Part of our efforts center on ongoing accelerated pipeline replacement programs in each of our service territories. Continuously enhancing and modernizing our infrastructure not only increases safety and reliability, but also provides an added environmental benefit resulting in approximately 200,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions reductions over the life of these programs.

At the same time, we are doing more by collaborating with our customers, suppliers, the public and our regulators to reduce emissions while ensuring affordability, reliability and resiliency.

Washington Gas is in a unique position to help our 1.2 million customers to be part of the low-carbon energy future. In 2020, we submitted a comprehensive, science-based Climate Business Plan in the District of Columbia, outlining a roadmap for the company to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with natural gas use in the District 50% by 2032, and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 to help the District meet its climate goals.

Our Climate Business Plan focuses on energy savings, transitioning to a broader mix of energy including carbon neutral fuels like RNG and hydrogen, and modernizing our infrastructure. The Environmental Defense Fund hailed the Plan in a New York State regulatory filing, noting that "this broad, system-wide thinking is critical to maximize emissions reductions." In addition, the consulting firm ICF determined that the Plan saves an estimated \$2.7 billion compared to approaches to decarbonization that rely solely on electrification.

Climate action is urgent. Our country must pursue innovative solutions across many sectors, such as energy, transportation, agriculture among others. Given the inter-connected nature of these parts of our economy, climate action must be pursued thoughtfully with optionality and without losing sight of affordability, reliability, and resilience our infrastructure provides. The need for integrated, multi-sector planning that maximizes the use ready-now infrastructure has never been greater and can propel us into the lower carbon energy ecosystem of tomorrow.

.....
Donald "Blue" Jenkins is the President of Washington Gas, a company that has been providing energy to residential, commercial, and industrial customers for more than 170 years. Washington Gas provides safe, reliable natural gas service to more than 1.2 million customers in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.



AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, MODERN ENERGY

For more than 172 years, Washington Gas has delivered essential natural gas service to the region. Now, we have an innovative plan that provides affordable, reliable energy while helping the District of Columbia achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Washington Gas Climate Business Plan Provides Path to Low Carbon Future

The plan provides a sensible pathway to carbon neutrality that saves money and maximizes reliability for customers by:

- 1 Adding low-emissions and zero emissions fuels like biogas and hydrogen to the system
- 2 Investing in our infrastructure – tightening and enhancing the system to maximize fuel delivered to customers
- 3 Saving energy – high efficiency appliances, dual fuel and ‘smart’ technologies



For more information on the Washington Gas Climate Business Plan, visit www.WashingtonGasCBP.Com

No need to raise taxes to fund infrastructure and protect the environment



By U.S. Sen. Rick Scott

Democrats in Washington have a big problem when it comes to explaining their policies. Over the years, they have come to rely on a false equivalence between massive spending, higher taxes, and progress. The latest example of this came just a few weeks ago as President Biden rolled out his massive \$2.5 trillion so-called “infrastructure” plan funded by, you guessed it, \$2 trillion in tax increases. That’s Democrat politics in a nutshell. Their answer to every problem is higher taxes, bigger government bureaucracies, and endless deficit spending. It doesn’t work and it’s going to kill the American dream.

We’ve seen this before. Biden’s “COVID” spending package, branded as the American Recovery Plan Act, wasn’t actually about COVID-19. The bill dedicated less than 10% of its massive \$1.9 trillion price tag to fighting COVID-19 and just 1% to vaccines. Democrats also snuck a tax increase on gig workers in that package, breaking their promise to not raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000.

The same is true for Biden’s new “infrastructure” plan. Of the more than \$2 trillion he’s asking for, just \$157 billion, less than 8%, would go toward traditional infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, highways, air and seaports, and waterways. The other 92% simply funds liberal wish list priorities sloppily banded together as “infrastructure” initiatives. It’s a joke.

Let’s remember: Our nation is hurtling toward \$30 trillion in debt thanks to Congress’ inability to exercise self-control. With interest rates around 1.7%, that means that one out of every seven dollars the federal government collects in tax revenue goes to pay interest on the national debt. American taxpayers are getting absolutely

zero return on 14% of their tax dollars. Imagine if a business were run that way – it would never last.

To avoid a fiscal calamity, it would be logical for President Biden and the Democrats to take a pragmatic approach to the issues facing our nation, practice some fiscal discipline and do only what is absolutely necessary. Of course, that wouldn’t satisfy their radical left base. For Democrats, it’s an all or nothing

infrastructure has broad bipartisan support. Republicans and Democrats alike share a desire to bring America’s roads, bridges, seaports, and airports back to being the best in the world and use these innovations to address the growing threats posed by climate change.

As Governor of Florida, I oversaw the investment of \$85 billion in critical and innovative infrastructure projects. The difference in what we did

playbook worked in the Sunshine State and it will work for America.

It’s time for Democrats to acknowledge some basic truths: Tax increases don’t create jobs, provide sustainable government revenue, or solve problems. If we want to finally get something done on infrastructure in Washington, we need to focus on growing the economy and making the hard choices to provide targeted funding to projects that create



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game. They don’t care about the impact government’s binge spending will have on our children and grandchildren, and they aren’t even pretending to work in a bipartisan fashion.

That’s exactly what we’ve seen in the first two major acts of Biden’s presidency. The man who ran a campaign rooted in pledges to unify America immediately cowered to the demands of the woke mob and his party’s tax and spend radicals in Congress. The Democrats believe we can just tax and regulate our way out of every problem, and it’s insanity.

It doesn’t have to be this way. Like COVID relief, increasing investments in

in Florida and what Biden wants? We funded roads, bridges, and ports and never raised taxes once to do it. That’s because we focused on cutting taxes and eliminating burdensome regulations and fought every day to create an environment where the private sector could succeed. We invested in real infrastructure to create real jobs. By doing this, we allowed the private sector to do what it does best – innovate and grow. As a result, our economy boomed and it resulted in the state having the funds to invest in what matters to taxpayers, like improving education, protecting the environment, and funding infrastructure improvements. This

jobs and provide a return on investment for American taxpayers.

My advice to Biden and Democrats in Washington is simple. Ditch this insane tax and spend agenda and follow Florida’s proven playbook for economic success.

.....
Senator Rick Scott, Florida Republican, serves on the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee, Budget Committee, Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee, Armed Services Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging. He also served two terms as Florida’s Governor and ran the world’s largest healthcare company while in the private sector.

Shuttering the U.S. energy renaissance will hit American families' finances



By U.S. Sen. John Boozman

Pocketbook issues are what families in Arkansas and across the U.S. spend their time thinking about, planning around and hoping for minimal, manageable fluctuations that don't significantly impact their bottom lines.

One way their wallets and bank accounts get squeezed to the point of genuine hardship and frustration is when energy prices rise above what they have budgeted for. When costs at the pump or to heat and light homes increase, it has real-world consequences. Suddenly, moms and dads, grandparents and other caregivers start having to make tough choices in order to keep paying bills and afford life's basic necessities.

In recent years, the energy renaissance we've experienced as a nation helped usher in lower prices as well as reduced carbon dioxide emissions. But now it is under threat.

Policies like canceling the Keystone XL pipeline and pausing new oil and gas drilling on federal lands make little sense to Arkansans. And what's worse, the consequences are already being felt in my state.

When the news about halting Keystone XL reverberated through the country and into Arkansas, one Little Rock business, Welspun Tubular, took an immediate hit. Based at an industrial site located within an intermodal port along the Arkansas River, the company was set to produce more than one million feet of 36-inch pipe for the project. The company employs 600 workers and added 50 to its facility to help fulfill that contract. The demise of the project has created many questions and few answers.

Arkansas pipefitters and welders are also suffering as a result of this move. Members of a local pipeline union have already been laid off and 200 more lost an employment opportunity when the

project was canceled. Making matters worse, the justification for scrapping Keystone XL was partly under the guise of environmental concerns despite the fact that moving the oil extracted from Canada using other modes of transportation will produce more carbon emissions than transporting it through the pipeline.

In the Natural State, we of course

Arkansas is blessed with a wonderful landscape and incredible natural resources. We are proud of this legacy and seek to maintain it. At the same time, we also want to harness the energy sources at our disposal to grow our economy and help make life easier and more affordable for working families. We've already begun that work.

sustainable energy production that can transform the way we live and work. In Arkansas, that advancement is coming through a balanced, commonsense approach rather than drastic moves to eliminate economical, traditional energy sources and cost jobs, or letting the federal government dictate how and where we generate power.



Solar energy production is one such example. One Arkansas community has generated enough solar power to create enough savings to provide teachers in the school district as much as \$15,000 raises – a clear win-win.

want to balance our energy needs with environmental preservation concerns and strike an appropriate balance that protects and conserves natural resources while also providing the economic opportunities that drive our state forward and don't harm the finances of hard-working families.

That's why I support an all-of-the-above approach to secure American energy independence including wind, solar and nuclear. This must be a cornerstone for creating cleaner and more sustainable energy production.

Solar energy production is one such example. One Arkansas community has generated enough solar power to create enough savings to provide teachers in the school district as much as \$15,000 raises – a clear win-win. A rice producing mill in another part of the state has recently announced an investment in solar panels that is expected to build the state's largest commercial solar power and battery storage system, with savings projected to exceed \$100 million over the next 30 years.

We are making progress on reaching

These lessons all ultimately come back to the pocketbooks of families and businesses in the Natural State. I encourage national policymakers to take note of the example we have provided.

.....
Senator John Boozman, Arkansas Republican, serves as Ranking Member on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. He also serves on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Our commitment to a clean, resilient energy future



By Karen Harbert

As we celebrate Earth Day, the American Gas Association's commitment on behalf of America's natural gas utilities to be part of the solution to the complex challenge of climate change has never been stronger. New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data illustrates the progress we have made in the past three decades, and we know we will achieve more by working together with other sectors of the energy industry and through partnerships with farmers, small businesses, and community advocates. Our industry has proven that we can help lower emissions while simultaneously providing Americans with the reliable, affordable energy they need.

We know we can deliver successful clean energy solutions that will make for a stronger economy and a healthier environment while still protecting the pocketbooks of all our customers. These ideal outcomes take an all-hands-on-deck approach and the natural gas industry is proud to continue to play a leadership role in developing solutions.

The expanded role of natural gas in America's energy mix is the single largest factor in power sector emissions reductions reaching 27-year lows. It's also allowing households using natural gas to fuel their appliances to save an average of \$879 per year compared to homes using only electricity. As we continue on the path to economic recovery, every dollar helps.

One of the most effective means to reduce emissions is through energy efficiency and our industry is doing its part. Natural gas utilities invest \$3.9 million daily in efficiency programs in the U.S. and Canada. These investments help customers reduce their carbon footprints, offsetting more than 13.5 million metric tons of carbon

dioxide emissions from 2012 to 2018 – the equivalent of removing 2.9 million cars off the road for a year.

Investments like these are bearing fruit. Just last week, the EPA released its Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, which shows that annual emissions from the natural gas distribution system declined 69% from 1990 to 2019, as natural gas utility companies added more than 788,000 miles of pipeline to serve 21 million more customers. Distribution systems owned and operated by local natural gas utilities emit only 0.08% of produced natural gas.

captured from farms, landfills, and wastewater treatment plants. In addition to helping these industries reduce their own environmental impact, RNG is a usable energy that we are integrating into our existing pipeline infrastructure and delivering to customers.

A recent assessment shows RNG has the potential to play a substantial role in lowering emissions from natural gas (as much as 95% in the residential sector) with costs that are competitive with other emissions reduction pathways. Extended research and investment into RNG will enable it to flow from production points to

joint effort with electric utilities, pipelines, and producers, we have created industry-wide environmental, social, governance (ESG) reporting metrics. Natural gas utilities remain an excellent choice for investors and we will provide the data and metrics they need to show our commitment to progress on all ESG fronts.

Through our commitment to a cleaner energy future, we also have not lost sight of our responsibility to meet the energy needs of our customers no matter the weather or circumstances. A recent study by the American Gas Foundation emphasizes how the increasing frequency and intensity of events that stress our energy system underlines the need for us to consider what makes an energy system resilient and reliable – and natural gas is a key part of that mix.

This winter presented a challenging mix of extreme weather and a pandemic, stressing our energy system. U.S. natural gas consumption set a two-day record from February 14 and 15 of this year. Natural gas utility companies were able to use their investments in infrastructure, operations, and planning to meet this record demand and provide safe and reliable energy with few interruptions.

Because of the critical role of natural gas in our energy mix and the utility employees who work 24/7/365 to keep systems functioning, communities can be confident that the energy needs of both homes and businesses will be met. We are always here, fueling our communities and delivering on our promise to customers.

Delivering affordable, reliable energy does not have to be at odds with clean energy goals. On Earth Day and every day of the year, progress on lowering emissions shouldn't be uncoupled from affordable, reliable energy. Our industry is committed to the cleaner energy future we all are striving for and will continue to work every day to help ensure Americans have the energy they want and need while achieving our environmental goals.

Karen Harbert is the President and CEO of the American Gas Association, representing companies that deliver natural gas safely, reliably, and in an environmentally responsible way to help improve the quality of life for their customers every day. AGA's mission is to provide clear value to its membership and serve as the indispensable, leading voice and facilitator on its behalf in promoting the safe, reliable, and efficient delivery of natural gas to homes and businesses across the nation.



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These are good developments that should be celebrated, but more can and should be done. Our mission to deliver cleaner energy involves both more innovation and greater transparency. We are reimagining our industry for the future by innovating today.

One area of significant potential is through greater deployment of high-value sources of energy like renewable natural gas and hydrogen. Renewable natural gas (RNG) is a carbon-neutral energy produced from methane

customers all over America through already existing infrastructure, minimizing costs for consumers and the need to build expensive new systems. Our 2.6 million miles of pipelines can also be used to deliver hydrogen and other energy sources of the future.

We are also committed to transparency and ensuring clear information is available related to emissions for regulators, customers, investors, and other stakeholders. Through the Natural Gas Sustainability Initiative, a



Our commitment to a cleaner, more resilient energy future.

As we celebrate Earth Day, the American Gas Association's commitment on behalf of America's natural gas utilities to be part of the solution to our nation's energy challenges has never been stronger. Learn how we are reimagining our industry for the future by visiting playbook.aga.org.

Agriculture should be in the driver's seat on carbon policy



By U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall, M.D.

Farmers and ranchers are the original conservationist and generational farming is on the forefront of every producer's mind. For nearly every year over the past 50 years, farmers have steadily produced more food and fiber on fewer acres with less water and less nutrient inputs. Fathers and mothers want to leave the land better than when they found it, for their sons and daughters. This topic isn't new – in Kansas we've been discussing soil health and conservation since the dustbowl. I remember my grandparents building terraces which helps shed water more efficiently to prevent soil erosion. Of course, the new administration once again wants to regulate the water coming off those terraces.

The main theme of the current administration continues to be climate change. Ignorance of modern farming technology threatens to challenge modern farming's great track record. Early adoption of innovative technology has long made the U.S. a superpower in feeding the world. Consumers across the world want access to our high quality, nutritious, and extremely safe food that was produced with the most advanced agricultural technology in the world.

Agriculture is one of, if not, the only industry that can naturally sequester carbon. And we convert it into high quality food and protein. I see too many companies and regulators trying a top-down approach. They want to make carbon markets that work for businesses at the end of the value chain rather than asking producers what is best for the land they touch every day. It appears they are building these programs with the assumption that agriculture is part of the problem. However, such assumption couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, everyone in agriculture

understands we have been and will continue to be the solution, not the problem. Agriculture should really be in the driver's seat on carbon policy.

The main concept that ignores modern agriculture's success in conserving resources is the concept of requiring "additionality." Additionality is big business's idea of only tying value to sequestering "new carbon" through the adoption of practices new to the individual farm. They don't care if a farmer

thus stores more carbon in soil. Grazing crop residue and cover crops, a common practice, let farmers have their cake with livestock eating it too. Grass waterways and woody windbreaks prevent soil erosion while up taking carbon and are age old practices. All these practices have been used by farmers in different areas of Kansas for decades or longer.

Every acre of grass and every acre of crops, whether it is corn, beans, milo, cotton, wheat or sunflowers, remove

thoroughly vetted by the average agricultural producer – a producer that was reducing his/her carbon footprint since before it was cool all while feeding exponentially more people. Let's not get the cart before the horse on an important subject to consumers of food. We have limited resources to feed, clothe, fuel, and house people. Anything that is proposed must, first and foremost, continue to encourage the efficient and abundant production of such. We



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currently sequesters a half-ton of carbon per acre, they only care if a farmer can sequester more. Additionality as the measurement of value is intellectually dishonest. Value should be assigned to the TOTAL amount of carbon reduced, mitigated, or sequestered each year, rather than merely the "new carbon." Additionality could be a requirement of participation to get even more carbon sequestration, but the dollar value should be calculated in a way that doesn't punish early adopters of efficient farming technology.

We've been no-till farming on my family's ground for decades. Precision agriculture in Kansas is over 20 years old. For 8,000 years, farmers have used manure as fertilizer, which builds soil organic matter

carbon from the atmosphere to grow. In fact, U.S. agriculture, land use and forestry are a net sink for emissions, according to the Farmers for a Sustainable Future coalition, comprised of over 20 agriculture groups representing the major commodities grown in the United States as well as American Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union. As of 2019, United States cattle producers have already avoided 2.3 gigatons of carbon emissions since 1975. That's equivalent to 1.9 billion cars driven in one year and very different than you would be led to believe by folks errantly blaming climate change on cow flatulence (cows belch more than fart).

Additionality is only one of many top-down concepts that haven't been

must also ensure we can adequately and honestly measure all the good work farmers are currently doing. Above all else, real farmers must have a seat at the table because after all, they are the original environmentalist.

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Senator Roger Marshall, M.D., Kansas Republican, serves on the Energy and Natural Resources; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committees. He is the 5th generation farm kid growing up in Butler County and received his Medical Doctorate from the University of Kansas. Dr. Marshall served in the Army Reserves for seven years and practiced medicine in Great Bend for more than 25 years.

Iowa leading the way in investment, increased production, energy independence



By U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst

No matter what state you're from, we can all agree that keeping our air and water clean is essential. But heavy-handed and misguided Washington, D.C., mandates, like the Green New Deal, that will crush our economy, are the wrong path to achieving that. Instead, we need an all-of-the above approach, one that increases domestic production, expands the use of our renewable sources, and promotes energy independence and efficiency by utilizing innovation and public-private partnerships. And America needs to look no further than the great state of Iowa to see the blueprint for that successful, market-driven approach—from biofuel to solar, and from wind to hydropower.

Iowa is the nation's leading producer of ethanol and biodiesel. In addition, over 40% of our power comes from wind energy sources, and just two years ago we had the highest wind power share of any state. In recent years, we've also grown our solar and hydroelectric power capabilities. And this has largely been done through incentives and community engagement – not top-down, D.C.-driven mandates.

Let's start with solar. In 2018, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) announced Clēnera, LLC would develop the largest solar project in the state, and one of the largest in the Midwest, near Wapello, Iowa. CIPCO agreed to purchase all of the Wapello Solar facility's output over the course of a 25-year contract. Last August, I visited the Wapello facility to see its ongoing efforts to develop the project. And just three weeks ago, I joined the grand opening of this solar facility. Not only will this project help deliver clean and affordable energy to tens of thousands of Iowans, but it will also create good-paying jobs.

As I mentioned, nearly half of our state's electricity comes from wind. On my 99 County Tour, I recently visited Iowa Lakes Community College and toured its Sustainable Energy Resources Technology program. The reality is, the backbone of our wind industry is the workforce that powers it. That's why I'm continuing to push solutions at the federal level to support programs, like the one at Iowa Lakes, to train the next generation of our wind energy workforce. To that end, I've partnered with Senator Angus King (I-Maine) on the Wind Workforce Modernization and Training Act which would help incentivize

Project on the Des Moines River. This facility is yet another great example of Iowa actively working with partners, like the Army Corps of Engineers, to find creative ways to invest in reliable energy sources, all while creating jobs and boosting our local economies.

Finally, when it comes to biofuel, Iowa is unmatched. Over 50% of Iowa-grown corn goes directly to ethanol production, and almost 40% of it is used for the actual ethanol fuel. I've been relentless in fighting for our biofuel community—whether that's securing E15 year-round, pushing back on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)

when making policy.

Any energy policy, whether at the federal or state level, must keep in mind American families, workers, and businesses and their ability to be successful, compete globally, and create jobs. As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I will continue to work tirelessly to promote Iowa's leadership in renewable energy and find common sense solutions to provide cleaner, more affordable energy sources and create quality jobs for folks all across this country.

We can protect our environment, drive sustainable energy production, and



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and promote the development of wind power and wind jobs in Iowa and across the nation. At the end of last year, I successfully pushed to get the training grant component of the bill signed into law. While the new law will go a long way, there's still more work to be done, and I'm committed to making sure our wind energy sector has the skilled workforce it needs to keep powering our state.

In Iowa, we're also utilizing and investing in hydropower. At another 99 County Tour stop a few weeks ago, I visited the Red Rock Hydroelectric

harmful small refinery exemptions, or working to expand the infrastructure for higher blends of biofuel. Both ethanol and biodiesel are not only good for our agriculture economy, they're better for the environment. A recent report found that greenhouse gas emissions from corn ethanol are 46% lower than gasoline. That's why I'm working across the aisle to push the Biden Administration's EPA and Department of Agriculture (USDA) to update their greenhouse gas modeling for ethanol and biodiesel and to recognize biofuel's environmental benefits

power our economy all without heavy-handed and harmful mandates from Washington. And my home state of Iowa is leading the way.

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Senator Joni Ernst, Iowa Republican, serves on four committees of major importance to Iowans: Armed Services; Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Environment and Public Works; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Following 23 years of military service, she was elected in 2014 as the first female combat veteran elected to serve in the U.S. Senate.



There is no climate emergency

We love CO₂ and so should you



By Gregory Wrightstone

The science and data strongly support that our planet's ecosystems are thriving and that humanity is benefiting from modestly increasing temperature and an increase in carbon dioxide. These facts refute the claim that Earth is spiraling into one man-made climate catastrophe after another.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is portrayed as a demon molecule fueling run-away greenhouse warming. If you get your news only from mainstream media, you would likely believe that CO₂ levels are dangerously high and unprecedented. You would be wrong. Concentrations of this gas are slightly less than 420 parts-per-million (ppm), or one-sixth the average historic levels of 2,600 ppm for the last 600 million years.

Increases in carbon dioxide in the last 150 years, largely from the burning of fossil fuels, have reversed a dangerous downward trend in the gas'

concentration. During the last glacial period, concentrations nearly reached the "line of death" at 150 parts per million, below which plants die. Viewed in the long-term geologic context, we are actually CO₂ impoverished.

The most recent claim from the purveyors of climate catastrophe is that recent temperature increases are "unusual and unprecedented." However, records indicate that modern warming began more than 300 years ago in the depths of the horrific Little Ice Age. The first 250 years of that warming preceded 20th century CO₂ increases and were necessarily 100% naturally driven.

Context is important when reviewing climate and temperature data. Assertions

depopulation. History advises us to welcome warmth and fear cold.

Modestly warming temperature and increasing carbon dioxide lead to longer growing seasons and more productive harvests. The world's remarkable ability to increase food production year after year is attributable to mechanization, agricultural innovation, CO₂ fertilization, and warmer weather. Crop and food production has seen only positive effects from relatively small changes in the global climate.

Contrary to sensational media reports, extreme weather-related deaths in the U.S. have decreased more than 98% over the last 100 years. Twenty times as many people die from cold as from heat,

increasing food production, soil moisture, crop growth, and a "greening" of the Earth. All the while droughts, forest fires, heat waves, and temperature-related deaths have declined substantially. Only the radical worldview of environmental extremists could ignore the benefits of atmospheric changes while embracing harmful economic policies based on failed climate models.

Yes, there is such a thing as the greenhouse effect. Yes, there has been some warming, but it has been minuscule compared to the temperature change all of us experience in the course of a day. Some part of this warming may well have been human-caused. These are matters of widespread agreement. What changes the future holds are hardly certain, but judging from the past, they too will be small.

But no, past and possible future warming does not mean that catastrophe will follow, or that measures to prevent global warming are scientifically and economically justified, or that the American values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness should be blamed for the supposed "crisis"—still less that they should be destroyed because of highly questionable science.

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Gregory Wrightstone is the Executive Director of the CO₂ Coalition which seeks to engage in an informed, dispassionate discussion of climate change and humans' role in the climate system. The CO₂ Coalition educates thought leaders, policy makers, and the public about the important contributions of carbon dioxide to our lives and the economy.

Only the radical worldview of environmental extremists could ignore the benefits of atmospheric changes while embracing harmful economic policies based on failed climate models.

that the last month or year or decade were the "hottest on record" can be true only if your "record" is limited to 150 years or so.

Longer-term data reveal multiple warming periods since the end of the last major ice age 10,000 years ago, each warmer than today. There is a strong correlation between the rise and fall of temperature and the ebb and flow of civilizations. During the last three warm periods dating back 6,000 years to the advent of the first great civilizations, humanity prospered and great empires arose. Intervening cold periods brought crop failure, famine, and mass

according to a worldwide review of 74 million temperature-related deaths by Dr. Antonio Gasparrini and a team of physicians. Global warming saves lives.

On nearly every key topic, evidence presented in voluminous peer-reviewed studies shows that the "consensus" opinion promoted by climate-apocalypse alarmists is consistently at odds with reality. Rather than a world declining into an inescapable man-made climate hell, Earth's ecosystems and inhabitants are thriving because of increasing CO₂ and rising temperatures not in spite of them.

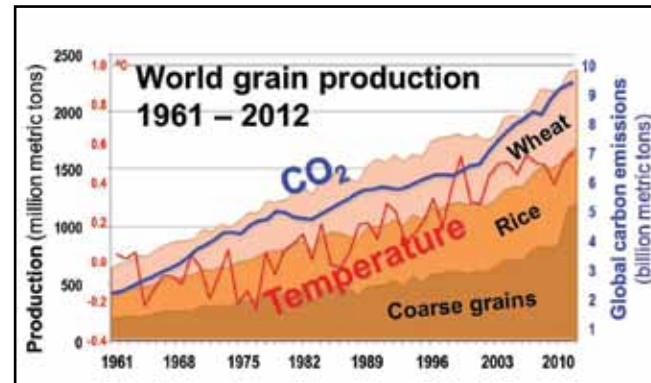
During this period of increasing CO₂ and slight warming, we have seen

There is NO climate CRISIS

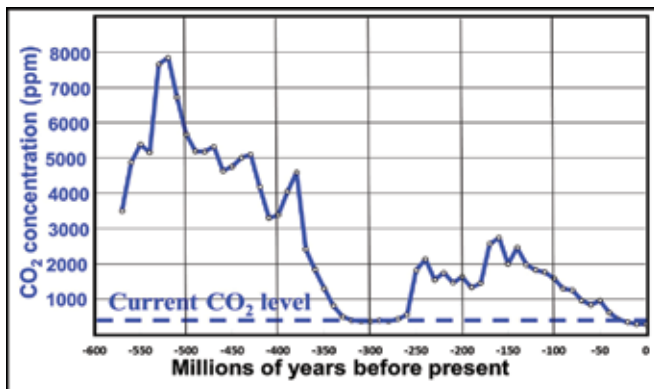
Some facts you may not know



More CO₂ is “greening” the Earth



Food production is increasing



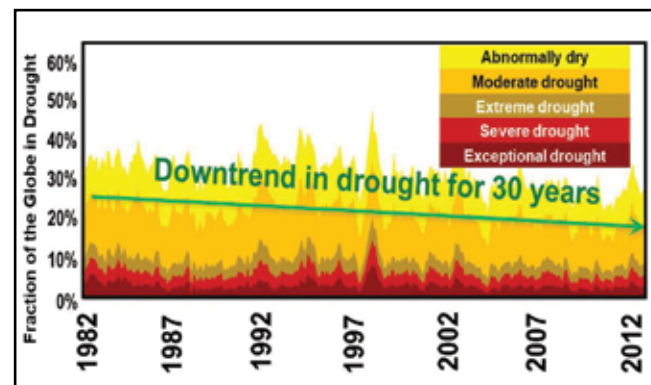
CO₂ is at historically low levels



Extreme weather is not increasing



Cold temperatures kill 20 times as many as heat – global warming saves lives



Droughts are declining

Carbon Dioxide is essential for life.

Learn more facts about the vital role CO₂ plays in our environment.



CO₂ COALITION

<https://co2coalition.org>

Our communities are counting on bipartisan work, not a war of words



By U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio

Despite hysterical claims by the far left about the “imminent” end of the world, Floridians understand the importance of serious-minded environmental stewardship and climate preparedness.

The Sunshine State faces these challenges daily. Every Floridian knows that natural infrastructure like mangrove forests, wetlands, sand dunes, and coral reefs provide critical resilience against extreme weather events when compared to man-made infrastructure. That is why restoring these ecosystems and defending our state’s natural resources are among my top priorities in the U.S. Senate.

Water, and the aquatic habitats it sustains, is the beating heart of Florida’s culture and economy. For this reason, I have consistently worked to secure funding and authorizations for ecosystem restoration projects like Everglades restoration and repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike. These projects help to improve natural water flows that benefit mangrove forests and wetlands, as well as reduce the impacts of harmful algal blooms on our waterways, estuaries, and coral reefs, improving coastal resilience and environmental quality across the state.

Finding ways to mend Florida’s ailing coral reef tract, the third largest barrier reef in the world, is also vital. A recently published report by the U.S. Geological Survey sheds light on how crucial these reefs are to coastal resilience, estimating that American coral reefs provide hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of coastal flood mitigation benefits annually and safeguard the lives of more than 18,000 Americans from storm surge and coastal flooding events.

When it comes to restoring our corals, there’s still much work to be done. Because of deadly new diseases and environmental stressors, live corals only

cover about 3% of the Florida Reef Tract, compared to historical estimates of 30 to 40%. It’s why I’ve reintroduced the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act, which would reauthorize the now-expired Coral Reef Conservation Act and implement reforms to heal and grow our reefs.

Gaining a comprehensive perspective on Florida’s climate resilience against sea level rise and storm surge is also important. To that end, in 2016 I championed the authorization of the U.S. Army

apocalyptic predictions about the world ending in 12 years understandably cause Americans to tune out.

Additionally, many of Democrats’ favorite climate policies would be a boon for their corporate donors, but death knell for small businesses and start-ups. Carbon tax proposals, for example, enjoy the support of many large corporations that can afford it, but would risk squeezing out many small business competitors.

By undermining natural gas production, President Biden is blatantly contradicting his goal of reducing carbon emissions and ignoring basic science to placate his most radical supporters.

Strengthening our environment need not be a partisan issue. That’s why I’ve worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to advance commonsense proposals in Congress and serve as a member of the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. Advancing realistic leg-



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Corps of Engineers’ South Atlantic Coastal Study. The study is ongoing, and the report to Congress is expected soon. Similarly, I’ve requested a restudy of the Central and Southern Florida project for flood control, which hasn’t been reassessed in over 70 years -- meaning the current flood control strategy fails to take new Everglades projects, sea level rise, and changing weather patterns into account. Further, as Congress deliberates over infrastructure legislation, I continue to advocate that states should be able to use existing infrastructure program monies, such as the National Highway Performance Program, for resilience improvements.

However, as discussions over climate continue, it is critical for policymakers to focus on realistic solutions. Green New Deal-style catastrophism and

America needs policies that make us more competitive, not less. President Biden’s infrastructure plan calls for extensive solar development but lacks sufficient provisions to make sure it doesn’t simply end up a giveaway to China, which, with government subsidies and forced labor from Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities, produces the bulk of the world’s solar panel components. This is unacceptable.

Likewise, it makes zero sense to pursue policies that run counter to established science. The Biden Administration has waged war on American natural gas production in the name of climate action. However, carbon emissions from fossil fuel combustion actually decreased by over 12 percent between 2005 and 2019, thanks in large part to the shale revolution and increased natural gas usage.

islation to make our communities more resilient -- while preventing America from falling prey to predatory corporate and left-wing climate catastrophism -- is hard work, but within our reach. Delivering clean land, air, and water for future generations of Americans is a priority too important to squander.

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Senator Marco Rubio, Florida Republican, is the Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence and Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women’s Issues. He also serves on the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Special Committee on Aging, and the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.



Shortsighted energy policies gamble Louisianans' livelihoods, environment



By U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy

For an Administration hell-bent on unilaterally dictating energy policy in the name of climate change, the President's actions work against his so-called purpose.

President Biden's executive orders ending the Keystone XL pipeline and pursuing a moratorium of oil and gas production on federal lands and waters are counterproductive. It was an Obama Administration's State Department report that pointed out the Keystone XL pipeline would actually lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

During her confirmation hearing, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland confirmed a moratorium on federal oil and gas leasing will not reduce

global production nor consumption. She conceded that these emissions are being exported to a dirtier country subjecting everyone to higher global greenhouse gas emissions while killing good paying energy jobs.

It doesn't end there.

The Biden Department of the Interior (DOI) is also spreading misinformation to support their narrative. In a March press release they wrote, "Fossil fuel extraction on public lands accounts for nearly a quarter of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions" to justify their review of the Federal oil and gas program. When, in reality, an accurate reading of U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data – an agency of DOI – shows carbon dioxide emissions from oil and gas extraction itself on federal lands account for just 0.43% of the total emissions associated with federal lands.

This Administration resorts to misleading the country on the science because the policies are bad for the environment and puts a target on the hardworking men and women in Louisiana. Offshore oil and gas production supports countless jobs and communities throughout the Gulf Coast. This provides critical revenue for the local, state, and federal government. It also funds conservation projects across the U.S. In Louisiana, our constitution dedicates revenues from offshore energy production to pay for environmental projects that preserve and restore its eroding coastline.

Real solutions should be more important than convenient talking points. Oil and gas will still be produced for all the fuel, plastics, and lubricants required in a modern economy. Independent forecasts continue to show oil and natural gas will provide about half of the global energy mix for decades to come.

If not produced here, they will be produced elsewhere, creating jobs in those countries—not the U.S. It is also likely to create more global greenhouse gas emissions as Russia, Iran and Nigeria's environmental standards are used instead of ours.

There are concepts we can all agree on: the need for reliable energy, the goal of lowering emissions, and sustaining our energy independence. This happens via development of our natural resources, not keeping it in the ground and transitioning fully to renewables.

Since 2005, the United States has lowered its annual emissions, thanks to increased use of cleaner-burning natural gas. This is in despite population growth of 35 million and \$4 trillion more in annual GDP. In some way this larger economy can be attributed to cheap American natural gas, in that companies build and create jobs here under our environmental standards and not in China, for example, where environmental regulations are not enforced.

This is why the Biden Administration's actions on energy production are concerning. They are incentivizing the movement of manufacturing to other

countries like China. China consumes half of the world's coal and is building new coal-fired facilities. Eliminating our country's emissions will do nothing if they are replaced by another country benefiting off of our lost jobs and damaged economy.

We will make a larger dent in global greenhouse gas emissions by keeping production in the U.S. and working with American companies to develop infrastructure in these countries to replace their high polluting energy sources with cleaner-burning, American natural gas. This is a goal we can pursue that will also create jobs here in the United States—and Louisiana.

The Biden Administration's energy policy is shortsighted and counterproductive to their so-called aims. They are gambling the livelihoods of my constituents in Louisiana, all Americans, and the environment with their backwards efforts.

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Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D., Louisiana Republican, serves on the Finance Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Veterans Affairs committees. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he led a group of health care volunteers to convert an abandoned building into an emergency health care facility for hurricane evacuees and, in the U.S. Senate, led efforts to secure coastal restoration projects to protect Louisiana families from natural disasters.

Support U.S. economic well-being, not undermine it, with energy policy



By Whip Steve Scalise and U.S. Rep. August Pfluger

The United States is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a thriving private sector that invests in our energy economy to foster innovation and create technological miracles. Like never before, these advances allow us to harness our resources and produce clean, affordable, reliable energy. So much, in fact, that under the Trump Administration, our nation produced more energy than we consumed. For the first time in over 70 years, we became truly energy independent.

Unfortunately, that success is threatened by the misguided, and costly policies of President Biden and Congressional Democrats. Once again, Democrats have proposed an unrealistic plan, the deceptively named CLEAN Future Act, a thinly veiled reincarnation of the Green New Deal, and an all-out-assault on an all-of-the-above American energy economy. It is now clearer than ever that they are bent on turning back the clock on American energy independence. Instead, through innovative solutions and adaptive policy, Congress can strike a balance between environmental stewardship without laying off tens of thousands of workers and increasing the everyday cost of living for American families.

Through investment, research, and innovation by American energy producers we have already seen a noticeable decline in greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2005, natural gas has single-handedly prevented over 2 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. It is the private sector, not heavy-handed and overburdensome government regulations, that have brought emissions down to an all-time low, thanks to American energy producers like those in the Permian Basin and



offshore in the Gulf Coast.

These “Washington-Knows-Best” policies are void of commonsense and would upend our economy, saddling

costs on all taxpayers, whether they own an electric vehicle or not. The left, however, refuses to acknowledge that their fully electric dream world relies on long term reliable access to affordable natural gas. Instead, they continue to urge President Biden to put a fracking ban in place, under which estimates show a typical American family of four would suffer from an average loss of \$5,000 in income each year and more than a 30% increase in energy costs.

Substantial lost revenue from energy development on federal land and offshore waters will also cripple state and local governments across the country. In 2020, states received more than \$14 billion in energy revenues which local leaders would likely offset by raising taxes. It is further estimated that more than 5 million well-paying jobs would



Substantial lost revenue from energy development on federal land and offshore waters will also cripple state and local governments across the country. In 2020, states received more than \$14 billion in energy revenues which local leaders would likely offset by raising taxes.

hard-working American families across the country with burdensome costs. The far-left bill mandates 100% green energy generation in less than a decade and a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. It spends billions to build more electric vehicle charging stations, and place the

be destroyed — completely devastating the workers in energy-producing states like Louisiana and Texas. John Kerry says that the Administration wants workers to “have better choices” but oil and gas jobs pay \$60,000 to \$70,000 more than jobs in solar and wind.

If implemented, the Democrats’ Green Agenda will leave American families and workers hurting and our country dependent on unreliable and unfriendly nations for energy.

The recent winter storm, which cut the power to millions of homes in Texas amid dangerously cold temperatures, only underscores the clear danger of relying too heavily on “green energy” as a reliable power source. Texas is an all-of-the-above energy state accounting for 40% of the nation’s oil and 25% of our natural gas, but also a leader in wind and solar energy production. In fact, wind accounts for roughly 20% of electricity generated in the state, with another 5% from solar. Unfortunately, when Texans needed that power generation the most, it was not available. How can Democrats mandate that the United States achieve clean energy and zero carbon emissions by relying solely on wind, solar, and hydro-power? How can these alternate forms of power meet the energy demands of consumers? Democrats’ alarmist proposals and posturing are unrealistic and will do more harm than good. While there is much to unpack from the failures during the storm, and wind and solar were not the only failures, it is clear that having those sources adopt a more significant role in our energy mix is not the solution. It doesn’t take an engineer to know that President Biden and Congressional Democrats’ radical energy agenda cannot guarantee a better and brighter tomorrow.

As we look to the future, it is critical that American families and workers remain at the forefront of our minds and the core of our energy strategy. We must ensure that the policies we pursue are rooted in reality and promote our economic well-being, not undermine it.

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U.S. Representative Steve Scalise serves as the House Republican Whip and represents Louisiana’s 1st Congressional District as a steadfast defender of Louisiana’s coast. As a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Whip Scalise advocates for enhanced production and technological innovation.

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U.S. Representative August Pfluger is serving his first term in the U.S. House, representing Texas’ 11th Congressional District which includes much of the oil and gas producing Permian Basin. He is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the Republican Whip Team.



Combating climate change by revitalizing our nation's infrastructure



By U.S. Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney

Climate change is the biggest existential threat facing our nation today. The damage we will incur over the next fifty years, if we do not course-correct, will be catastrophic as we face the loss of coastal communities and economies, worsening air quality, an uptick in extreme natural disasters, and potential food and water shortages caused by a loss of arable land.

The climate crisis is a public health, economic, national security, environmental, and social crisis – no facet of human life is insulated from its impact. To combat the crisis head on, we must start implementing immediate, systemic, and long-lasting environmental policies. We can start with the renovation of our national infrastructure.

The Biden Administration recently asserted that our nation, and in particular my home state of New York, is suffering from a “systemic lack of investment” in public transit, roads, bridges, and a range

of other infrastructure systems. According to recent data from the White House, New York drivers pay on average \$625 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair, while New Yorkers who use public transportation have a 58.9% longer commute time than their counterparts who do not. Alarming, 11% of New York's trains and other transit vehicles are past their serviceable lifespan. New York's infrastructure is in desperate need of repair – a clear example of the opportunity at hand to invest not just in our cities across the country, but in our workforce and a greener future as we do so.

We should start by holding the federal government to the standards that we expect the rest of the nation to

clean energy to the long-term integrity and viability of our nation's climate and infrastructure. A critical component of this work is the construction of charging stations at Postal Service facilities around the nation to ensure that its electric fleet has the same range as its current vehicles. These charging stations should also be made publicly available when not in use by Postal Service vehicles, when possible, so that electric vehicles are more accessible to all Americans.

In addition to electrifying Postal Service vehicles, we must also pass meaningful legislation to improve existing public transportation infrastructure. Through servicing major residential and employment centers, transportation systems

We need high-speed rail between major urban hubs such as Boston and New York City, so that Americans can travel as easily, safely, and cleanly between regions of the country as they can neighborhoods of a city. By connecting the Northeast Corridor through high-speed rail, we will increase the flow of people, commerce, and resources, which will engender sustainable economic development throughout the region.

meet. The most obvious place to start is with the United States Postal Service – a prime example of how our national infrastructure is critical to serving the American people. The Postal Service should electrify its fleet of more than 200,000 vehicles and fully embrace zero-emissions technology. Since the Postal Service is the federal entity that interacts with the American public most often, it must lead by example. It has a responsibility to demonstrate the importance of

engender economic growth and productivity. Moreover, public transportation is safer, cheaper for commuters, and better for the environment. By investing in public transportation, we invest in our nation's future.

Let's start with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) subway system, which services the metropolitan region with the largest economic output in the United States. We must work with the MTA to continue expanding New

York's subway system through projects like East Side Access and the Second Avenue Subway. The finalization of Second Avenue Subway Phase I has already connected and revitalized neighborhoods across Manhattan. Once fully complete, the Second Avenue Subway will run 8.5 miles from 125th Street in Harlem down to Hanover Square in the Financial District, exponentially increasing its positive effects for the city and its residents.

Just as improving interconnectivity within metropolitan regions such as New York City is critical both to our economic recovery and our response to the climate crisis, we must similarly improve the interconnectivity between American metropolitan regions. We need high-speed rail between major urban hubs such as Boston and New York City, so that Americans can travel as easily, safely, and cleanly between regions of the country as they can neighborhoods of a city. By connecting the Northeast Corridor through high-speed rail, we will increase the flow of people, commerce, and resources, which will engender sustainable economic development throughout the region.

For the sake of our nation's safety, environment, and economic recovery, we must seize the moment and invest now in the revitalization of our nation's infrastructure.

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U.S. Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, New York Democrat, is the current Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and former Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, the first female to hold both of these positions. She represents New York's 12th Congressional District and also serves as a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee.



Rebound must be fueled by comprehensive energy infrastructure



By U.S. Rep. Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

Shortly after being sworn into office, President Biden used the power of the pen to weaken America's energy independence by rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and killing the Keystone XL pipeline. Without a robust energy sector and the necessary infrastructure to sustain it, our nation is likely to see higher energy costs and a sluggish economic recovery from this pandemic. To meet America's energy demands, provide jobs, and reduce environmental impacts, we must build more a comprehensive energy infrastructure, not less.

When it broke that the President planned to unilaterally halt the Keystone

XL pipeline, news outlets were flooded with stories about the tens of thousands of jobs that would either be lost or never come to fruition. A top union leader, Richard Trumka, said in an interview, "If you're looking at a [Keystone XL] pipeline and you're saying we're going to put it down, now what are you going to do to create the same good-paying jobs in that area?" While the long-term impacts of anti-energy policies are perhaps the most concerning, we cannot forget

is a fair trade? Also, these "new jobs" are in different regions of the country. Are they all supposed to uproot their lives and move another part of the country?

Congress has a responsibility to weigh the impact that our energy policies will have on the environment. My own environmental concerns are a key reason why I support more energy infrastructure, including the Keystone XL pipeline. America's GDP, and thus its energy demands, will continue to

Congress has a responsibility to weigh the impact that our energy policies will have on the environment. My own environmental concerns are a key reason why I support more energy infrastructure, including the Keystone XL pipeline. America's GDP, and thus its energy demands, will continue to grow in the future.

the immediate impact they have on employment during today's economy. In response to where Keystone XL pipeline workers could find new employment climate czar John Kerry, in a Marie Antoinette 'let them eat cake' moment, retorted they can just make solar panels. He completely neglected the fact that renewable industries do not match the quantity of jobs or the wages of traditional oil and gas jobs. Recent reports on labor trends in the energy sector suggest that oil and gas extraction jobs make double that of solar and wind installation jobs. Does anyone really think this

grow in the future. According to the Energy Information Agency's February Short-Term Energy Outlook, despite the pandemic, the nation's GDP is likely to grow by 3.8% in 2021 and by 4.2% in 2022. With vaccination rates improving, the economy will rebound, but only if it has the energy available to power it.

While it's true that renewable energy will continue to grow, it will not be able to meet expected demand in the way that affordable and reliable traditional fuels can. In February, over five million Americans lost power in Texas and across parts of America during a

100-year winter weather event. The failure of fuel delivery, by both wind and natural gas, appears to be the major culprit. By building more comprehensive energy infrastructure that prioritizes reliability, America will avoid a potential energy shortage in the future.

That leaves the problem of where to source energy? Without pipelines, oil and gas must be shipped via railcar or truck. Besides being a safer mode of transportation, pipelines are better for the environment than alternative methods of shipping that contribute to air pollution by emitting much greater volumes of carbon dioxide. The efficiency of transporting fuel by pipeline adds up to significant improvements to our environment, ensuring Americans can live healthy and full lives.

America is making a comeback from the current public health emergency, and its rebound must be fueled by affordable, reliable energy. This cannot be accomplished without more comprehensive energy infrastructure. Both sides of the aisle agree that clean energy is a priority for our nation, but destroying an industry that provides millions of jobs is not the way ahead.

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U.S. Representative Michael C. Burgess, M.D., Texas Republican, serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Rules Committee, and House Budget Committee. He is the most senior medical doctor in the House, representing Texas' 26th Congressional District.

Time to deliver the Postal Vehicle Modernization Act



By U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman

The United States Postal Service, our reeling economy, and our planet all need saving – and we have a unique opportunity to make progress on all three at the same time.

Since our nation's founding, the Postal Service has been dutifully connecting the American people to each other. It is among the most beloved American institutions and it continues to play a vital role in our economy and daily lives. For most Americans it is a valuable service, and for seniors and veterans it is a critical lifeline. Mail-order prescriptions, paying bills, casting ballots – America's aging population depends on the Postal Service for all of this. But the truth is, our postal infrastructure is crumbling.

A combination of factors – the decline in first-class and marketing mail, an arbitrary pre-funding requirement for future retiree health benefits, and leaders who respond only with cuts and service reductions instead of investing in a modern, revitalized postal service – have put the USPS in a downward spiral, with billions in annual losses. On top of that, the past administration's politicization of the USPS last year undermined public confidence in the agency and further damaged its ability to provide services, betraying American seniors who rely on the US Postal Service more than any other age group.

Nothing more powerfully symbolizes the plight of the postal service than its antiquated, dilapidated, and woefully inefficient vehicle fleet – its Achilles' heel. The USPS operates the largest non-military vehicle fleet in the nation. Most of the 200,000 vehicles are past their operational lives and break down frequently, costing \$2 billion and over 30,000 hours in delivery vehicle maintenance in 2019 alone. They're dangerous, lacking basic safety

features like airbags and anti-lock brakes. Since 2014 over 400 of them have reportedly caught on fire. And they are among the worst gas-guzzlers on the road, averaging just 10 miles per gallon and costing taxpayers about \$491 million a year just for fuel.

It's clear that the United States Postal Service provides tremendous service and value to seniors and millions of other Americans, and we can't let it fall deeper into crisis. This huge fleet doesn't have to be a financial blackhole, death trap, massive polluter, and national embarrassment. By investing in modern, efficient postal vehicles we can transform it into a global leader in efficiency and innovation, helping revitalize the beleaguered postal service and ensuring

and requires the USPS to comply with Buy American standards and applicable federal labor rules to make sure this transition maximizes good American jobs and economic benefits here at home, at a time when our country desperately needs it.

This opportunity aligns perfectly with the imperative of addressing the climate crisis. Experts agree that one of the most impactful climate-stabilizing solutions is to drastically reduce vehicle emissions. By using the purchasing power of the federal government to electrify the postal fleet, we can not only slash the USPS' emissions but supercharge the transition to clean electric vehicles throughout our nation.

The long-term benefits of this ap-

proach are compelling, including massive savings in fuel and maintenance costs, protecting all of us by having safer postal vehicles on the road, and boosting American manufacturing jobs while invigorating the global transition to clean zero-emission vehicles.

his American Jobs Plan. States and major vehicle manufacturers have recently announced plans to phase-out fossil fuel vehicle sales by 2035. Clean vehicles are the future and it's coming fast. America's favorite public agency, the venerable old United States Postal Service, can lead the way.

Opportunity is often the flipside of crisis. It's past time to reinvigorate our beleaguered postal service. We need investments to boost economic recovery. And we're running out of time to advance bold solutions to the climate crisis. We can help meet all three of these challenges by passing this legislation and working with the Biden Administration to transform and decarbonize the transportation sector. Let's get to work.



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it can continue to provide its invaluable services – not to mention creating jobs and saving taxpayers billions of dollars each year.

That's where my bill, the Postal Vehicle Modernization Act, comes in. The bill provides \$6 billion in funding for the purchase of next-generation electric or zero-emission USPS delivery vehicles. It also calls for additional electric charging stations at every public postal facility,

proach are compelling, including massive savings in fuel and maintenance costs, protecting all of us by having safer postal vehicles on the road, and boosting American manufacturing jobs while invigorating the global transition to clean zero-emission vehicles.

The timing simply could not be better. President Biden has called for the electrification of all 645,000 federal government vehicles, featuring that goal in

U.S. Representative Jared Huffman, California Democrat, serves on the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, and also founded the Congressional Freethought Caucus. He represents the 2nd Congressional District and is committed to protecting the unique environmental and economic values of the North Coast.

Waste-to-Energy: Proven renewable baseload power solution to combat methane emissions



By Jimmy Morgan

The Biden Administration aims to implement energy policy to address climate change and protect the environment for future generations. Waste-to-energy, a renewable source of baseload electricity that can eliminate landfills and avoid harmful methane emissions from trash, must be part of the solution.

As a U.S. leader in energy technology with decades of experience designing and building renewable energy facilities, Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) is working with leaders in Washington, D.C. to address climate change through both proven and emerging technology solutions. One critical issue that often comes up in these discussions is methane, the potent greenhouse gas emitted from decomposing trash in landfills, man-made sources including agriculture, and during natural gas and oil extraction, transport, storage and use.

Methane packs a powerful punch compared to carbon dioxide. According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane has roughly 84 times the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of carbon dioxide on a 20-year basis. In terms of GWP, methane accounts for nearly a quarter of U.S. emissions. Adequately addressing climate change requires addressing methane including avoiding sending trash to landfills and methane into the atmosphere.

Landfill Methane in the U.S.

Consider this: roughly one-fifth of U.S. methane emissions from human activity come from landfills. There are more than 2,600 active landfills in the U.S., more than 3,200 inactive municipal landfills, and they emit more than 330 million tons of 20-year basis GWP each year. That's comparable to the emissions from 70 million cars, and the problem is

growing, with 140 million more tons of waste added to landfills annually.

Today, the U.S. has about 70 operating waste-to-energy facilities where waste is burned to produce baseload electricity. Pollutants are controlled and captured with advanced environmental control technologies, and the remaining ash can be repurposed for road construction and other uses. Instead of being buried in a landfill to decompose and emit methane, trash is used to produce power and heat.

However, for most communities in the U.S., dumping trash in landfills, and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions, is the norm.

Proven Technology & Job Creation

B&W has a solution to address this growing problem—our waste-to-energy technologies can be game-changers in eliminating methane emissions. B&W's renewable technologies are installed in hundreds of waste-to-energy plants around the world, including the Palm

million tons of GWP methane emissions from landfills.

While solar, wind, and hydropower are greenhouse gas neutral, only waste-to-energy actively reduces greenhouse gases by taking methane-emitting waste out of the environment. But unlike solar and wind, waste-to-energy is baseload power, available 24 hours a day. Waste-to-energy technologies should be treated like other renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower with respect to clean energy standards, tax credits and other incentives.

Many countries in Europe and Asia are ahead of the curve on waste-to-energy, deploying these plants with great success. The European Union's Landfill Directive introduced restrictions on landfilling of waste and aims to limit the landfilling of municipal waste to 10% by 2035. Many communities now rely on local waste-to-energy facilities for heat and power, virtually eliminating landfills.



Today's waste-to-energy complements recycling, supports local communities, produces clean, renewable baseload power and significantly reduces harmful methane emissions.

Beach Renewable Energy Facility No. 2 in Florida. Opening in 2015, it is the cleanest and most-advanced facility of its kind in the U.S., and reduced the amount of waste going to landfills in that region by 90%. Globally, B&W-supplied units convert over 20 million tons of household waste to energy annually, eliminating the future release of 68.4

Beyond environmental benefits, a cost-effective, reliable, and sustainable solid waste management system also spurs economic growth. Building one typical waste-to-energy facility creates about 500 construction jobs, and about 65 more for subsequent operations and maintenance.

U.S. policymakers can learn from the

experience gained in Europe and Asia, including how tax credits and other legislation can incentivize large-scale deployment.

The Facts About Waste-to-Energy

Unfortunately, in the U.S., misconceptions about waste-to-energy facilities have hampered their use.

Supporting waste-to-energy is pro-recycling, and communities with waste-to-energy facilities tend to see an increase in recycling. Waste-to-energy and recycling complement each other, and the best U.S. policy will support and incentivize both.

Today's waste-to-energy technologies also destroy or capture toxins from trash, including lead, mercury, volatile organic compounds, halogens and other pollutants, eliminate landfill odor and destroy contaminated waste. The plants utilize reverse air pressure to contain odors from the stored trash, which is enclosed in a concrete bunker so the trash is not visible and odors are eliminated. In fact, these facilities are often a part of the community in Europe; the Amager Bakke facility built by B&W in Copenhagen, Denmark, features a park, café, and ski slope on top of the plant. It is both a functional plant and a vibrant part of the community.

At the point of electricity generation, waste-to-energy facilities also produce less carbon dioxide than natural gas power plants, according to the EPA. When netted against the methane emissions avoided, the reduction in GWP is staggering. One ton of landfilled waste emits 3.42 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent GWP, but waste-to-energy reduces its net GWP by 99.97%.

A renewable energy site could feature a combination of solar with battery storage, wind and a waste-to-energy facility. This mix allows for baseload power on the grid and stabilization of the peak power from wind and solar. In cases where changing weather may affect wind and solar, the waste-to-energy facility will continue to operate and provide baseload power.

Today's waste-to-energy complements recycling, supports local communities, produces clean, renewable baseload power and significantly reduces harmful methane emissions. There is no reason to wait, and every reason to deploy waste-to-energy in the U.S. to fight climate change today.

Jimmy Morgan is the Chief Operating Officer of The Babcock & Wilcox Company. Headquartered in Akron, Ohio, B&W is a leader in energy and environmental products and services for power and industrial markets worldwide.

TALK TRASH

(Earth will thank you.)



Learn more at babcock.com/earth

When you talk climate change, talk about the other potent greenhouse gas – methane. Each year in the U.S., more than 139 million tons of trash are added to our thousands of landfills.ⁱ These landfills emit more than 330 million tons of CO₂ global warming potential (GWP) equivalent each year – roughly equal to the emissions from 70 million cars.ⁱⁱ Methane has 84 times the GWP of CO₂.ⁱⁱⁱ

Waste-to-energy facilities can target methane emissions and reduce the net GWP of trash by 99.97%, while producing usable, clean energy. And, they create needed jobs for local communities.

ⁱ EIA Biomass Explained: Waste-to-energy (Municipal Solid Waste), 2020, EIA.

ⁱⁱ EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program, EPA; calculated using 4.6 metric tons of CO₂ per year per passenger car.

ⁱⁱⁱ Anthropogenic and Natural Radiative Forcing. In: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis., 2013, Cambridge University Press.

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Conversations about climate must include farmers



By U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik

In Washington, there is a renewed focus on climate change and a desire from House Democrats and the Biden Administration to pass radical, sweeping legislation to address it. These conversations have, for the most part, failed to include the original stewards of the land – our nation's farmers.

America's farmers have been dedicated to preserving our natural resources since the foundation of our great country, and they have an important perspective on climate change that Congress, and the President, must consider.

The district I am honored to represent in Upstate New York is home to a vibrant agricultural industry and

millions of acres of precious natural resources. As a result, farmers in our region are laser focused on the balance of producing abundant food for their communities while protecting our land, water, and air for generations to come.

Family farms have been utilizing carbon sequestration, recycling water, digesting methane, and repurposing waste for years. They have been responsibly replenishing the soil, controlling runoff into waterways, and developing

two sectors (along with forestry) that can remove greenhouse gases from our atmosphere. Farmers have been doing this right for decades, and we need to support their efforts with smart policies and targeted funding, instead of seeking to eliminate them.

As part of my commitment to supporting farmers and addressing climate change, I am an original cosponsor of the Growing Climate Solutions Act. This bipartisan legislation enables

Agriculture holds the potential to be a critical part of the climate solution, and in crafting policy, we must include those who have their boots on the ground. We need to pass commonsense legislation that enables farmers to do their jobs more efficiently, and we need to reject efforts that seek to eliminate livestock farming.

best practices and technologies that have made food production more efficient and sustainable than ever before. The carbon footprint of a glass of milk, for example, is two-thirds less than it was 70 years ago. When productivity goes up, emissions go down.

The demonstrated progress in the agriculture sector shows how serious farmers are about environmental stewardship, as changes in climate patterns affect their livelihoods arguably more than anyone else. Agriculture is one of

farmers to participate in carbon credit markets and establishes a program at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to oversee third party verifiers and help landowners generate carbon credits through multiple agricultural practices. The bill engages the private sector and connects landowners with the resources they need to further utilize carbon capturing and emissions reduction technologies. This is just one example of how government agencies can empower farmers

to utilize climate-smart practices while also engaging the private sector.

Agriculture holds the potential to be a critical part of the climate solution, and in crafting policy, we must include those who have their boots on the ground. We need to pass commonsense legislation that enables farmers to do their jobs more efficiently, and we need to reject efforts that seek to eliminate livestock farming. Instead of biting the hands that feed us, we must supply those hands with tools to be increasingly productive and sustainable.

As our population continues to grow, we will need more food to feed our people coming from finite resources. Farmers have seen these trends and adjusted accordingly for decades, and it is beyond time that our policies reflect their dedication to the environment – and empower them in the future.

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U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik, New York Republican, represents the 21st Congressional District in the House where she focuses on pursuing energy policies that help North Country families, businesses, and farms. She serves as the Ranking Member on the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, and is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Don't fix what's not broken: keep energy policy with renewables that doesn't slash jobs



By U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman

The phrase “Green New Deal” is often a ploy by both sides of the political spectrum and the media to deliver sharp blows to the opposing party on their respective environmental platforms. Democrats in Congress accuse Republicans of not caring enough about the environment, while Republicans call out the plan for what it is – an overreaching boondoggle that would kill millions of American jobs and surrender our energy independence.

While more can certainly be done to clean up our great outdoors and reduce our CO₂ emissions, environmental strides in the last four years prove Americans don't have to choose between environmental stewardship and heavy government red tape that would strangle our economy.

Under the Trump Administration criteria, air pollutant emissions fell more than 7%, 82 partial and full superfund sites have been removed, and our national recycling rate target was increased to 50%—up from roughly 32% under President Obama. These reforms, and more, were all implemented while our economy grew at a rate of 285%. Now, instead of building on these victories, the Biden Administration is spending their time and trillions of taxpayer dollars undoing progress and imposing more regulations at the cost of South Carolina businesses. Reinstating the Obama-era Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule, for example, will devastate family-run farms across South Carolina. A blatant power grab, this rule drastically exceeds the authority granted to the EPA by Congress over navigable waters in the Clean Water Act. As a businessman by trade, I have seen the negative effects of onerous federal regulations, like WOTUS, firsthand.

Further, Biden's energy plan for net-zero emissions by 2050 will be

catastrophic for our way of life – from our cars, to our refrigerators and homes, to our grocery and electric bills, but most importantly, your pocketbooks. As the Co-chair of the Congressional Solar Caucus, I recognize the benefits of renewable energy. Solar energy has created thousands of jobs in South Carolina and has the capability to help over 5,500 families and businesses save on

energy sector. Not stifle it by picking winners and losers.

As the Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Environment, cutting red tape while protecting safety for all Americans will be my top priority. The federal government's role in protecting our environment should be to promote private and public sector partnerships, ensure

The moment we handcuff American innovation in the name of overzealous and nebulous environmental protections is the moment we relinquish our role as drivers of the global economy. By laying down an environmental foundation that builds upon - instead of repeals - the last Administration's policies and sets a more realistic and inclusive emissions goal, it will be much more likely that the garden



While more can certainly be done to clean up our great outdoors and reduce our CO₂ emissions, environmental strides in the last four years prove Americans don't have to choose between environmental stewardship and heavy government red tape that would strangle our economy.

their monthly energy bills. Additionally, nuclear power is responsible for generating nearly 56% of the entire state's electricity according to the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy. However, we must continue promoting jobs in the solar, wind, and nuclear sectors as a complement, not necessarily a substitute, to the oil and gas industry.

If we quit oil and gas cold turkey, we will inevitably have to rely on foreign countries that are hostile to American interests and aren't held to the same stringent environmental regulations. We need to promote innovation in the

that policy decisions are based on data, not ideology, and to implement energy and environmental initiatives that are affordable, clean, and demonstrate free market viability.

Many who know me know that outside from being a Congressman, I find tremendous tranquility when tending to my home garden. I've learned that cultivating a truly great soil can take years. It doesn't happen all at once, and if I let someone else do the planting or stop giving them water and sunlight, I wouldn't have the best tomatoes in the state of South Carolina.

that is America will yield a beautiful and plentiful crop. Like my tomatoes with no water and sunlight, the American economy will not grow under President Biden's regulatory scheme.

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U.S. Representative Ralph Norman, South Carolina Republican, serves as the Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Environment, the Co-chair of the Congressional Solar Caucus, and on the House Homeland Security Committee. He began representing the 5th Congressional District, of which he is a lifelong resident, in 2017.

Environmental protection and individual liberty can coexist, look to the Lowcountry



By U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace

Our nation is made up of thousands of “laboratories of democracy,” where families, businesses, communities, and governments are driven to find unique ways to overcome challenges we all face. This is especially true when it comes to environmental protection.

Every state, city, and town have their own approach to balancing the economic prosperity of their communities with the desire to preserve the environment they depend on for so much of their lives.

Too often though, government gets this balance wrong and forces one-size-fits-all standards on the rest of us. In large swaths of the country, we’ve given politicians and unelected bureaucrats far too much power over personal property, business practices, and even family decisions.

These politicians want us to believe the only way to protect the environment is to sacrifice our right to make choices for ourselves, that the free market is simply incapable of preserving nature.

South Carolina’s Lowcountry proves this simply isn’t the case.

The Lowcountry is renowned across the globe for its incredible natural beauty. From the beaches and marshlands of Hilton Head Island to the waters off Charleston, our little corner of the world represents everything conservationists hope to preserve.

But in the Lowcountry, you don’t have to be a conservationist or an environmentalist to have an interest in protecting the environment. All you have to be is someone who works or does business in the region.

Our community’s economic prosperity – perhaps it’s very economic survival – depends on keeping our environment healthy and beautiful. Nearly three

million people visit Hilton Head Island alone each year, while Charleston sees over 7 million visitors annually. These tourists are drawn to the Lowcountry from across the country and across the world in large part because of our environmental beauty.

protect the local environment.

Charles E. Fraser, who founded the world-famous Sea Pines in 1956, is a prime example. He recognized the natural beauty of Hilton Head Island back when there were about 600 people living there, and he knew he

These communities are private, for-profit businesses which have every incentive to balance growth with environmental protection. They also prove environmental protection, conservation, and capitalism can, indeed, coexist to ensure future generations get to experi-



There are countless other examples across our country which show you can effectively protect the environment without sacrificing economic growth or personal liberty.

These tourists drive over \$10 billion in economic activity each year, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in hotels, restaurants, and countless small businesses which empower workers to provide for themselves and their families.

All of this evaporates if we’re poor stewards of our environment. You don’t need to be an environmental activist or government bureaucrat to recognize this. The Lowcountry’s business owners and workers are fully aware that as soon as the first oil tanker or drilling platform goes up in smoke off our coast, so do their livelihoods. They’ll go to great lengths to protect the environment they depend on to succeed.

You only need to look at Hilton Head Island for proof of this, which relies largely on the initiative and actions of private individuals and businesses to

could start a business selling Americans a small slice of this beauty. Had he thrown caution to the wind and built with reckless abandon, the environment would be destroyed, no one would want to live on the island, and his business would collapse.

Fraser established “covenants” in Sea Pines to restrict development in the community. Not because he was a selfless environmentalist – although he was a prolific supporter of conservation – but because he was a self-aware capitalist.

A large portion of the island is now occupied by private communities who followed Fraser’s model. These communities enforce building height restrictions, plot size limitations, and strict protections of local trees and wildlife, all of which residents agree to follow when they move there.

ence the environment as we found it.

There are countless other examples across our country which show you can effectively protect the environment without sacrificing economic growth or personal liberty. Indeed, the free market is capable of preserving nature and driving economic growth without the heavy hand of the government dictating a one-size-fits-all solution.

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U.S. Representative Nancy Mace, South Carolina Republican, represents the 1st Congressional District and serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure, House Oversight and Reform, and House Veterans’ Affairs Committees. She graduated magna cum laude from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, where she was the school’s first female to graduate from its Corps of Cadets in 1999.



Critical minerals, critical for our future



By U.S. Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.

I have been working on protecting and enhancing our critical mineral supply chain for several years. Why? Almost every modern convenience is dependent upon these minerals. Items like solar panels and photovoltaic cells, wind power turbines, electric vehicles, drones, fighter jets, radios, electronic shielding, combat equipment, batteries, electronics, and lighting all require critical minerals.

Critical minerals are metals and non-metals that are considered vital to the economic well-being of our country and our modern way of life. In 2018, the Department of Interior published a comprehensive listing of 35 critical minerals.¹ The United States is import reliant (imports are greater than 50% of annual consumption) on 31 of those 35 minerals and relies 100% on imports of 14 of those minerals. This is an economic and national defense emergency.

Yet global challenges, including

scarcity, sourcing, and the threat posed by international monopolies put their supply at risk. Over decades, our nation has not kept pace with foreign mineral producers, forcing the United States to rely on others, mainly China. We must seek solutions to end this dependence.

My district in Arizona, which is a traditional mining district, offers hope on how we can rely less on foreign dependence on minerals. In Laz Paz County, for example, miners are drilling exploration holes on significant development of light rare earth minerals. Miners are also working alongside the Depart-

These opportunities are not just in my district in Arizona. Minnesota, for example, is seeing the rebirth of their historic mining district with the development of copper-nickel-cobalt mines. Nevada has critical lithium minerals. Opportunities for rare earths are being explored in old coal mines in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Building or re-opening rare earth mines and processing is taking place in California, Wyoming, Texas, Florida and Colorado.

While these tremendous opportunities are sitting on our doorstep, one major inhibitor is they take time to

Unfortunately, Mr. Biden continues to put politics ahead of sound policy. Instead of investing in the United States, improving our mine permitting process and creating high wage domestic jobs, the Biden Administration is actively targeting domestic mining projects. Projects like Twin Metals in Minnesota and Resolution Copper in Arizona can provide desperately needed minerals, including copper, nickel, cobalt and tellurium, which are essential for electric vehicles, solar panels and many defense-related technologies. But the Biden Administration wants to recklessly stop these projects.

For too long, American mining has been lapped by foreign countries. If these critical minerals are not produced domestically, they will be mined in other nations, some openly hostile to the United States and others that have notoriously poor human rights and environmental standards. Getting the Administration to focus on creating American jobs and passing the Critical Mineral Exploration and Innovation Act of 2021 will help us power renewable energy and advanced technologies that are domestically sourced and supplied by the American worker.

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U.S. Representative Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S., Arizona Republican, focuses his legislative work on natural resources issues and government accountability. Both areas stem from his work on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Dr. Gosar represents Arizona's 4th Congressional District and is the Republican Leader of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

For too long, American mining has been lapped by foreign countries. If these critical minerals are not produced domestically, they will be mined in other nations, some openly hostile to the United States and others that have notoriously poor human rights and environmental standards

ment of Defense to re-develop a 300,000 metric ton pile of low-grade manganese ore into high-grade electromagnetic manganese metal, a critical defense industry component, and creating the first domestic manganese development since the 1970's. The United States Geologic Survey along with the Arizona Geological Survey are researching a previously undiscovered lithium deposit near Bagdad, Arizona, which could create a massive new lithium supply for America. In addition, miners are on the verge of starting a 60-year mining development on our nation's largest copper reserve that will produce other critical minerals, including tellurium and nickel.

develop. The average project can take a decade or longer to bring online.

To address this delay, I introduced the American Critical Mineral Independence Act of 2021 with my colleague, Florida Representative Mike Waltz. This bill, the product of a joint effort between the House Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, is a much-needed step forward in supporting critical mineral development in the United States. This bill would drastically improve our ability to develop critical minerals by streamlining the massive, convoluted permitting process required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Economy-destroying climate plans target nonexistent ‘crisis’



By James Taylor

Proposals to fight global warming are unavoidably expensive and freedom-suppressing. Requiring American households and the economy to operate on expensive, diffuse, unreliable energy sources like wind and solar can only harm—and cannot help—American productivity and living standards.

If we were truly facing an imminent climate catastrophe, dramatic action would be justified. In the absence of an imminent climate emergency, however, radical climate policies are not warranted.

Adhering to the scientific method requires objectively testing theories and predictions using real-world observations and evidence. Measurable scientific facts and evidence should trump speculative future climate predictions, agenda-driven climate activism, and deceptive claims about a supposed “scientific consensus.”

Make no mistake, measurable scientific evidence makes it clear that global warming is not going to cause the world to end in 10 years, 100 years, or 1,000 years. In fact, a warmer world has always been a better world for human health and welfare, and this is not going to change in the foreseeable future.

The notion of an imminent climate crisis is a carefully crafted delusion, plain and simple. The more that objective science has debunked alarmist climate claims, the more that climate activists and their media allies have ratcheted up their rhetoric and sought to deflect attention away from real scientific evidence. Here are a few important scientific facts:

During most of the period since the dawn of human civilization, global temperatures have been significantly higher than they are today. And even without modern technologies, humans survived and thrived in those warmer conditions.

Colder climate periods have typically been associated with more famines, plagues, and severe extreme weather events, as well as with reduced crop yields and declining human populations.

Warmer climate periods have typically resulted in comparatively fewer famines, plagues, and extreme weather events. They also usually have higher crop yields and are more likely to produce golden ages of higher human population numbers and living standards.

The benefits of a warmer planet

that wildfires are burning fewer acres of land as the earth’s atmosphere modestly warms. Health experts report that 20 times more people die as a result of colder temperatures as those who die of warm or hot temperatures. The evidence shows, as a result, the global warming humans have been experiencing in recent decades is saving many thousands of lives.

The data show alarmists’ doomsday predictions have consistently failed to materialize. Even the U.N. Intergovern-

ment Panel on Climate Change, an organization dedicated to spreading climate change alarmism, admits it has low confidence that climate change is having any measurable negative global impacts regarding hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, and other natural disasters. More importantly, the actual scientific data similarly show little or no real-world negative impacts.

Instead of being viewed as near certainties, doomsday predictions should be viewed as highly speculative and dubious. If the earth warms modestly over the next 50 or 100 years, that warming will be no more likely to create a climate catastrophe than it did during the past 100 years.

Members of Congress, media, teachers, students, and the general public should look at facts and evidence, not questionable predictions and agenda-driven propaganda, to form their opinions on climate change. To facilitate a factual and fair examination of the evidence, The Heartland Institute has launched two important websites containing concise and compelling facts regarding climate change.

Climate at a Glance (www.ClimateAtAGlance.com) provides one- and two-page summaries of climate topics from a scientifically realist perspective. A sampling of topics includes hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, tornadoes, and coral reefs. Each topical summary begins with a few bullet points summarizing key points, followed by a concise summary of the science and its meaning. Most summaries contain a visual graphic to illustrate one or more key points.

Climate Realism (www.ClimateRealism.com) is a website that examines each day’s media-promoted climate scares and provides a short summary of the scientific facts that debunk the scares. Now, when you see a media report hyping a global warming scare, you can go to Climate Realism and see what the scientific evidence truly says. New articles are added on a daily basis, with two or more articles often added in a given day.

Of course, global warming will not make all hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and other natural catastrophes suddenly stop occurring. However, the objective scientific evidence shows they are not getting worse because of warming. In fact, many are becoming less severe.

After millennia of relatively lower temperatures harming human health and welfare, and warmer temperatures benefiting the human condition, there is no reason to believe the situation has suddenly changed.

Policymakers should resist the urge to fix a “problem” that doesn’t need fixing, especially when it involves government policies that will inevitably cause more harm than good.



Make no mistake, measurable scientific evidence makes it clear that global warming is not going to cause the world to end in 10 years, 100 years, or 1,000 years. In fact, a warmer world has always been a better world for human health and welfare, and this is not going to change in the foreseeable future.

have held true throughout the past century. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization documents that crop yields globally and in most nations are enjoying long-term, mid-term, and short-term growth, resulting in new records for crop yields being set on a near-annual basis.

NASA satellites have documented a dramatic greening of the earth in recent decades, as more atmospheric carbon dioxide substantially assists plant growth. NASA satellites have also documented

mental Panel on Climate Change, an organization dedicated to spreading climate change alarmism, admits it has low confidence that climate change is having any measurable negative global impacts regarding hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, and other natural disasters. More importantly, the actual scientific data similarly show little or no real-world negative impacts.

Predictions of future climate catastrophes are no more credible than past predictions that failed to materialize.

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Trust America's innovatory spirit to protect the environment, grow the economy



By U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith

Environmental protection is a forward-thinking endeavor. We seek to preserve our natural environment and secure cleaner air and water not just for ourselves but for future generations, so that they may benefit from these goods too.

The United States has made progress in environmental protection by embracing the promise of the future. Our country reduced greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 13% between 2005 and 2019, despite U.S. primary energy demand holding steady over the same period. This decrease occurred in part through innovation. Developing and adopting new technologies helped drive emissions reduction.

Looking forward, American energy and environmental policy must incorporate this central fact. It has proven successful at improving environmental outcomes without inhibiting economic growth or job creation.

In fact, this approach supports American economic leadership. We can be the laboratory of the world, developing new technologies to burn fuels in a cleaner and more efficient fashion for use here and abroad. Encouraging efficiency and innovation also increases productivity for American manufacturers and industrial facilities.

Yet federal laws and regulations too often remain frozen in time, products of outdated approaches that sought to burden the power, manufacturing, and industrial sectors rather than harness them in support of the creativity that will solve our environmental challenges.

Visiting factories and facilities across Virginia's Ninth Congressional District and hearing about their experiences with counterproductive regulations led me to introduce legislation to fix one particularly flawed rule.

That legislation is the New Source

Review Permitting Improvement Act, and it would correct previous interpretations of the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program established by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977. The NSR program's intent is to protect air quality from certain stationary sources such as power plants and factories by requiring the installation of modern emissions control systems when a major modification is made at an existing facility. The permitting program requires sources undergoing major modifications to go through a byzantine permitting process to determine if the change will result in an emissions increase.

but other updates had removed that step. Removing the conveyor belt loop, however, could have triggered the NSR process and required a costly upgrade of the entire factory.

To end this self-defeating bureaucratic boondoggle, the New Source Review Permitting Improvement Act would clarify that the permitting process exempts modifications meant to reduce emissions of air pollutants or restore, maintain, or improve the reliability of operations at, or safety of, a source. These exemptions would not apply to modifications found to have an adverse effect on human health or the environ-

Pruitt and Andrew Wheeler clarified NSR's rules and increased regulatory certainty, all without sacrificing the program's goal of reducing air emissions. I believe these reforms put NSR on a stronger footing to do what it was created to do: encourage the use of the latest emissions reduction technology to protect air quality.

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration's approach to regulation puts these needed reforms at risk. Especially regarding the environment, President Biden seems to think the only way to solve our problems is to add more layers of government mandates and red tape.



Over the years, NSR's real-world effects have often undermined the program's goal to reduce air pollution. The cost in time and money of the NSR permitting process deters facility operators from investing in upgrades that improve their efficiency and lower their emissions.

Over the years, NSR's real-world effects have often undermined the program's goal to reduce air pollution. The cost in time and money of the NSR permitting process deters facility operators from investing in upgrades that improve their efficiency and lower their emissions. NSR puts hurdles on the path toward environmental improvement rather than clearing the way.

I saw an example of the unintended consequences of NSR's burdens during a visit to a factory where I observed a conveyor belt loop that led nowhere. At one time, the loop took products to another station in the manufacturing process,

ment. The legislation would also align the emission rate test that facilities must run with another Clean Air Act program that uses the exact same definition of the term "modification." If enacted, this bill would remove obstacles to efficiency and investment in facilities. It would let operators reduce emissions through one bite at an apple, while the current NSR process requires operators to swallow the apple whole.

During the Trump Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency took steps to reform the New Source Review permitting program. The agency under Administrators Scott

Clean air should not fall victim to bureaucratic inertia. Instead, we can trust the innovatory spirit and good sense of the American people. Legislation such as the New Source Review Permitting Improvement Act would embrace these strengths of ours in the service of environmental protection.

.....
U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith, Virginia Republican, represents the 9th Congressional District. He is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and serves as the Republican Leader of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.



Florida's fight for clean, safe water and its ripple effect



By U.S. Rep. Brian Mast

Imagine for a moment living in a country where the government was actively poisoning its citizens. For decades it denied any involvement, until they got caught red handed and were forced to admit it. Even after they got caught, they continued to intentionally poison their people. Perhaps, this sounds like something that would happen in a third-world dictatorship, but in fact, it happens right here in the United States year after year.

Once the tourists and wealthy seasonal residents leave Florida for the summer, the working class people left on Florida's east and west coasts become a dumping ground for toxic water. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers knowingly discharges hundreds of billions of gallons of poison out of a lake in the center of the state and into our

communities—killing animals and putting lives at risk.

Anybody who has lived through one of these lost summers, as we call them, can viscerally remember the look of blue-green algae so thick that birds could walk on it and dead fish were suspended in it. Instead of a serene blue, the waves on the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico are neon green. Dead sea life washes up on the shores by the hundreds. If you are forced to step outside your home, you are met by a horrid stench of rotten eggs mixed with the decaying carcasses of the algae's victims. As a result, restaurants close, summer

Army Corps was in many cases dozens of times too toxic for human contact. According to their scientists, exposure to the toxins in our waterways can cause serious illness, liver or kidney failure, and even death. Dolphins, manatees, dogs and too many other sea creatures to count have already been killed, and to make matters worse, the toxins have become airborne, impacting people miles away from the water.

There can be justice. The Army Corps' own data shows that it is possible for them to eliminate these toxic discharges into the St. Lucie River while also benefiting Florida's other communities around the lake as well as the

of us, the government must not settle for anything less than an end to this preventable polluting.

Whether you've ever been to Florida or not, we all have a stake in this fight. Every American, regardless of how much money they have or where they grew up, deserves to know their government did not contaminate their air or land or water. If the government can deprive any of us of this right, they can deprive all of us of this right. If the government can get away with poisoning even one of its citizens, any of us could be next.

So, as Congress and the President put together their long-awaited infrastructure bill, the very first section should make clear that the federal government will no longer poison Americans, and Congress must reject any plan that prioritizes a far-left wishlist of unrelated proposals while failing infrastructure and bad policy means Americans are still being willfully poisoned by their own government.

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U.S. Representative Brian Mast, Florida Republican, is in his third term representing the 18th Congressional District. He serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. Before his election to Congress, he followed in his father's footsteps by serving in the U.S. Army for more than 12 years, earning medals including The Bronze Star Medal, The Army Commendation Medal for Valor, The Purple Heart Medal, and The Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Anybody who has lived through one of these lost summers, as we call them, can viscerally remember the look of blue and green algae so thick that birds could walk on it and dead fish were suspended in it. Instead of a serene blue, the waves on the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean or Gulf of Mexico are neon green.

camp for kids are canceled, fishing charters end, home sales fall through, and people who have to work in it are poisoned. The liability is too high. Nobody dares to go in the water.

Move past the sight and smell, though, and something even more dangerous is lurking beneath the surface. At my urging, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that the water discharged into our community by the

Florida Everglades. In other words, they have no excuse. How can the federal government justify poisoning its own citizens? The answer is they can't.

Right now, the Army Corps is determining if this abuse will continue for another decade, and it would be unconscionable if the government selects a new management plan that does not eliminate these discharges. With this once in a decade opportunity in front



If you want to build it, streamline environmental regulations



By U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert

Money is the default answer in our nation's capital to virtually every problem. After a year of record-breaking federal spending and dollars overflowing from every federal office in town, this has never been more evident. As our national debt soars, it's vital that we seek out solutions that don't involve Uncle Sam's checkbook.

Across the nation and in Washington, D.C., there continues to be widespread, bipartisan support for building infrastructure and improving the physical foundations that will support our communities into the future. The drumbeat to build that infrastructure is unyielding because growth is constantly outpacing our ability to build what's necessary to sustain it. While the availability of funding is certainly one factor, in far too many places the regulatory structures

in place are the biggest impediments to making projects shovel-ready.

In my California district, which includes the fast-growing western edge of Riverside County, a project to expand Interstate 15 by adding lanes in available space in the median of the highway will require at least five years to complete the environmental regulatory permitting requirements. Keep in mind the impacted land consists largely of overgrown weeds and dirt between highway lanes — far from anything one would consider

global economic competitiveness.

The good news is, if we can muster the political will and reject the predictable objections from special interest groups who have built a parasitic business model that's reliant upon these regulatory schemes, we have the opportunity to reduce both the time and cost of infrastructure projects without piling on to our national debt. Environmental regulatory streamlining would stretch limited infrastructure dollars even further and help us finally keep pace with growth.

As the years tick away while federal and state environmental compliance work continues, our region continues to grow. When the permits are finally in hand, it will only take a fraction of the time that was required to complete the regulatory red-tape to actually construct the project.

sensitive habitat or natural resources. As the years tick away while federal and state environmental compliance work continues, our region continues to grow. When the permits are finally in hand, it will only take a fraction of the time that was required to complete the regulatory red-tape to actually construct the project.

If you take the example above and apply that broken model to energy, water, and other types of infrastructure projects proposed in communities across the country, you can begin to grasp why the United States is falling behind. Our broken regulatory approval system costs both time and money, while also presenting a major drag on our

In the House of Representatives, I have introduced legislation, the Reducing Environmental Barriers to Unified Infrastructure and Land Development or REBUILD Act (H.R. 644) which would reduce the cost and speed up the construction of infrastructure projects while maintaining strong environmental protections. The REBUILD Act acknowledges the reality that many states, like California, often have environmental regulatory laws that are duplicative and more onerous than corresponding federal statutes. In those instances, my bill would allow for state environmental permitting process reciprocity and remove federal red-tape when state regulatory permits achieve the same goals.

The REBUILD Act is modeled after a pilot program authorized by Congress more than a decade ago that reduced the length of time to complete a project review by an average of 17 months while also ensuring the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process were not compromised.

A growing number of Americans and advocacy organizations are coming to the realization that avoidable delays in building infrastructure pose a serious threat to our goals. In addition to hindering our ability to compete in the global marketplace with nations like China, the web of environmental regulations have even ironically slowed down renewable energy projects. As we move to clean our air and react to climate change, these delays will make it even more challenging to meet desired standards.

I'm hopeful that a collective push by a growing constituency can overcome the entrenched bureaucracy that has protected the status quo for decades. Let's put away the checkbook for once and take out the scissors to cut some red-tape to build projects faster and cheaper.

.....
U.S. Representative Ken Calvert, California Republican, represents the 42nd Congressional District where, as dean of the state's Republican Delegation, his legislative priorities include creating longterm solutions to California's water challenges and reducing building time on infrastructure projects by making commonsense, bipartisan reforms to our environmental laws. He serves on the Appropriations Committee as Ranking Member of the Defense Subcommittee and on the Energy and Water Subcommittee.

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Power the future with an all-of-the-above energy solution



By U.S. Rep. Debbie Lesko

At the forefront of President Biden's unveiled infrastructure plan is an alarming push to impose the green energy policies of the left onto American citizens. Since the days of his presidential campaign, then-candidate Joe Biden has advocated for a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050. Thrilled to have the chance to shove through their Green New Deal utopia, Biden and congressional Democrats want to push for a renewables-only world. This is simply bad policy. One such example is the Democrats' CLEAN Future Act, which would require retail electricity suppliers to provide electricity with zero carbon emissions by 2035, only 14 years from now. It is impossible for electricity suppliers to provide consistent electricity on renewable sources alone, especially in such a short timeframe. Instead, we should be advancing an "all-of-the-above" energy approach, rooted in a diverse portfolio of energy sources that are not only sustainable, but reliable and affordable, and also enhance our energy security.

Democrats' renewables-only push is fraught with problems. Take for example California, which faced emergency outages due to an inadequate power supply during wildfires and heat waves last summer. California is heavily reliant on solar and wind power for its electricity needs that cost consumers a pretty penny. California's blackouts started as the sun went down and solar power was no longer an option.

If our whole nation were to turn to California's policies, as Biden and Democrats would like us to do, we would have few-to-no domestic alternatives when these sources fail due to sunsets, bad weather, or unpredictable

circumstances. Still California, and Joe Biden, continue to push for renewables-only energy solutions—a leftist vision most Americans cannot afford.

California's overreliance on renewables is not a viable solution for the state or our nation as a whole. We need to turn to a better solution—an "all-of-the-above" energy approach. To implement this approach, we need to look at all energy sources, not just solar and wind, but natural gas, nuclear energy, clean coal, hydroelectric power, hydrogen, and new energy technologies. When combined as a wholistic energy offering, these sources become

cost-effective as well.

Arizona's major electric companies, Arizona Public Service (APS), Salt River Project, and Tucson Electric Power are examples of providers that are utilizing multiple sources of energy to serve customers. Just outside my district is the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, a large nuclear power facility, operated by APS. This nuclear generating facility is the largest power producer by net generation in the country and produces clean, carbon free energy. There is growing bipartisan support for nuclear energy, an energy source that is reliable and

an "all-of-the-above" approach is that it maintains our energy security and national security. If our nation stops domestically producing energy through traditional sources that do not fall under the Green New Deal wish list, America will have to turn to countries like Venezuela and Russia for our energy needs, making us more reliant on foreign adversaries.

Democrats and the Biden Administration need to rethink their Green New Deal strategy of a renewables-only future. An "all-of-the-above" energy approach promotes a cleaner energy future without sacrificing reliability,



If our whole nation were to turn to California's policies, as Biden and Democrats would like us to do, we would have few-to-no domestic alternatives when these sources fail due to sunsets, bad weather, or unpredictable circumstances.

far more affordable to the American consumer than renewable energy alone and provide a more viable, realistic path toward a cleaner energy future. Unlike an overreliance on renewable energy, an "all-of-the-above" approach provides consumers with alternatives should renewable sources fail. As a bonus, these alternatives tend to be more

cost-effective. According to the Department of Energy, nuclear energy has the highest capacity factor of any other energy source by a longshot. Nuclear power plants operate at their maximum power more than 93% of the time each year, more than 1.5 times the next leading energy source.

One of the most critical benefits of

affordability, or our national security. We need to invest in a wholistic energy approach if we want to be smart about our nation's energy future.

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U.S. Representative Debbie Lesko, Arizona Republican, represents the 8th Congressional District. She serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Shaping the conversation on Capitol Hill and across the country on several key issues that we are facing in America.

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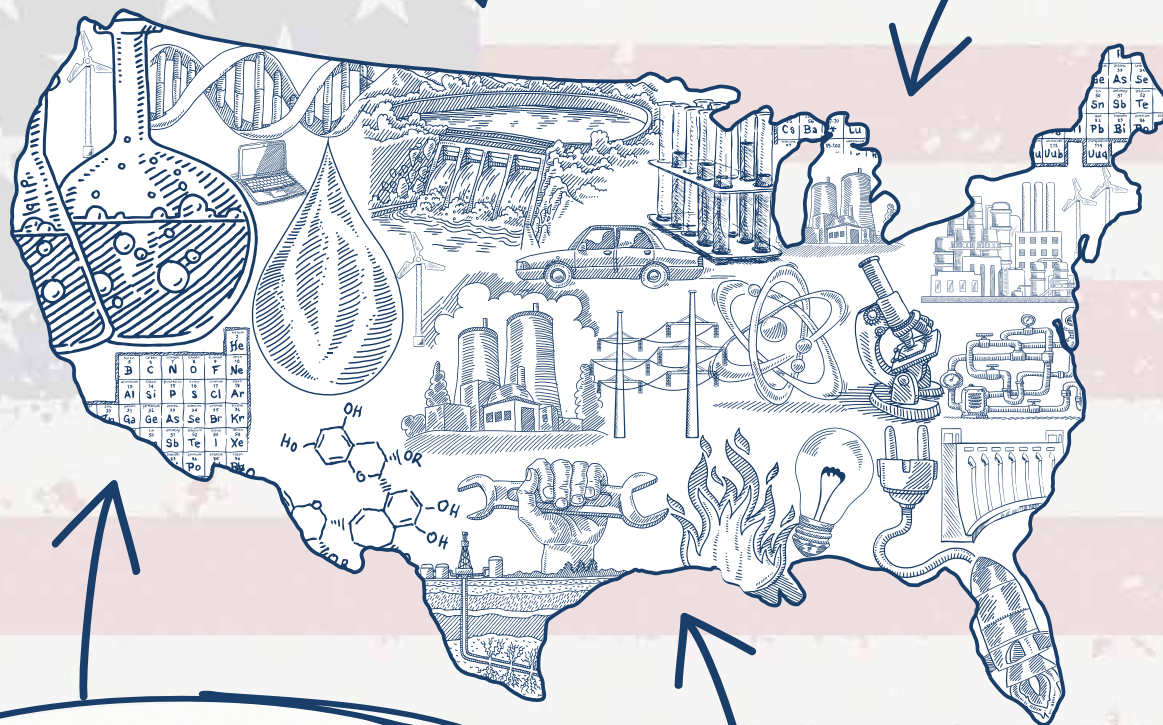
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