

THE POWER OF POLICIES:

Exploring **Energy** and the **Environment** in 2022



The Power of Policies

EXPLORING ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT 2022

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The Wyoming Way: environmental stewardship and energy prosperity



By Governor Mark Gordon

With inflation at a 40-year-high, Americans are faced with sky-high gasoline prices and soaring home heating and cooling bills. Is this really the cost of remedying climate change?

Who can, or should pay for it? How have we reached this juncture, two years after oil prices went negative and gasoline prices hovered around \$2.00 a gallon?

And what should be done about the climate? Is there a better way? These are the questions confronting our nation and our world.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine certainly impacted energy costs, but we must also acknowledge that the catalyst was President Biden's 180-degree policy reversal away from U.S. energy independence. Instead of being able to drive technological advancements and innovation in energy and usage, this administration surrendered our leadership to smothering regulations, a leasing pause, and disingenuous platitudes about "clean" energy. Instead of remedying climate threats, Biden administration policies are pushing production and development off to places lacking the very environmental or labor protections that America is rightly proud of.

Recognizing our world is increasingly dependent on all forms of energy, here in Wyoming we are leading the research and developing the policies to improve how we use and produce energy from our legacy industries, while also taking up new ones. We are staying focused on two principles: environmental stewardship and energy prosperity. These are not – cannot – be mutually exclusive. Poverty has never been good for the environment.

While the White House may downplay the effects of federal energy policy

based entirely on climate fear and rail against the industry, those in the energy business see clearly what has happened. Reliable, reasonably priced and abundant energy sources are being pushed aside in favor of complete dependence on intermittent (and therefore unreliable) power sources. Simply put, we need it all and we need to do it all better. Better technologies for fossil fuels can provide low-carbon, consistent fuel. When combined with renewable sources

communities. Conversely, renewables reward investors with generous tax incentives that completely bypass the impacted local communities.

While it is a warm and fuzzy feeling to believe renewables alone are capable of reversing climate change; the reality, is that we cannot cut our ties to fossil fuels unilaterally. As the Ukrainian debacle has revealed, we will have to act far more aggressively to redress climate change than just vilifying

coal. Choking domestic output through misguided attempts to end drilling on federal land and halting quarterly lease sales have contributed to this dramatic price spike. The recent announcement that Federal oil and gas lease sales are resuming was the typical sleight-of-hand decision from Washington, D.C. Yes, sales are resuming, but at a greatly reduced level and a nearly 50% increase in royalty rates. Hello Venezuela, can you help with our energy needs?

It doesn't have to be this way. America needs to follow Wyoming's lead and pursue an all-of-the-above approach to energy. Our future is not predicated on an/either or scenario, it is based on our ability to be innovative, to look at transition by lifting all boats, by distributing better technology globally, and by letting an appropriately regulated free-market address the issues of our time. If we are concerned about climate, we do not need to choose between fossil fuels or new types of energy. Instead, we must be committed to simultaneously growing renewable energy and improving dispatchable, dependable baseload power.

The latter should include advancements in nuclear power, as we are doing in Wyoming with the potential development of TerraPower's next-generation Sodium nuclear power plant. It should include investing in carbon capture and sequestration and encouraging carbon innovation, as Wyoming is doing with the development of the Integrated Test Center, where promising technologies can be tested. It means developing regional solutions like the Western Interstates Hydrogen Hub, where shared resources can accelerate the development and distribution of hydrogen.

Wyoming is ready to seize these opportunities and affirm our commitment to succeeding generations. We will oppose ridiculous regulation, promote sensible development, and embrace new technologies in those efforts. Innovation, not regulation is a path forward to give our nation the energy it requires while also helping to solve the world's climate concerns.

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Mark Gordon serves as the 33rd Governor of Wyoming. A rancher and businessman, he is a strong believer that Wyoming must chart its own course, and a steadfast defender of its interests to do so. Prior to being elected governor, he served as State Treasurer where he transformed and modernized the state's financial portfolio management leading to Wyoming's No. 1 ranking in the U.S. and No. 3 in the world among all sovereign funds by the Peterson Institute.



Illustration of a sodium nuclear reactor power plant. Molden Salt energy storage is a future energy concept.

(which are not carbon free), they can provide U.S. consumers power whenever they need it – not just when the wind is blowing and the sun is shining.

Western states are dominated by federal lands and minerals. Because of this White House's policies, domestic oil production and rig counts remain below pre-pandemic levels, even as the price per barrel steadily increases. Because activity is down, employment is down, school funding is down, compensation for wildlife habitat projects is down, and the state's ability to help communities is compromised. Unlike fossil fuels on Federal land, renewable energy projects do not pay royalties, they pay leases, which are not shared with the states or

the very industries that we rely on in blizzards, hurricanes, and heatwaves to keep the lights on. We must build a better-designed, better-engineered, and more diverse supply of energy – one that can actively remove carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, not just slow the contribution to it.

Wyoming is the highest net energy producer in the United States, exporting 90% of the energy it produces. Much of our state's oil and gas mineral estates exist on federally owned land. Instead of empowering Wyoming to help make this nation energy independent again, the Biden administration has focused its efforts on stopping the exploration and production of federal oil, gas and



Texas leading the charge in “all of the above” energy policy for U.S.



By Governor Greg Abbott

Texas is the energy capital of the world, and we're proud of that. Ever since Spindletop blew just outside Beaumont in 1901, Texas has been the centerpiece of the U.S. energy sector. Whether it's oil, natural gas, chemical products, or the pipelines that carry them, we have been supplying the world with the energy they need to fuel their cars, power their homes, and produce the products we all rely upon each and every day.

More than one million Texans work in the energy sector in everything from

exploration and production, to delivery of the energy that powers our modern world. They have helped make Texas into an economic juggernaut, the ninth largest economy in the world, and the number one state for business every year that I have been Governor. Their importance to the Texas economy, and to the American economy, cannot be overstated. They are the lifeblood of our state, and their hard work and dedication have made America into the superpower we are today.

With the turmoil we see in Europe and the rising prices here at home, the Texas energy industry has never been more important.

The White House may be trying to blame rising gas prices on the so-called “Putin Price Hike,” but the truth is, energy prices began rising long before Russia invaded Ukraine. They began rising just after President Biden took office. The American energy industry knows that this White House is beholden to the extreme left wing of their party, and their controversial “Green New Deal” proposal. No plan is more hostile to America's energy independence, to our future economic success than the “Green New Deal.”

Advocates of the “Green New Deal” would destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs in Texas alone, wiping out

high-paying positions that feed and house Texas families, and contribute to our state's booming economy. Just a few short years ago, a robust American energy industry made the United States truly energy independent, but President Biden and Democrats like Beto O'Rourke would rather give in to the extreme left wing of their party than allow America to power the world.

Europe has shown us what happens when you rely too much upon renewable energy and insist on getting your oil and natural gas from corrupt despots like Vladimir Putin. Texas is the number one state for wind energy, and is about to be number one for solar as well, but we also are proud to utilize all the oil and natural gas resources that our state has to offer as part of an “all of the above” energy policy. However, Democrats want to leave fossil fuels behind, and rely on foreign powers for that supply.

To appear like they are doing something, anything to help Americans deal with skyrocketing inflation, including high energy costs, the Biden administration has embraced feeble gimmicks that will do little to relieve the pressure Americans feel in their pocketbooks. Releasing a paltry amount of oil from our reserves won't drive down costs in any meaningful way, and neither will increasing the amount of ethanol that

we put into our gasoline.

To provide Americans and our allies in Europe with affordable, reliable energy, all Washington needs to do is unleash the American energy industry once more. Increase LNG exports so our energy companies can make up for what Europe lost from Russia. Approve permits stuck in the bureaucratic quagmire of Washington, D.C., so new drilling, exploration, and pipelines can refuel the world with cleaner, freer, American made energy. Restart the Keystone XL pipeline, so our allies in Canada can provide safe, reliable energy sources to refineries here in the United States. These simple steps will actually bring down gas prices, re-energize our economy, and relieve the strain Americans feel every time they look at their rapidly shrinking bank account.

It's time for Washington to choose Midland over Moscow.

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Greg Abbott is the 48th Governor of the State of Texas. Before his election in 2014, Greg Abbott was the 50th and longest-serving Attorney General of Texas, where he earned a national reputation for defending religious liberty and protecting Texas communities and children. He also previously served as a Justice on the Texas Supreme Court and as a State District Judge in Harris County.



U.S. energy leadership is needed now more than ever



By Craig Stevens

The United States is facing an unprecedented energy emergency. Gas prices over the past twelve months have risen by almost fifty percent and now average \$4 per gallon—with no significant relief in sight. Prior to this month, Russia accounted for eight percent of the United States' gross petroleum imports, making it no surprise that President Biden's ban on such imports has contributed to the sharp spike in domestic gas prices. On this issue, the President made the right decision, but

now we must find a substitute in order to fill the energy supply gap. Thankfully, he doesn't have to look far, he just has to let America drill.

A recent poll shows that even when experiencing higher energy costs, ninety percent of Americans support the ban on Russian oil. People understand that continuing to purchase Russian energy is to effectively fund their war machine against Ukraine. Now, with Europe joining the U.S. in boycotting Russian energy purchases, we are putting pressure on the most important segment of their economy. Since revenues from oil and gas sales make almost half of their federal budget, these actions will have a significant impact on the Russian government.

Of course, the supply gap caused by the decisions by leaders in Europe and Washington has impacts – and a fix is needed.

Thankfully, the United States has the capacity to make sustainable investments in energy here at home. The U.S. has more untapped oil than any country on earth—about 264 billion barrels worth— that can be leveraged to put downward pressure on future prices in the future. It's a reasonable approach towards becoming energy independent, and a

majority of Americans recognize it's time we utilize it.

To tap into American energy, President Biden should prioritize domestic development and pipeline projects. Our vast pipeline network connects oil patches with refiners and other manufacturers across the country, helping fuel the American economy. Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation show pipelines are the safest way to transport energy.

With this information, President Biden should quickly reverse his decision to revoke the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. Had the pipeline not suffered years of regulatory roadblocks—and an eventual shutdown—we could be safely importing up to 900,000 barrels of crude oil a day from the Canadian oil sands. An amount that far exceeds the previous volumes of crude oil coming into the U.S. from Russia before President Biden's ban.

The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)—currently under ongoing scrutiny—is also critical for achieving energy independence and economic growth. This project creates jobs, provides wages to workers, connects communities, and pays millions of dollars in taxes. DAPL isn't just safe—it's extremely popular. A recent poll found those who support the pipeline

outnumber those who don't by a five to one margin. The project also has vigorous support among 83 percent of North Dakotans, who have seen the work up close.

Despite the White House's claims of support for domestic energy production, the Biden administration's policies make tapping into them extremely difficult. The administration reversed more than one hundred regulations designed to promote U.S. energy leadership and independence. Even with the recent announcement that the Department of Interior is resuming onshore oil and gas lease sales after a year-long pause, they significantly scaled it down and made the process more expensive. This adds yet another hurdle to production.

In this era of political polarization, energy independence is an issue that unites people on all sides. 86 percent of Americans agree that instead of turning to foreign sources, we should rely on the tremendous amount of energy we have at home. Everything we need is right beneath our feet—it's time we tap into it.

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Craig Stevens, former senior advisor to U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman, spokesman for Grow America's Infrastructure Now (GAIN).

A clean, innovative, American energy agenda



By Rich Powell, CEO, ClearPath

Economic inflation, post-Covid global supply chain chaos, Russia's war in Ukraine, and the onslaught of China's effort to dominate markets have combined to bring on a global energy crisis. The question is how do we address these challenges and restore American energy independence while working to solve the climate challenge?

Too often, energy and climate policy is oversimplified to false choices: renewables versus fossils, economy versus environment, 100% emissions reductions globally versus doing nothing at all.

The reality is public policy must focus on making the global clean energy transition cheaper and faster. Rather than trying to make existing energy sources more expensive or off limits, we must pursue a market-driven agenda that makes clean energy more affordable.

On that front, Republicans are leading.

America is blessed with abundance of natural resources, from fossil fuels to critical rare earth minerals. More importantly, we're blessed with an American spirit and passion to innovate. The clean energy development boom from 2005 to 2020 led to a decrease in U.S. emissions by more than 20% and made the U.S. a global leader in energy production. With continued smart policy — such as the Energy Act of 2020 crafted by a bipartisan Congress and signed into law by President Trump — we can lead on mitigating the global climate challenge while regaining our place as the global energy leader.

No matter your politics, we can all agree that growing global industrial activity increases carbon emissions, and emissions are changing the climate. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report painted a rather gloomy picture, but you don't need to take their word for it. Farmers, ranchers, foresters and fishermen will all tell you the weather is different today than

when they were younger, and their jobs have gotten harder. We hear the same thing from the oil and gas industry, and power companies. It's clear it's time to talk about solutions.

We can't damage our economy in our efforts. The good news is — we don't have to because there are exciting opportunities that protect our workforce and unleash American resource independence.

The U.S. is in a unique position to lead on global clean energy action. For example, a recent life cycle analysis conducted by the Department of Energy's (DOE's) National Energy Technology Laboratory on U.S. liquified

Climate and Conservation Task Force has the enormous responsibility of tackling the global climate challenge, making America resource independent, and keeping energy affordable.

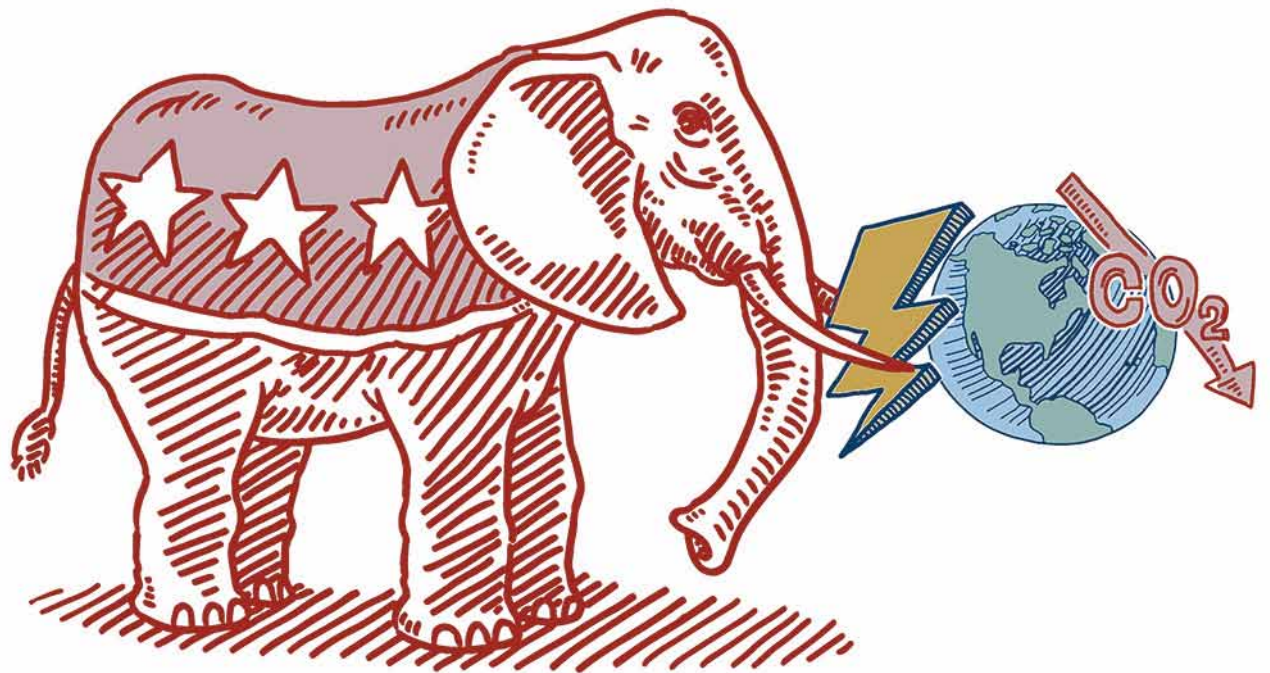
This summer, they'll produce a package of policies to do just that. By leveraging American innovation, modernizing permitting, and bringing energy production and manufacturing back to the U.S., the task force can accelerate resource independence and ultimately lower prices.

As Americans, innovation and creating jobs are part of who we are.

setting a two-year goal for completing reviews while upholding America's strong environmental safeguards.

The Biden administration unfortunately reversed those reforms back to the burdensome, outdated version. That decision could undermine shared clean energy goals by making it harder to permit energy infrastructure, at a time when virtually everyone agrees we should be building cleaner faster.

Another goal conservatives are leading with is bringing manufacturing back to the U.S. American manufacturing is the cleanest in the world because of our high environmental standards, which, unsurprisingly, are not shared



natural gas (LNG) exports shows that American LNG can be up to 30% cleaner than Russian natural gas.

Nuclear energy is another area where America needs to lead. It is estimated that nearly 50 countries have markets for advanced nuclear power — a potential \$360 billion per year market opportunity. There is an array of new and advanced American designs, but Russia currently accounts for the majority of reactor exports worldwide. Sanctions on Russia from many of those countries makes this an even bigger market opportunity, but the U.S. needs to move quickly.

On hydrogen, the U.S. would have both a cost and energy security advantage relative to our Russian, Middle Eastern, and Australian competitors, if we continue to innovate and begin exporting American hydrogen to places like Europe and Japan.

Last summer, House Republicans announced seven task forces to formulate policies they will pursue if they regain the majority. One, the Energy,

And thanks to innovation, America has already reduced our carbon dioxide emissions by more than any other country in the last 20 years.

But, what good is innovation if we can't build anything? Energy projects on average take 5-10 years to get a project permitted. This is precisely why America needs to modernize the federal permitting process for energy and infrastructure projects.

In 2020, the Trump administration modernized federal permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the first major update to the law in 40 years. The 1970 law requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impact of major projects, and a lot of good has come from NEPA over the years. But, 1970 was a long time ago, and NEPA has not been modernized to keep pace with innovation. The changes from the previous administration were designed to produce more efficient reviews and more timely decisions,

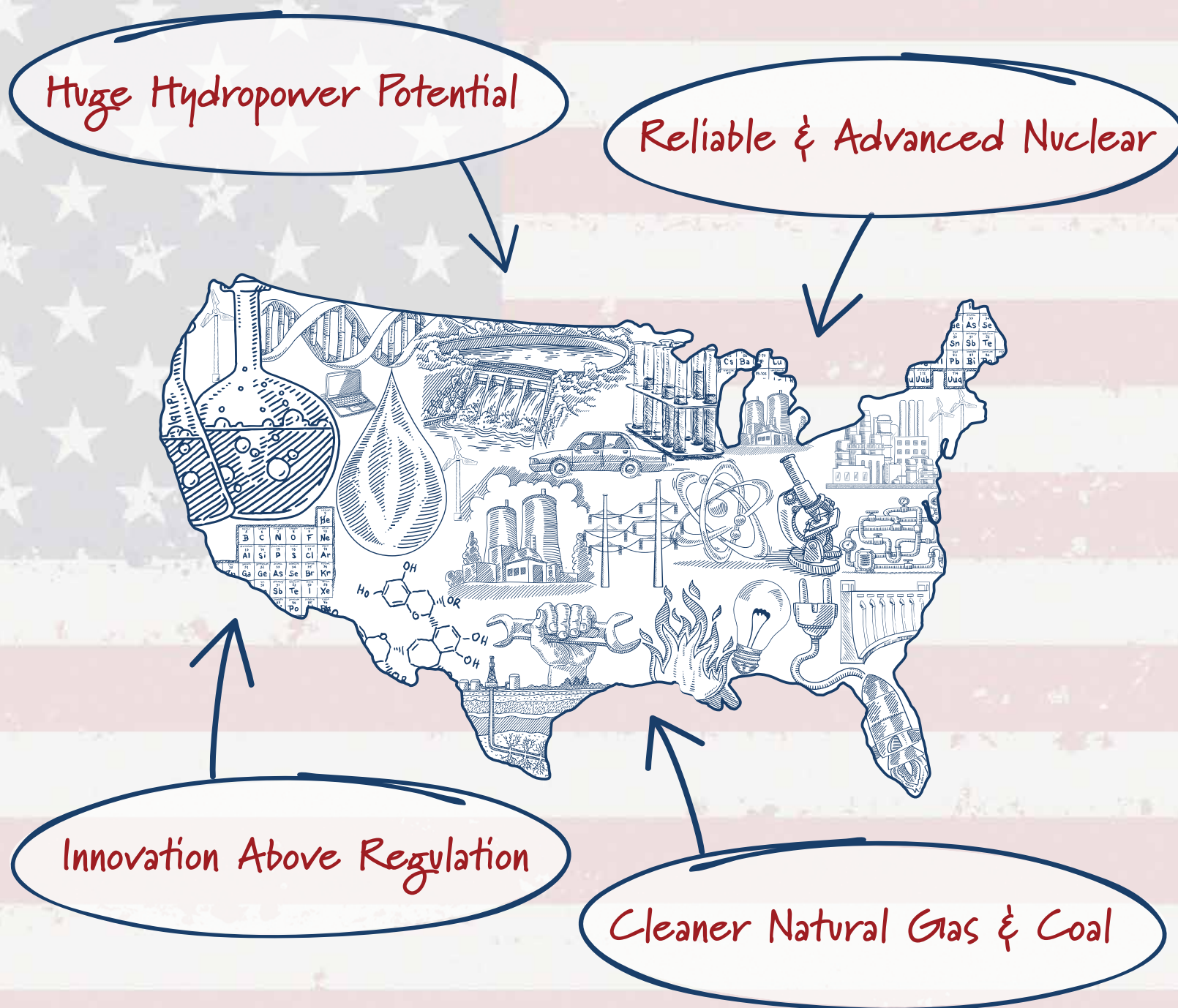
by China and Russia.

If we are to truly address surging energy prices, wean the world off of Russian gas, and beat China, we should tap into that American spirit and double, or even triple down on clean energy innovation. Thinking realistically, we aren't going to replace fossil fuels with renewables overnight, and regulatory roadblocks in front of our own producers, developers, and innovators only slow clean energy progress.

We're tremendously excited about the huge climate progress amongst conservative policymakers over the last several Congresses, and are optimistic that Republicans will unlock America's opportunity to lead the world in clean energy innovation and production.

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

THIS Is Conservative Clean Energy



Find out more at clearpath.org

CLEARPATH



America's energy strategy impacts our national, economic security



By U.S. Sen. John Thune

Inflation hit 8.5% in March, the highest it's been since 1981, and it's hitting families where it hurts. One of the price hikes hitting Americans the hardest is the increase in the price of gas. The national average for a gallon of gas has been over \$4, and for working families, these rising costs could mean reprioritizing their spending and adding more stress when it comes to making rent and filling the tank. One estimate found that

a typical household can expect to pay \$2,000 more this year for gasoline alone. If you ask the Biden administration, it will point to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the primary cause for sky-rocketing prices in an attempt to deflect from its long-standing assault on domestic energy production. American families and small businesses know better, though – they've been coping with soaring energy bills since last fall. President Biden made his attitude toward conventional energy production clear on day one when he cancelled the Keystone XL pipeline, and since then, his administration has tried to make it more expensive and more difficult to tap into America's abundant energy resources. Rather than embracing homegrown energy, the president has pursued an agenda that is hostile to it. Instead of prioritizing American energy independence, he has focused almost exclusively on alternative energy technologies, including what seems to be an obsession with electric vehicles, which his administration has clearly picked as its preferred winner in the clean-energy stakes. The fact of the matter is, our nation is not going to magically transition to a 100% zero-emission energy fleet

overnight, no matter how much the administration would like it to. From technological advancements and supplying critical minerals to upgrading our electric grid and energy storage, this is going to take time, and liquid fuels aren't going away in the near term. Right now, consumers need affordable and reliable energy supplies to power their homes and businesses and low-cost fuel options to fill their vehicles. The conflict in Ukraine is a reminder that energy independence is not only a component of economic security, but it is also critically important to national security. In the United States, we cannot waste another second in terms of getting our energy producers off the bench and into the game. American energy independence, which we had during the last administration, and for the first time in my lifetime, means we don't have to rely on foreign regimes for energy supplies – a reliance that ultimately funds their malign agendas. This is no time for gimmicks, but that's what Democrats have considered as Americans pay more at the pump. The White House has reportedly considered mailing people gas cards and sending another round of stimulus

checks, which would undoubtedly worsen inflation. The administration has also tapped into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve without any plan to restore it. New leases mean little if government red tape still blocks drilling. The only acceptable American energy policy is an all-of-the-above energy policy that invests in both clean energy technologies and conventional energy sources, from hydroelectric and nuclear to biofuels and natural gas. That's the only way to keep energy prices down and ensure that Americans' energy needs are met – no matter what is going on in oil-producing countries around the globe. Americans can't afford to wait any longer. Senator John Thune, South Dakota Republican, is the Senate minority whip, the number two position in Senate Republican leadership. He serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; and the Finance Committee. He is the ranking member of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband and ranking member of the Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight.

Congress has an easy way to create American jobs and reduce greenhouse gases—the Senate must ratify the Kigali Amendment

By U.S. Sens. Tom Carper and John Kennedy

Win-win opportunities aren't easy to find in politics, but sometimes single solutions exist to help tackle several challenges.

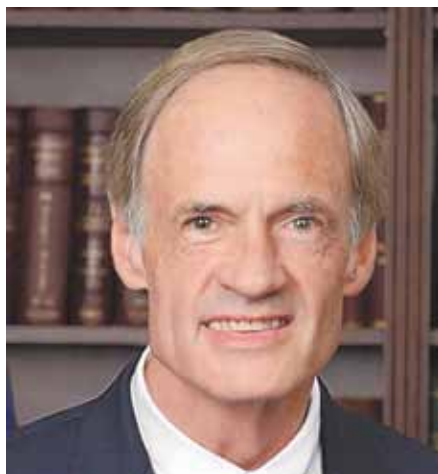
Cleaning up super-polluting hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) is one of those rare solutions that will boost our economy and help protect our planet.

HFCs are the coolants and refrigerants that keep our homes cool and our groceries cold in the fridge. They are found in almost every household in America—but they have a global warming effect thousands of times stronger than carbon dioxide.

For years, American companies have been at the forefront of developing HFC alternatives, so by phasing down HFCs we help promote U.S. leadership in the innovation and manufacturing of new climate-safe products. That's what brought us together to write and pass the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act in 2020, a law that phases down the production and use of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years. Transitioning away from HFCs drives more investments in American-made technologies that are better for the environment, cheaper for consumers, and good for the economy.

The AIM Act is expected to create 33,000 new manufacturing jobs and help more than 130,000 Americans keep their current jobs over the next five years in communities across the country including our home states of Louisiana and Delaware. In addition, using these next generation coolants is expected to save American businesses and consumers billions in energy costs over the next 10 years. That's why the AIM Act won broad support from hundreds of businesses, industry leaders, and environmental groups.

This manufacturing boost will also be good for Louisiana, where plants in Geismar, Baton Rouge, and St. Gabriel could create more jobs and save hundreds of existing jobs by transitioning to production of safer coolants. And Louisiana companies involved in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) industry could benefit, as well. The international HVACR market could more than double over the next decade, and Louisiana's HVACR industry can produce appliances that don't rely on HFCs—appliances that we could



then export to make the most out of this industry's growth.

More than a thousand miles away, in Delaware, thousands of workers are employed by manufacturers of climate-friendly HFC alternatives. Yet, the environmental benefits of the AIM Act will benefit all who live in the First State. As the lowest lying state in the nation, Delaware is already experiencing the economic impacts of rising seas and other climate-related events. Reducing HFCs is a powerful tool to use in tackling climate change. Coupled with international efforts, the AIM Act could



help avoid a global temperature increase of 0.5°C by the end of the century.

But our work isn't done yet. While the AIM Act has helped position America to reap the domestic fruits of transitioning away from HFCs, it can't ensure that we'll keep beating competitors (and super-polluters) like China and India unless America is a full partner in international efforts to phase out these substances.

In order to see the full economic and environmental benefits of transitioning away from HFCs, the Senate must now ratify the Kigali Amendment. By

building on the successes of the AIM Act, ratifying the Kigali Amendment will expand the global market for American-made technologies and safeguard U.S. investments.

More than 170 countries support the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which obliges its signers to gradually phase down their HFC usage by 85%. China and India have both ratified the amendment. Starting in 2033, the Kigali Amendment would impose trade restrictions between countries that comply with the HFC phasedown agreement and those that do not.

The AIM Act is already bringing the U.S. into alignment with the Kigali Amendment's plan to phase down HFCs. It only makes economic sense that the Senate now ratify this agreement to ensure that the U.S. can capitalize on the success of the AIM Act instead of unnecessarily limiting our trade partners and giving our competitors—or even adversaries like China—a leg up at the expense of hardworking Americans. Both sides of the aisle can agree that the U.S. should lead the world in exporting the goods that use next-generation coolants.

The Senate should ratify this amendment for the same reasons that Congress passed the AIM Act. Formalizing America's support for the Kigali Amendment would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, boost U.S. exports, strengthen America's manufacturing industry, and create more jobs for workers here at home. What's not to like about that?

Senator Tom Carper, Delaware Democrat, serves as Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee as well as a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Finance Committees. In public service for more than 45 years, he served five terms in the U.S. House where he earned a reputation as a results-oriented centrist, and was elected as Delaware's 78th governor, serving two terms in that role.

Senator John Kennedy, Louisiana Republican, serves on the Appropriations, Banking, Budget, Judiciary, and Small Business Committees and as the top Republican of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served as state treasurer of Louisiana for five terms, secretary of the Department of Revenue, as well as special counsel to and secretary of Gov. Roemer's cabinet.



Biden's energy counter-revolution



By U.S. Sen. John Barrasso

America's energy revolution was a game changer that turned us into the world's pre-eminent energy power. Joe Biden is mounting a counter-revolution against it.

The president inherited an energy economy that was the envy of the world. He has spent the last 14 months working to dismantle that legacy. We are living with the consequences.

America's energy revolution was an astonishing technical and entrepreneurial achievement. It made us energy independent for the first time since the early 1950s. It made energy more affordable, which made us more prosperous and more competitive. It also delivered geopolitical flexibility at a time when America was contending with several emerging threats that intersected with energy.

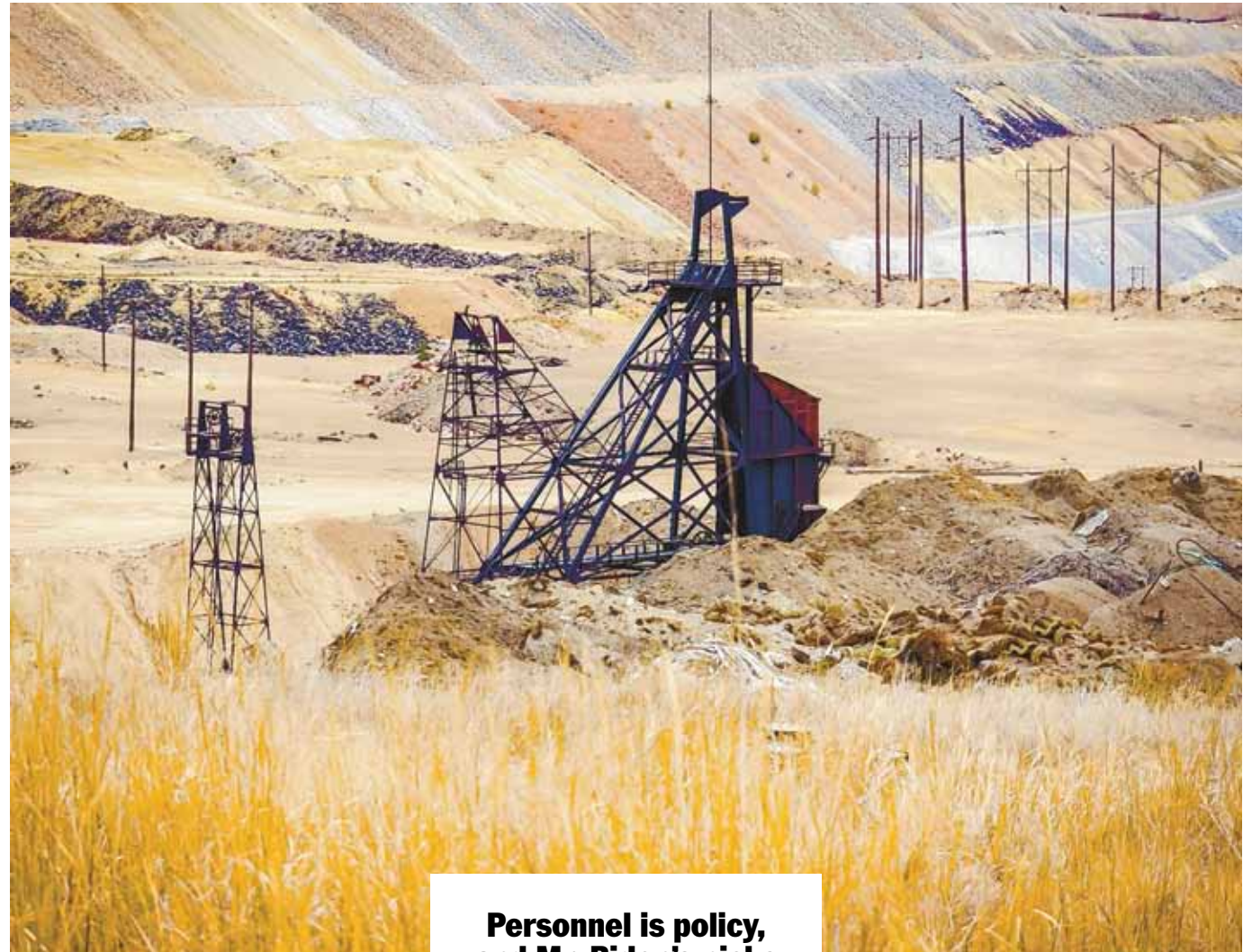
Driven by fracking, horizontal drilling, and advanced seismic imaging technologies, America's crude oil and natural gas production shot up. From 2005 to 2019, oil and natural gas production jumped 116 and 89%, respectively. Over the same period, carbon emissions dove 19%.

That revolution came about because of a change of mindset toward policies that embraced energy abundance rather than energy scarcity.

Instead of welcoming America's energy revolution, this president is mounting a methodical "whole of government" counter-revolution against it, all to achieve some completely unrealistic Green New Deal targets.

Practically every agency—from the Department of Interior and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve—is being enlisted to starve fossil fuel companies of financing, deny them access to resources and infrastructure, tie them up in "green tape," and tax them.

Personnel is policy, and Mr. Biden's



Personnel is policy, and Mr. Biden's picks for important positions in his administration are uniformly hostile to America's energy revolution.

picks for important positions in his administration are uniformly hostile to America's energy revolution.

Attacking the fuels that provide four-fifths of the energy we use has had predictable—and dire—consequences for America's families. This administration has wreaked havoc with America's energy economy and added to inflationary pressures, especially hurting households with low or fixed incomes.

The administration has created enormous uncertainty that has contributed to the underinvestment in the oil and gas sector especially. Europe is giving us a preview of the energy fiasco that underinvesting in reliable and secure fossil fuels can create.

Democrats now see energy prices and inflation heading north and their poll numbers heading south. Desperate gimmicks like releasing more oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or a gasoline tax holiday will not solve the fundamental problem: America's energy crisis is a supply crisis. The solution is more American energy, but that is the one solution the administration will not allow.

At about 11.7 million barrels per day, U.S. crude oil output is running 1.3 million barrel per day below the pre-pandemic peak. In 2020, the Energy

Information Administration forecast that producers were on course to hit 14 million barrels per day by 2022. We can realize that with the right policies.

It is not just fossil fuels. The Biden administration is so beholden to the environmental left that it is slow-walking or blocking permits for mines that would produce the minerals used in the energy technologies the president says he wants.

Wind turbines, solar panels, and batteries for electric vehicles use certain key minerals in much bigger quantities than the technologies they are meant to replace.

Existing supplies, however, are largely controlled by our adversaries. That has not stopped the administration from cancelling or delaying mining projects in places like Minnesota, Arizona, Alaska, and Nevada.

We should not have to rely on China and Russia for minerals we can

mine here. We need to be energy self-sufficient. That's true not just for oil, natural gas, and coal, but for the raw materials needed for nuclear, solar, wind, and batteries.

Biden's energy counter-revolution is counter-productive. What America needs is sensible policies that support more American energy and innovation.

The president has a stark choice. He can continue to throw away one of America's biggest economic and geopolitical advantages. Or he can change course and unleash America's entrepreneurs and workers to sustain America's energy revolution.

Energy pre-eminence is central to realizing our economic and geopolitical interests. America is the world's energy superpower. It is time we started acting like it again.

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

“Take the handcuffs off our energy producers to develop our abundant energy reserves at home”



By U.S. Sen. John Hoeven

Since his inauguration, President Biden has been saying “no” to U.S. energy producers. As a result, Americans are paying more for energy, whether at the gas pump or through their monthly utility bills. Higher energy prices drive up the costs of everything we consume – meaning inflation will continue to rise, undermining the wage gains we’ve made in recent years and hurting lower income households the most. For an energy rich nation such as ours, this situation is unacceptable and completely avoidable.

Just a decade ago, my home state of North Dakota cracked the code on new horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques, which unlocked the potential of our nation’s vast energy reserves in shale formations like the Bakken. This helped the United States become the world’s largest oil and gas producer as well as a net exporter of energy in 2019. Americans benefited from our energy independence through record low energy prices, good-paying jobs and greater economic and national security.

Rather than build upon this success, President Biden has hit the brakes on domestic energy production. For more than a year, the administration placed a moratorium on leasing for federal lands, stifling the opportunity to harness our abundant taxpayer-owned energy resources. Further, the administration’s recent announcement to resume leasing will reduce the amount of federal land available for energy development by about 80% and increase energy production costs. Despite the administration’s claims, current leaseholders have been held back from developing these energy resources due to burdensome



regulations and court challenges led by anti-fossil fuel special interest groups.

At the same time, the Biden administration is undercutting our ability to move oil and gas across the country by blocking pipelines. In 2015, I introduced S.1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. We passed it through the Senate and the House, but President Obama vetoed it. If not for that, the pipeline would be bringing nearly a million barrels of oil per day from our closest friend and ally Canada. That’s now oil we don’t have.

The Biden administration has doubled down on this approach. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under President Biden’s appointees has been slow-walking the approval of much-needed natural gas infrastructure, including gas gathering systems and pipelines. FERC is now advancing two policy statements that add even more uncertainty to a burdensome regulatory process and threaten not only future projects, but also those that have already completed the required environmental reviews. This heavy-handed approach results in stranded natural gas and increased flaring because energy producers can’t get permits for the infrastructure needed to get natural gas to market, let alone to our allies in Europe,

which would reduce their reliance on Russian natural gas. If we want to cut off the Russia war machine, we need to cut off their ability to sell energy.

While this administration pursues their Green New Deal agenda here at home, President Biden is pleading with OPEC and our adversaries, Iran and Venezuela, to pump more oil. It makes no sense to increase our dependence on nations that are less stable and have less stringent environmental practices, when our domestic energy industry is ready and willing to answer the call to meet our country’s growing demand for energy.

President Biden needs to take the handcuffs off our energy producers and work with us to empower American energy workers to develop our abundant energy reserves at home, using the latest and greatest technology to do it with the best environmental stewardship in the world. To this end, we are:

- Pressing the administration to end its restrictive policies to unleash the full potential of our abundant, taxpayer-owned oil and gas reserves on federal lands.
- Advancing efforts to crack the code on carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) technologies, which will enable the U.S. to continue

utilizing all of its abundant energy resources, including oil, gas and coal, while reducing emissions.

- Working to provide regulatory certainty and streamline the approval of key energy infrastructure, including pipelines, transmission lines and other facilities needed to get energy to market.

Through these efforts, we are supporting the good work of our country’s energy producers and helping ensure more affordable energy for Americans, and President Biden should do the same. Increasing America’s domestic supply of energy means lower costs for consumers, a stronger economy and a more secure nation. It’s as simple as that.

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Senator John Hoeven, North Dakota Republican, serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and works to unleash the nation’s abundant energy resources to lower costs for consumers and help advance our nation’s economic and national security. Prior to his time in the Senate, Hoeven served as governor of North Dakota, where he initiated EmPower ND, the state’s comprehensive energy plan that led North Dakota to become an energy powerhouse and one of the largest energy producing and exporting states in the nation.

Rethinking fossil and nuclear energy



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

As a union with thousands of members working in the energy industry—and with thousands more whose jobs depend on reliable and affordable energy across other sectors—the Boilermakers are acutely aware of the uncertain future of fossil fuels and nuclear power.

Concerns about carbon emissions and nuclear accidents have driven many governments, NGOs and climate activists to urge abandoning fossil and nuclear power as rapidly as possible.

But are nations moving too fast? Are we sacrificing energy security today in pursuit of perceived avoidance of climate and nuclear risks tomorrow? Can fossil and nuclear power still have a role in the world's energy mix?

The brutal and criminal war on Ukraine brings those questions into sharp focus.

Nations of the European Union, in particular, have led much of the world in the so-called green movement. But that leadership has come at the expense of skyrocketing energy costs for many European citizens and dependence on Russian oil, gas and coal during the transition to wind and solar energy.

With many billions of Euros spent on green energy, the goal of achieving 100% renewable power remains elusive. And instead of becoming energy independent, the EU finds itself reliant on a brutish regime and an evil tyrant for a substantial portion of its fossil energy requirements.

The EU meets about one third of its fossil fuel needs from Russian exports. Unfortunately, those sales help finance Russia's military aggression and leave EU nations handcuffed in their ability to immediately and fully impose sanctions on Russian energy.

As a consequence, European leaders are now reassessing the energy policies

that have seen fossil power plants scrapped and nuclear facilities decommissioned—some even before the end of their useful economic lives. Today there is talk of building new gas plants, new nuclear power generation and new LNG terminals. Even fracking, which has been banned in Germany, France and other European nations, is getting renewed attention.

It remains to be seen whether EU nations shift back to a more balanced mix of energy sources or double down on more renewables, as some demand.

And likely so will their cost.

The position of the Boilermakers union has long been that an all-of-the-above energy strategy is needed, a strategy that does not pick winners but instead maximizes the strengths of every available energy source while at the same time pursuing low-carbon and carbon-free solutions.

The Boilermakers' long history in the fossil fuel industry has shown that once-problematic emissions in the coal industry, including particulates, nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide have been ad-

Chernobyl), remains a reliable zero-carbon energy source. New, smaller and safer nuclear power systems that produce less radioactive material offer more flexibility and lower cost than traditional large, centralized facilities.

As the world grows ever more populous and energy hungry, we must consider all available sources, even as we address the very real threats of climate change. Renewables alone cannot get us where we need to be. Blindly pursuing an all-solar/all-wind energy future while railing against CCUS-adapted



Russia's war on Ukraine should prompt all freedom-loving nations to rethink their energy policies and dependencies, including the United States and Canada. Over-reliance on a few energy sources and providers can lead to an uncertain future in which geopolitical crises interrupt supplies and lead to economic calamity.

Even a 100% renewable power system (if achievable) is no guarantee of energy security. Solar panels, wind turbines and electric car batteries all rely on rare earth materials that are mined and processed in a handful of countries. And China dominates the global market.

Future geopolitical disagreements and belligerent actions could quickly disrupt exports of rare earth metals with dire consequences for importing nations.

As the global population continues to grow and developing economies expand, the demand for rare earth metals and other energy sources will only increase.

dress successfully through new technologies like electrostatic precipitators, scrubbers and hot gas filtration systems. Newer supercritical and ultrasupercritical boilers have made power generation more efficient.

Today's focus on carbon emissions likewise demands technological innovation, not only in fossil fuel extraction, processing and use but also in high-emitting industries like cement and steel production.

Breakthroughs in carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS) offer promising solutions to carbon emissions for legacy power sources and heavy industries. More investment in research and development along with supportive government policies is needed to bring these technologies into widespread commercial use.

Nuclear power, with its remarkable safety record (despite the headline-grabbing incidents at Fukushima and

fossil energy as well as nuclear power is counterproductive to achieving climate goals. We will need wind and solar, yes, but also fossil fuels, nuclear, hydrogen and other options.

The horrific and barbaric war on Ukraine should be a wake-up call for energy security. We should rethink the role that fossil fuels and nuclear power can play in the global energy mix. And we should continue to support investments and policies that make these reliable and proven sources part of a cleaner, low-carbon and net-zero future.

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

THE BOILERMAKERS ADVANTAGE: FORWARD THINKING TOGETHER

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

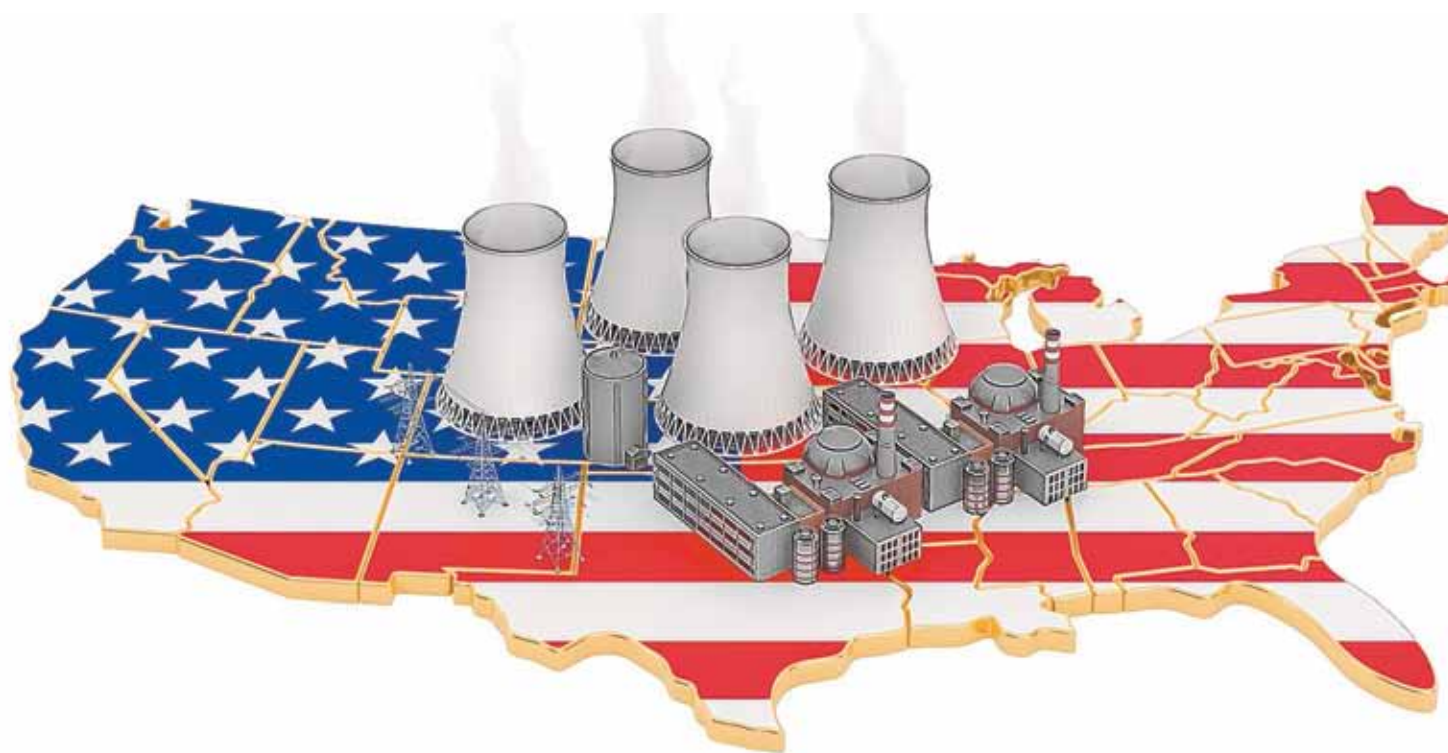
That's why we're committed to supporting carbon capture, use and storage as a solution to mitigate climate change while providing reliable energy production through a realistic mix of renewables and clean fossil fuels. All while preserving our workforce and economic growth.

Find out more. Watch our short film, "Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future" at www.CleanerFutureCCUS.org

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

LET'S GET TO WORK TOGETHER.
BOILERMAKERS

www.boilermakers.org



Will U.S. or China hold keys to the 2nd nuclear era?



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

On March 28, 1979, a partial nuclear meltdown occurred in unit-2 of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. The partial meltdown resulted in the release of small amounts of radioactive gases including iodine into the environment. A vast literature of epidemiological studies have concluded that there have been no observable health effects as a result of the meltdown. Nonetheless, the TMI disaster shut the door on a world that could have been.

After a hiatus on nuclear power development in the United States for some time, concerns of climate change firmly embedded in the public conscience have fostered a concerted effort globally and at home to “decarbonize,” and

nuclear energy is back on the menu!

President Biden has set aggressive 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goals of more than 50%. In order to accomplish this goal, the President aims to accelerate electrification of our economy while weaning us off fossil fuels in the process. The challenge widens when considering that wind and solar fulfill approximately 10% of U.S. electricity demand. Couple this with unproven large-scale batteries and required overhaul of the electric grid and the problem barely begins to come into focus. Simply put, a green energy revolution is nearly impossible, but we can protect American energy security and significantly reduce emissions with increased investment and innovation in nuclear power.

Ahead of his time, Oak Ridge Lab Director, Dr. Alvin Weinberg noted that the first nuclear era would have been successful if a greater focus had been placed on operational safety and spent nuclear fuel management. Indeed, Weinberg’s Molten-Salt Reactor Experiment (MSRE) successfully operated for over 6000 hours without incident and was a showcase for the future. Decades later, Weinberg, who invented the ubiquitous pressurized water reactor, was noted as saying that if he were to do it all over again, he would have focused on the waste first. Thankfully, there are innovators today in our national labs and private industry that might be on the verge of solving our waste problems.

With Weinberg’s departure from the lab, the seed of the thorium fuel cycle, Uranium-233 (U-233), sat at Oak Ridge

National Lab mostly forgotten. With the discussion on a closed fuel cycle dimming, the Department of Energy deemed the U-233 waste and transferred ownership to the Office of Environmental Management – DOE’s trash collectors. However, it has become clear that U-233 is a very unique and valuable material. It has the potential to revolutionize both clean energy and cancer treatment, a truth that is not lost to our geopolitical adversaries, most importantly China. Aggressively pursuing thorium molten-salt reactor technology, China’s next-gen aircraft carriers, now under construction, will be powered by American thorium-reactor technology. Making matters worse for America’s prospects, the CCP claims they will be deploying commercial-scale thorium reactors by 2030. Considering the TMSR program to be one of the “perfect technologies” for their Belt and Road initiative, China plans to own the future. Meanwhile, America doesn’t even have the capability to create High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (or HALEU) for the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP) recipients, who are reliant on Russia. Moreover, we do not research alternative fuel cycle reactors, like plutonium and thorium for peaceful purposes, nor do we recycle our nuclear fuel like many other countries.

France, Japan, Russia, China and others have solutions for the back-end of their nuclear fuel cycle, but here in the U.S. nuclear fuel recycling has been all but banned since the Carter administration. The law of the land calls for a

geologic repository, and with the failed Yucca Mountain project, it’s clearly not a workable solution anymore. We call the valuable nuclear fuel “waste” and expect citizens to store it in their “backyard.”

Whereas other countries have been building reactors at a rapid pace, our Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is no longer in the business of licensing reactors, and its needless regulations have been making nuclear power expensive, stifling American innovation, and holding back the nuclear reactors of tomorrow.

Dr. Alvin Weinberg once said, “to deny the rebirth of nuclear energy is to deny human ingenuity and aspiration.” With the promise of a second nuclear era beckoning, we must ask ourselves, will it be China or the U.S. that will be holding the keys to a future of abundant clean energy. Without a refocus of our system, closing the fuel cycle with recycling and advancing a plethora of advanced nuclear technologies to leapfrog our competition, I fear we may already know the answer.

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 a 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.

The world is watching, stop the double talk



By U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer

The Biden administration's energy policy, or lack thereof, is mind-boggling. This 2050 fantasy has distorted their vision to the point they can't see the geopolitical moment before us today. Our allies are asking for help. We can meet it if we unleash American energy production, but the absolute intransigence of the administration's environmental regime stands in the way.

Here are the facts. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, total U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proposed natural gas pipeline policies requiring environmental analysis of both upstream and downstream emissions. Even though they were labeled as interim, the policies went into effect immediately. After immense blowback, FERC rightfully did an about-face, but the proposal itself sent the wrong message to a watching world: the U.S. is discouraging its own energy infrastructure.

of customers, when providing access to services, capital, and credit." The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) proposed the first-ever regulations to require companies to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions as well as imagine their exposure to any number of climate change related risks. Not only does the SEC not have this authority, this is yet another signal chilling markets at a time when we need to ramp up our domestic energy production.

for misguided climate guilt. But this moronic sentiment was only reiterated when Kerry publicly worried Putin's war in Ukraine was a distraction from climate change efforts. The misplaced priorities are astounding.

Let's get serious about energy and environment policy. To lower global greenhouse gas emissions, we need to produce more domestic energy and export it to the world. Rather than stupidly shooting ourselves in the foot,



Rather than stupidly shooting ourselves in the foot, this would meet the world's energy demands while reducing the West's reliance on dirtier fuels from adversaries, despots, and dictators.

emissions fell by 12% from 2005 to 2018. During the same period, the U.S. became the number one energy producer in the world, but global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions increased over 23.8%. So, our energy production increased while our emissions decreased, but the globe trended the opposite direction. Somehow President Biden concluded American energy was the problem.

We need more domestic energy production to meet global demand, not less.

This President and his administration want to impose their mediocrity not only on North Dakota, but the entire nation by hamstringing our energy independence. On Day One, they canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have delivered heavy Canadian crude to Gulf Coast refineries instead of relying on Russia or Venezuela. They banned new oil and gas leases on federal lands despite quarterly lease sales mandated in the Mineral Leasing Act. They halted drilling in Alaska's 1002 area, which again, contradicts the law.

The Biden administration's agenda of regulatory overreach knows no bounds. The 30x30 initiative aims to conserve at least 30% of land and water by the year 2030. Why's this important? It is no coincidence two of the top oil-producing states, Texas and North Dakota, are not dominated by federal lands and bureaucracy. 30x30 is merely an attempt to insert the federal government's mediocrity into excellent work states already do.

Outside of the typical energy and environment avenues, unelected Biden administration officials are doing everything in their power to regulate fossil fuels out of existence. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency froze the Trump administration's Fair Access Rule which would have codified guidance stating, "banks should conduct risk assessments of individual customers, rather than make broad-based decisions affecting whole categories or classes

Not to be outdone, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation recently issued draft principles directing financial institutions to address climate-related risks into their risk management frameworks.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree given the President himself said, "I guarantee you we are going to end fossil fuel" on the campaign trail. Radical financial nominees from Saule Omarova to Sarah Bloom Raskin boisterously advocated for bankrupting the oil and gas industry to tackle climate change and other fundamental changes to reimagine the economy. Picking winners and losers seems to be a theme as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry falsely exclaimed the U.S. will eliminate coal plants by the end of this decade and actively discourages foreign investment in U.S. energy production. These positions are beyond absurd and it's absolutely tipping the scales to compensate

this would meet the world's energy demands while reducing the West's reliance on dirtier fuels from adversaries, despots, and dictators. There's an easy road map for energy, national, and economic security at our fingertips, but the administration must be a willing partner in this effort. It starts with undoing nearly everything it's done since January 20, 2021.

Senator Kevin Cramer, North Dakota Republican, is a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. He served on the North Dakota Public Service Commission as an energy regulator for a decade where he helped oversee the most dynamic economy in the nation. He worked to ensure North Dakotans enjoy some of the lowest utility rates in the United States, enhancing their competitive position in the global marketplace.

Delivering reliable, affordable, clean energy technology to the grid for American consumers



By Todd Snitchler, President & CEO, Electric Power Supply Association

As we confront the challenge of how to reduce carbon emissions while continuing to provide reliable and affordable electricity, we must develop and embrace practical solutions that ensure reliability and retain public support. The best way to achieve those goals is to unleash competition. As the Electric Power Supply Association marks its 25th year of advocating for a fully competitive electric industry and expansion of competitive power markets, it seems right to revisit the genesis of electric competition and the benefits it delivers.

In April, we celebrated the anniversary of Order No. 888 – a landmark decision issued in 1996 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which sought to “promote wholesale competition through open access non-discriminatory transmission services.” FERC noted its goal was to “remove impediments to competition in the wholesale bulk power marketplace and to bring more efficient, lower cost power to the nation’s electricity consumers.”

Since then, electric competition has delivered progress that even the initial champions of opening power markets may not have envisioned – clearing a path for cost savings, efficiencies, greater reliability, significant decarbonization, and swift adoption of new, cleaner power generation technologies.

Reliable Power

Reliability of the power system is the primary goal of all parts of the energy value chain. Indeed, 97% of U.S. adults recently said reliability is important to them, with 82% emphasizing it’s “very important.” Competitive power markets were designed to secure reliable power at the least cost. They do so by sending

price signals for new resources to enter the market, as well as to retain resources needed to meet demand. With the introduction of competition in the 1990s, competitive generators immediately began to reduce power plant outages and invest in reliability-enhancing innovation. Furthermore, joining an organized market has led to improved reliability in states like Louisiana, which have a traditional utility structure (R Street Institute, 2021).

It’s important to note that all power generators are subject to mandatory standards imposed by the North American Electric Reliability Corpora-

tion. Following cold weather events in 2013-14, PJM Interconnection modified its market to provide weather preparation incentives for generators, which helped cut outages nearly in half during a similar 2017-18 weather event.

Cost Savings

When multiple power generators and independent companies bid to provide reliable electricity at the lowest cost, customers ultimately enjoy better outcomes. Why? Because market signals provide incentives for power generators to improve operational performance and invest in new, more efficient technologies.

The data tell the story – in every U.S. competitive power market, wholesale power prices have shown a downward trend over the past two decades.

- From 2008 to 2020, the 37 states with traditional utility or partial competition models saw power prices rise 20.7%, while the 14 jurisdictions (13 states and the District of Columbia) with retail electricity competition saw prices decline 0.3% (Pacific Research Institute, 2021).
- 41.7%: The drop in wholesale electricity costs in PJM Interconnection as of 2020, which at \$21.40/MWh were

the lowest prices of the competitive markets examined.

- 44.3%: The decrease in prices in the New England ISO as of 2020.
- 26%: The reduction in prices in the Lower Hudson Valley zone of the New York ISO as of 2020.
- Prices in the New York City zone of the New York ISO were 44.8% lower as of 2020.
- \$3.2-\$4 billion: Annual savings enjoyed by consumers in the PJM Interconnection footprint, which serves 65 million customers in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

investment in wind and solar generation.

- 35%: The approximate average reduction in power sector CO2 emissions across ISO regions from 2005 levels; non-ISO regions have only reduced emissions by 27% over the same period.
- 39%: The drop in CO2 emissions across the PJM Interconnection footprint since 2005, encouraged by the investment in and entry of new, more efficient power generation technologies and renewables.
- 51%: The decrease in New York State’s CO2 emissions since the New York ISO launched competitive markets.

Innovation and Clean Energy Development

Competitive wholesale electricity markets improve access for new entrants and technologies, while lowering prices and keeping pressure on power generators to improve efficiency. Today, EPSA member companies own and are building some of the world’s largest battery storage projects, in addition to wind, solar, more efficient natural gas and other clean energy generation resources.

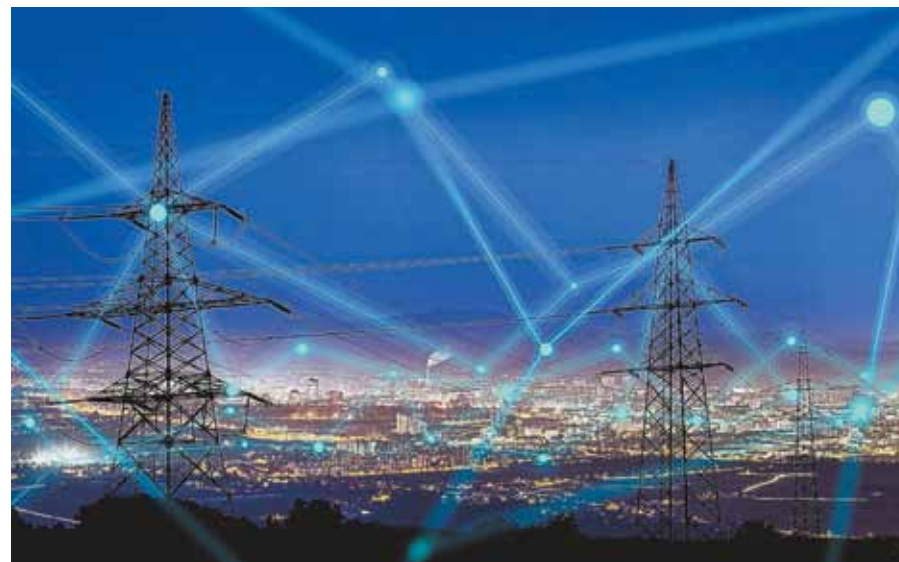
- 80%: The share of utility-scale renewable generation capacity deployed in ISO regions, despite only accounting for about 67% of all existing power plant capacity, of all types.
- 214%: The growth in distributed solar PV in ISO regions versus non-ISO regions at 199%, since the U.S. Energy Information Administration began keeping track in 2014.

Looking to the Future

As we look to the next 25 years, EPSA and our members are committed to building on the progress competitive electricity markets have enabled – prioritizing reliability, bringing more affordable energy choices to consumers and America’s economy, and reducing carbon emissions and incentivizing innovation.

When it comes to policy choices and decisions surrounding our energy future, leaders should double down on competitive power markets – not retreat to regressive, monopolistic, or less effective models. By unleashing competition and choice, America will be better positioned to solve some of the most complex challenges facing the nation and the world.

Todd Snitchler is the president & CEO of the Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA). EPSA represents companies that own competitive power generation assets and advocates for policies that focus on achieving and maintaining well-functioning and properly regulated competitive wholesale electricity markets.



- \$3.2-3.9 billion: Regional savings delivered to Midwest electricity consumers in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator service area in 2019

Affordability is a key metric because it is a top priority of consumers. Polling shows that consumers are willing to support changes to the power supply that reduce emissions so long as it does not significantly impact their wallets. Markets allow new and cleaner technologies and resources to enter while allowing least-cost solutions to win out.

Emissions Reductions and Environmental Benefits

Along with encouraging power providers to deliver least-cost solutions, competition has accelerated emissions reductions and been a key driver for putting more clean energy technology on the grid. Power generation owners must operate efficiently to remain economically competitive while providing power capacity to system operators. Meanwhile, market signals keep these power generators responsive to price trends. The low cost of cleaner natural gas dramatically advanced coal plant retirements, and the increasingly low cost of renewable resources is driving more



Competition drives innovation

Competitive power markets and power suppliers save customers money, spur innovation, improve the grid and accelerate environmental progress.

Today, we provide reliable power with a diverse, flexible mix of resources and technologies. On-demand resources such as natural gas and battery storage support intermittent resources including wind and solar power.

Explore the Benefits of Competitive Power Markets.

epsa.org



Are critical minerals the next semiconductors?



By U.S. Rep. August Pfluger

Fighter jets like the ones I flew in Syria as an Air Force pilot, electric vehicles (EVs), and wind turbines all have one thing in common—they need critical minerals to function.

These critical minerals, like semiconductors, are a prerequisite in the production of a range of products. If the access to critical minerals in raw or processed form was cut off, not only would large parts of the economy quickly grind to a halt, but our national security apparatus would be at risk. No longer would the United States be able to produce new airplanes, satellite communication systems, and other key materiel in the case of a conflict.

Instead of building the energy infrastructure we need here in America to secure our energy supply chains, the Biden administration prefers to buy oil, gas, and critical minerals from dictatorships while hamstringing domestic energy companies creating a massive national security risk.

Astonishingly, the U.S. is highly reliant on dictatorships for most critical mineral imports. China has a stranglehold on the processed rare earth market and controls at least 80% of the market for rare earths imports to the U.S. This is especially concerning given the willingness of China to use critical minerals as a method of accomplishing their policy objectives—from cutting off Japan from Chinese critical mineral exports to using critical minerals as leverage during the Trump administration's trade negotiations.

For decades, Democrats have bowed to green interest groups while demonizing American energy producers. The cult-like efforts by the left to halt the production of traditional energy production has created an impossible situation for American energy companies. Coupled with Russia's war on Ukraine,

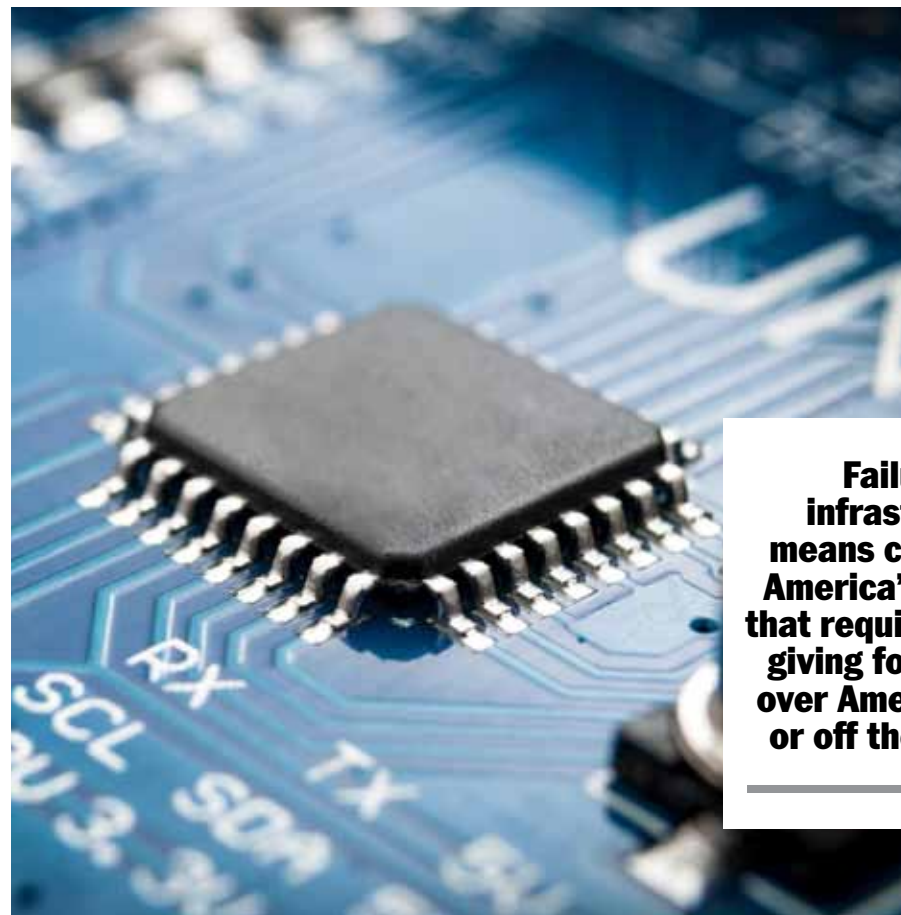
Americans are suffering under some of the highest energy prices ever.

Instead of correcting his anti-American energy policies, President Biden is blaming energy producers for high prices and telling Americans to purchase expensive electric vehicles (made with Chinese-sourced minerals). American companies could mine for and process additional copper, lithium and rare earth minerals domestically, but the mine per-

It is a simple fact that if America wants to minimize emissions and fight inflation without kowtowing to dictatorships like those in Russia or Venezuela or countries committing genocide like in China, we will have to not only mine and process critical minerals here in America, but will need to invest in oil and gas pipeline infrastructure and reform the permitting process for new wells to ensure that Americans have access to

of dollars in economic losses and panic in military circles, which prompted a rapid policy response from the Biden administration. To prevent a similar situation from happening in the critical mineral sector, the United States needs to engage in aggressive action immediately. Thankfully, my colleagues in the Republican party including Senator Cotton, Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and Representative Stauber have been relentless in advocating for permitting and other reforms that would help to break China's stranglehold on critical mineral supply chains.

However, despite the increased attention given to the issue including the President's recent invocation of the Defense Production Act and releasing more oil from the strategic reserve, solutions proposed by the administration to strengthen the American critical mineral supply chain are too little too late given the extremely high dependency the U.S. has on China. I call



Failure to invest in energy infrastructure here in America means ceding control over not only America's supply chain for products that require critical minerals, but also giving foreign adversaries leverage over America by letting them turn on or off the spigot of energy imports.

mitting process takes on average seven years to navigate due to overburdensome regulation and mineral processing procedures are similarly onerous. These processes require tremendous upfront legal costs and investment without assurances that companies will be allowed to mine or process minerals. If this is eerily reminiscent of the current crisis affecting Americans at the pumps with American energy producers blamed for this administration's failed policies, it's because it has happened for essentially the same reasons—this administration pretends they believe in a so called "green economy" but won't acknowledge that the same infrastructure needed to power their new "clean" future requires massive amounts of minerals and instead of mining and processing domestically, they prefer to buy from abroad and pretend that solar panels and electric vehicles appear magically out of thin air.

clean, cheap, and plentiful natural gas.

America is blessed with abundant natural resources. Failure to invest in energy infrastructure here in America means ceding control over not only America's supply chain for products that require critical minerals, but also giving foreign adversaries leverage over America by letting them turn on or off the spigot of energy imports. We could be producing the energy we need here at home in a way that is cleaner, free of forced and child labor, all while creating more jobs here in America.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also shown just how brittle American supply chains can be, especially in industries dominated by foreign suppliers (or American companies producing overseas). Shortages of semiconductors in particular have led to slowdowns or total shutdowns of production at factories across industries, causing billions

on the administration to immediately work to reform the permitting process in the United States for all energy sectors to ensure that Americans have access to energy products at reasonable prices and do not help to prop up dictatorships abroad.

Energy security is national security, and it's time that this administration started acting like it. I will continue introducing legislation to address the issue and demanding that the Biden administration change its failed energy policies to stop punishing everyday Americans with high energy prices and putting our national security at risk.

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U.S. Representative August Pfluger, Texas Republican, represents the state's 11th Congressional District, which includes much of the Permian Basin—the largest oil and gas producing region in the United States. He is member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Homeland Security as the Ranking Member on the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Subcommittee.

Production on federal lands is vital to America's economic, security, and climate leadership



By Anne Bradbury, CEO, AXPC

Just a few weeks ago, the White House announced that the Biden administration would restart federal onshore lease sales for oil and gas production. It was a step in the right direction, but it falls short of the necessary policy actions needed at a time when the American people are struggling with surging energy costs and the world is looking for more oil and gas. And, the Biden administration's plan came with a catch: it would lease just 20% of available acreage nominated while significantly hiking royalty fees on production.

Energy production on federal lands is essential to our energy security, as well as that of our allies. In recent years, Europe has become overly dependent on natural gas from Russia. Putin's ruthless invasion of Ukraine has led to global sanctions and our allies are looking for more American energy. The administration should be using all the tools at its disposal to increase production for both domestic and international needs.

Since coming to office, however, the Biden administration has advanced inconsistent, and sometimes even hostile, policies regarding domestic fossil fuel production. On President Biden's first day in office, he signed an executive order that shut down the Keystone XL pipeline. His Interior Department has paused, and now significantly slowed, leasing and permitting of production on federal lands. And other agencies have advanced regulatory roadblocks to new production.

These constraints will not increase production. Instead, these policies have contributed significantly to higher energy costs for American families. In March, energy inflation hit a whopping 32%. Gasoline costs were 48% higher than they were just the year before. And home heating costs were historically high this past winter. It's time for wholesale policy change in



Washington. The administration and Congress should support policies that encourage an energy and climate agenda that supports domestic production as a means to achieve our nation's economic, environmental, and geopolitical goals—and more energy production on federal lands is a great place to start.

Oil and gas production on federal lands is a substantial economic engine for our nation and local communities. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reports that in fiscal year 2019, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated billions in economic output across the country and supported 318,000 jobs from onshore oil and natural gas production.

All oil and gas royalty, rental payment, and bonus bid revenue is split between the US Treasury and the communities where the production takes place. Last year, onshore federal lands production yielded over \$6.17 billion in revenues with \$1.92 billion going to state and local governments. Each state uses revenue from energy development differently. Many allocate these funds towards public education, transportation projects, or community development.

For example, oil and gas production in Wyoming – including production on federal lands – contributed \$1.23 billion to state and local governments in FY2020, with the largest portion of that (\$542 million) supporting K-12 education. And oil and gas production is the primary source of education funding in New Mexico.

It also helps us achieve our

environmental goals. Increased natural gas production is essential as Washington looks at ways to address a changing climate. Since 2000, the United States has become the world leader in carbon dioxide emission reductions. The principal reason for this reduction was replacement of coal with clean burning natural gas for power generation. Our companies are leading the way in continuing to find cleaner ways to produce both oil and natural gas.

Additionally, royalties from natural gas and oil production on federal lands help fund national conservation efforts. The 2020-passed law, the Great American Outdoors Act, allocates half of all miscellaneous receipts from energy development revenues to the restoration of national parks and public lands.

Encouraging production on federal lands should be part of an “all of the above” energy strategy. The Obama administration did as well. At this point in President Obama's presidency, over 44 onshore leases sales had already been held – with each sale offering numerous individual leases.

The Biden administration should also consider reversing their announced increase of royalty rates. A 50% increase, coupled with the extensive cost and time associated with federal permitting and the high risk of litigation, will reduce the value of federal lands opportunities. Washington should seek ways to make American energy production more affordable, lease opportunities more competitive, and reduce

further uncertainty.

The world's need for energy is only increasing—dramatically. Almost 2 billion people today have no access or only limited access to electricity. The world population is expected to increase by another 2 billion people over the next 30 years.

Our nation is blessed with abundant natural energy resources and many of these are from federal lands. America's oil and natural gas producers stand ready to work with Congress and the Biden administration to provide affordable, reliable, and clean energy, which will also help to make the world a better and safer place.

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Anne Bradbury is CEO of the American Exploration and Production Council (AXPC), which represents America's largest independent oil and natural gas exploration and production companies. Anne joined AXPC from the Duberstein Group, where she was a Partner. Prior to Duberstein, Ms. Bradbury served as one of the top legislative strategists and technicians in Congress as Floor Director to two successive Speakers of the House of Representatives and Deputy Floor Director in the Offices of both the Majority and Minority Leader. During her decade-long career on Capitol Hill, Bradbury was instrumental in the implementation and adoption of major rules packages and legislative initiatives ranging from reforms to national security and intelligence policy to health care, energy, transportation, trade, and education policy passed by the House of Representatives.

Biden's political band-aids can't cover his energy crisis



By U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan

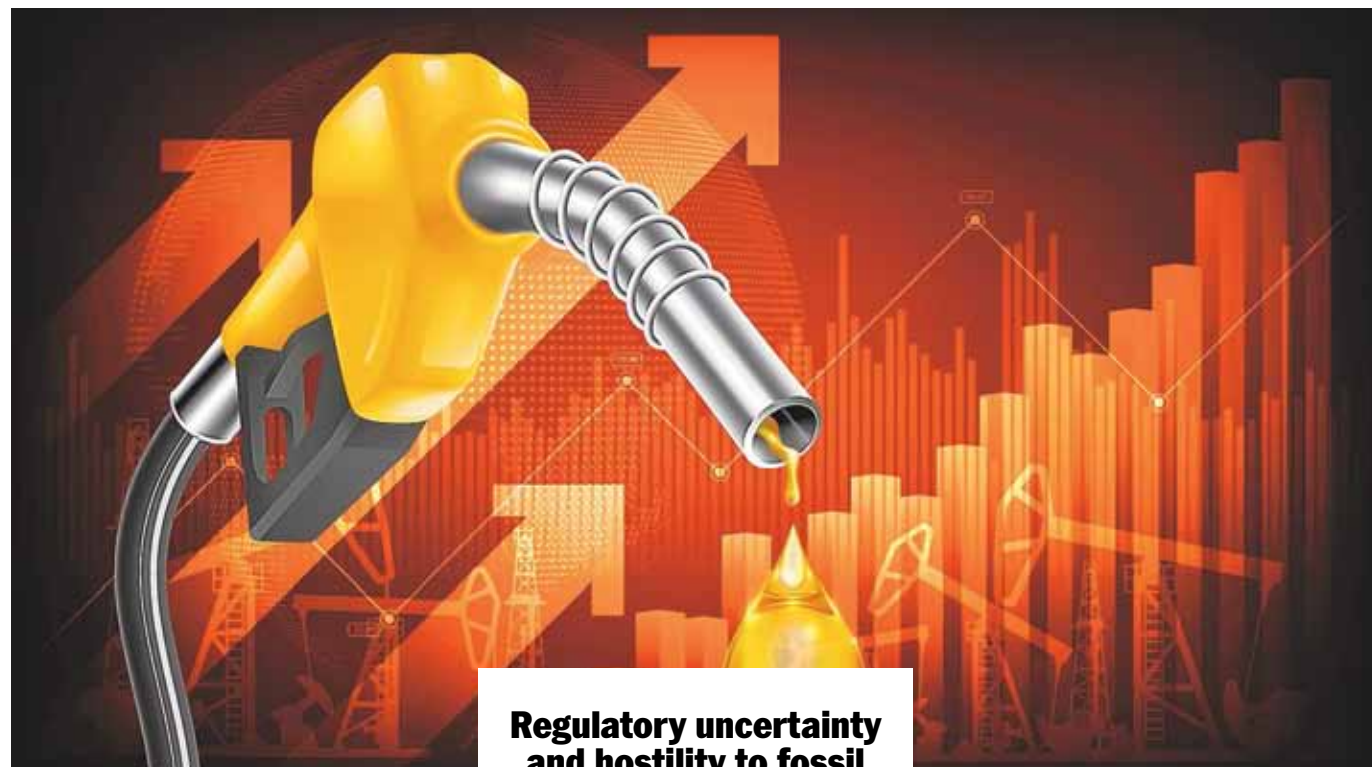
It is no secret Joe Biden declared a war on American energy on his first day in the Oval Office. From greenlighting Vladimir Putin's Nordstream II Pipeline and canceling the Keystone XL pipeline to embracing Green New Deal programs and pandering to the radical environmentalist left, his administration's America-last policies transformed a formally energy independent, energy-exporting nation into a country in crisis.

Joe Biden's policies are costing American families an estimated \$2,000 more per year in higher gas prices, and U.S. oil production has declined by more than 1.5 million barrels per day from peak production in 2020. This should come as no surprise since then-candidate Joe Biden promised to put an end to oil and gas production in the United States during his 2020 campaign. We now face the consequences of failed energy policy through skyrocketing prices at the gas pump and American energy jobs shipped overseas.

Biden attempts to cast blame on the "Putin Price Hike" to gaslight Americans on high gas prices and deflect blame from himself, although prices were already up over 50% on the day before Putin ever invaded Ukraine compared to when Biden was inaugurated. Make no mistake, higher prices are not largely the result of the war in Ukraine.

With midterm elections on the horizon, the Biden administration has rolled out surface-level solutions to artificially lower prices at the pump without addressing the root of the problem. But we know these short-term solutions are nothing more than a proverbial fig leaf to temporarily cover up the consequences of this administration's self-sabotaging energy policy.

In March, the Biden administration announced it would release 180 million barrels, a million barrels a day for six



Regulatory uncertainty and hostility to fossil fuels discourage investment.

months, the biggest release in history, from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to offset gas prices. Joe Biden tapping the oil reserves, set aside for national emergencies, will provide very limited, temporary relief from high gas prices while depleting our national reserves and failing to provide a permanent solution. This political stunt has been cheered by the same Democrats who begged President Trump not to fill the oil reserves when prices were at historic lows. When the SPR eventually runs out, where are we going to get more if Biden is successful in banning oil and gas production?

Most recently, the Biden administration announced it will resume oil and gas leasing on 144,000 acres of federal lands. To put this into perspective, this is two-thirds less land than the average during the Trump administration. While this is a small step in the right direction, it is a weak attempt by the Biden administration to save face and do the bare minimum to comply with a federal court order that ruled Biden's initial leasing ban was illegal. In doing this, the administration, in turn, is increasing royalty rates for the first time and imposing burdensome regulations to deter production.

Before companies can even drill, they must go through a long process of obtaining permits and jumping through regulatory hoops, oftentimes being sued by NGOs potentially funded by Putin along the way. Regulatory uncertainty and hostility to fossil fuels discourage investment. If the President promised

repeatedly to phase out your industry, would you commit long-term investment and capital?

With these two instances alone, it is evident Joe Biden is not offering long-term solutions to the crisis he caused but a "quick fix" to bolster his political capital for the impending midterms in November.

The issue at hand is this: The United States is blessed with abundant natural resources but cursed with liberal politicians who refuse to allow Americans to benefit from them.

Considering Putin's energy-funded war on Ukraine, record-high inflation and gas prices, and the energy disaster in Europe, we have an opportunity to correct course. President Biden could reverse his energy restricting regulations and recognize that the United States leads the world in emission reduction and clean energy production. We can export American energy to our friends and allies across the globe instead of having them rely on dirty Russian gas.

Republicans in Congress have solutions that prioritize Americans, not Putin or left-wing special interests. House Energy and Commerce Committee Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Natural Resources Committee Republican Leader Bruce Westerman have introduced the bold American Energy Independence from Russia Act,

which I proudly support. American energy dominance is our strongest defense against Putin and this bill recognizes that by approving the Keystone XL pipeline, unleashing U.S. LNG exports to boost natural gas production, restarting oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters, and protecting energy and mineral development from attacks by the Biden administration.

Energy security brings both national security and economic security. Immediately unleashing American energy production and ending our reliance on our adversaries for energy is essential now more than ever.

I urge the president to work across the aisle with Republicans in Congress to increase domestic energy production instead of taking weak actions to avoid political responsibility for his self-imposed energy crisis. Instead of cheap political stunts aimed at creating the illusion that the administration is trying to alleviate high prices, it's time Biden takes his feet off the neck of the oil and gas industry.

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U.S. Representative Jeff Duncan, South Carolina Republican, currently serves on the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Communications and Technology. He represents the state's 3rd Congressional District and is the Co-Chair of the GOP's House Energy Action Team, which supports expedited permitting of energy projects and the use of currently undeveloped areas for energy production in the U.S.



Harness our clean energy potential and approve Keystone XL for American families



By U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter

Energy security is national security. When Russia invaded Ukraine, it sent shockwaves through the world's oil supply. Unfortunately, the United States, which was buying 700,000 barrels of Russian oil per day courtesy of the Biden administration, saw its already struggling oil and gas sector sink even lower levels of production.

This was avoidable. If Biden had not increased our dependence on Russian oil and gas, our energy sector could have been spared. Even before serious

talks of a Russian invasion mounted, President Biden displayed his weakness on the world stage by green lighting Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline. This early kowtow to Putin set the stage for his final, perhaps biggest misstep of all – taking oil and gas sanctions off the table as tensions between Ukraine and Russia began to rise. If we came down with swift, harsh sanctions on Russia's energy sector, Putin may not have launched his unprovoked attack.

For months, Republicans urged the administration to do exactly that. I introduced the Ending Dependence on Russian Energy Act, along with several of my House colleagues, calling for the United States to restart the Keystone XL pipeline and immediately ban the import of Russian oil and gas. Speaker Pelosi could have called it up for a vote.

Instead, it took the assault of an innocent nation, millions of refugees, and a slew of bombings on civilians for the White House to do what they should have since day one: ban the import of Russian oil and gas.

Notably, it is never too late to do the right thing and I am glad the administration finally took this step; however, this small step towards sanity did little to course correct the past year of President Biden's "America Last" policies.

From day one, this administration has propped up Russia and other foreign energy sectors while hamstringing our own. That didn't change overnight.

Under President Trump, the United States achieved energy independence. The Keystone XL pipeline was under construction. Federal lands were open to energy development, and the White House encouraged innovation and growth in our energy sector.

The minute Biden was sworn in, everything changed. His first official move as Commander-in-Chief was to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline, killing 11,000 jobs and American energy dominance with it.

He banned energy development on federal lands, a move so harmful to our energy sector that he was recently forced to walk it back, albeit tepidly.

Candidate Biden declared a war on American energy and President Biden has delivered. But his so-called "green energy" approach is shortsighted at best. The United States produces the cleanest oil and gas in the world. We should be harnessing our energy potential here. We can't outsource our energy needs to countries and call that progress.

As co-chair of the Roosevelt Conservation Caucus and a member of the Select Committee on the Climate, as well as the U.S. Representative for all of

Georgia's beautiful coastline, I understand the importance of implementing clean energy strategies that will preserve our planet for future generations. But we cannot let our energy policy get ahead of our innovation and ignore our need for reliable energy sources overnight, nor should we.

Reducing domestic oil and gas production might make left-wing environmentalists feel good, but it only exacerbates the impact our energy consumption has on the climate and the rest of the world.

President Biden has already implemented part of the Ending Dependence on Russian Energy Act by banning Russian oil and gas imports. Now it's time for him to signal that his ambush on the American energy sector is over by restarting the Keystone XL pipeline.

Mr. President, it's time to put America First.

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U.S. Representative Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, Georgia Republican, is an experienced businessman and pharmacist. He represents the state's 1st Congressional District and is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Budget Committee. He is also a member of the GOP Doctors' Caucus and Select Committee on the Climate.

Domestic biofuels provide affordable clean fuel option



By U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne

Americans in every corner of the country are feeling the squeeze of rising gas prices. The war between Russia and Ukraine has cut off supplies from the third largest oil producer in the world, sending prices skyrocketing. In my home state of Iowa, gas prices have risen by nearly 80 cents a gallon since January of this year.

While much-needed actions are being taken to combat rising gas prices, including the release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as part of a global response to reduce reliance on Russian oil, we can do more. I have been working tirelessly to ensure E15 gas can be sold year-round, and am pleased that my efforts have paid off and E15 will be

Now is the time for a transformation of our energy sector to further combat rising gas prices - while also fighting climate change and supporting farmers and domestic fuel production.

available at gas stations this summer. This fight is not over though, and I'll be continuing to work to make that change permanent. Now is the time for a transformation of our energy sector to further combat rising gas prices - while also fighting climate change and supporting farmers and domestic fuel production. Specifically, we should increase our investment in biofuels and build out our nation's biofuels infrastructure.

Biofuels, including ethanol and biodiesel, are a homegrown source of energy that create jobs in Iowa and across the country - with the ethanol industry supporting nearly 350,000 jobs, many of them union jobs, and contributing

roughly \$40 billion to our economy. In Iowa, ethanol production supports over half of our state's corn crop, resulting in more than \$5.5 billion of annual revenue for Iowa farmers.

Not only are biofuels an economic driver for our state and our country, they also play a key role in the ongoing fight against climate change. Biofuels have been shown to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least half for ethanol and upwards of 80% for biodiesel. In addition, biofuels reduce harmful tailpipe

and building out our nation's biofuels infrastructure is a win-win-win; a win for the American consumer, a win for farmers, and a win for the environment - and it's imperative that we do so.

As co-chair of the House Biofuels Caucus, my colleagues and I are always looking for opportunities to expand the role of biofuels in our economy. I led them in introducing the bipartisan Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Investment and Market Place Expansion Act, which will bring us one step closer to this goal.

year and are continuing to urge leadership to take swift action on this bill. The Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Investment and Market Expansion Act will be one additional piece of the puzzle as we work to bolster the use of biofuels.

While all actions should be on the table to alleviate Americans' pain at the pump, we must also make the necessary investments for the years to come. This is a moment of unprecedented opportunity to make biofuels more accessible and available to Americans while boost-



emissions resulting in cleaner air and a healthier environment.

Finally, higher blends of ethanol are significantly cheaper at the pump. Blends of 15% ethanol, or E15, are often 10 cents cheaper per gallon and can be up to 60 cents cheaper per gallon. The savings on E85 is even more robust - nearly a dollar cheaper per gallon on average. In fact, a nationwide shift to E15 could save consumers more than \$12 billion annually.

Increasing our investment in biofuels

The legislation would provide consistent federal investment for biofuels infrastructure - \$500 million over five years to make E15 available at more gas stations - and will remove barriers to E15. I fought hard to get this legislation passed through the House with double the funding - \$1 billion dollars - and I remain committed to getting it across the finish line and signed into law.

My colleagues and I proudly introduced this commonsense legislation last

ing our domestic fuel production, lowering prices at the pump and doing our part to fight the ongoing climate crisis.

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U.S. Representative Cindy Axne, Iowa Democrat, represents the 3rd Congressional District. She serves on the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committees, and as the Midwest Regional Whip for the House Democratic Caucus. A fifth-generation Iowan, she is also co-chair of the House Biofuels Caucus.

Conserving our resources today for a better tomorrow



By U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman

I've had the privilege of visiting all 50 states, and I can confidently say America is unparalleled in its beauty, diversity, heritage, and bounty of natural resources. From deserts, to mountains, to marshes, to coastlines, and everything in between, ours is a country unlike any other. Church organist Katherine Lee Bates perhaps said it best when, inspired by her view from atop Pikes Peak, she penned the now familiar refrain, "Oh beautiful, for spacious skies/For amber waves of grain/For purple mountain majesties/Above the fruited plain."

Given our vast natural wonders and resources, we have an incredible responsibility to care for them well. I believe this is our unchosen obligation, stewarding our resources in such a way that leaves them in better condition than we inherited them.

Unfortunately, environmental stewardship often takes a backseat to competing bureaucratic interests. It doesn't have to be this way. Scientific forest management can curb devastating wildfires, sustainable energy production can occur right here at home, and local leaders can effectively manage and care for the wildlife native to their communities. That's the goal. So how do we get there?

First, we start by acknowledging America is unmatched in innovation and potential. We should always be searching for ways to make the environment cleaner, healthier, and more resilient, but that does not negate how far we've already come. Instead of engaging in the left's punitive, doomsday scare tactics, we must instead unleash the full potential of American industry and solutions. The U.S. is already a leader in reducing emissions and clean technology. Let's keep it that way by allowing the free market to work.

Second, we have to hold global aggressors accountable. Look no



further than Putin's unhinged rampage in Ukraine. He's not concerned about environmental regulations, yet he controls vast energy sources like the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and uses them as leverage to get what he wants. Americans feel pain at the gas pump as a direct result. That's why Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I introduced the American Energy Independence from Russia Act, to promote the clean, safe production of American energy to meet our national needs and those of our allies.

It's not just energy resources that Russia leverages for its own gains; Russia also has a booming forest products industry. Last year alone, the U.S. imported half a billion dollars' worth of forest products from Russia and Belarus. That's why I introduced the No Timber from Tyrants Act, which would immediately ban these imports and cut a significant portion of Putin's economy off at the knees, while simultaneously boosting American industries.

We can't forget China either. They now control the vast majority of critical minerals production outside the U.S. Our modern lives – from your cellphone, to your car battery, to your TV, to everything in between – are built on these minerals, and yet President Biden and

Scientific forest management can curb devastating wildfires, sustainable energy production can occur right here at home, and local leaders can effectively manage and care for the wildlife native to their communities.

congressional Democrats are content to say "not in my backyard," shutter American mines, and sell out to China. That's why my Republican colleagues have joined forces with the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology to introduce the American Critical Minerals Independence Act, which would reduce reliance on minerals sourced and processed overseas by supporting responsible domestic mineral development and innovation in the U.S.

These and many more of our Republican policies aren't rocket science; they're commonsense, practical solutions to the issues we're facing, and we can implement them immediately. Unfortunately, Democrats in this administration and in Congress refuse to listen to the science. Instead, they put the U.S. last, choosing instead to line the pockets of China, Russia, Venezuela and other OPEC+ nations to meet our nation's

demands for natural resources.

I refuse to think America should feel ashamed or afraid when it comes to responsibly utilizing our natural resources. I look at what we've already accomplished in science and technology, and I believe the best is yet to come. We've brought species back from the brink of extinction, produced cutting-edge energy technology that's cleaner than ever, and have the best and brightest minds in the world who are constantly innovating. Now is not the time to kowtow to our adversaries – we have to lead, and lead by example.

I'm honored to fight for conservation, free market innovation, open access to public lands, and government transparency here in Congress, and I know the Natural Resources Committee's work on these issues has only just begun. Our beautiful nation deserves nothing less.

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U.S. Representative Bruce Westerman, Arkansas Republican, is the Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources and serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. A Hot Springs native, he represents the state's 4th Congressional District and serves on the Minority Whip Team. An engineer and forester by trade, he was named Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers in 2013.

America First: solutions for energy independence



By U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks

America should be leading the world in clean energy and emissions reduction—not relying on energy from Russia, Iran, Venezuela, or China. In order to achieve energy independence and ensure reliable and affordable options, President Biden must prioritize innovative American technologies to supply the energy our country needs.

Iowa already makes great use of renewable energy resources including wind, solar, ethanol, biodiesel, and biomass. As one of the country's top wind energy producers — we get over half of our electricity from wind and have been an energy exporter since 2008. However, renewables are not the only option and they don't work for every state. We have the opportunity to introduce innovative technologies like carbon capture to our biofuels refineries or advanced nuclear energy to make up for lost clean power from decisions that have hampered U.S. energy production.

We all want to leave a cleaner, healthier planet for our children and grandchildren. That entails finding ways to work together, across party lines, to create strong climate policies based in realism. For example, if we reduce our emissions in the U.S. while advanced economies like Russia and China don't do the same, have we really made any progress?

We need to think global when it comes to climate and lead with America first. U.S. emissions are becoming a smaller and smaller part of the global total. Unless we hold other nations accountable, our efforts at home will never be enough to solve the problem.

American manufacturing is cleaner and higher quality. Global industry — China in particular — is much dirtier than American industry. Numerous laws, programs, and voluntary actions



We have the opportunity to introduce innovative technologies like carbon capture to our biofuels refineries or advanced nuclear energy to make up for lost clean power from decisions that have hampered U.S. energy production.

by our industry have resulted in a much cleaner and more reliable economy.

Climate solutions also should not and do not have to compromise our economic competitiveness or energy independence. We have an abundance of opportunities in innovative emerging technologies that have the potential to create millions of jobs along the way. Here are a few big energy ideas supported by the Republican Party:

We need to leverage American innovation. We have already reduced emissions here in the U.S. by a larger margin than any other country in the past two decades. American innovations like hydraulic fracturing and carbon capture have made this possible. We need to continue bringing innovative American-made technologies to market.

We need to improve our regulatory and permitting processes. Clean energy and grid modernization projects present tremendous economic opportunities. However, burdensome permitting regulations and overreach from the federal government prevent these projects from coming to fruition in a timely manner. Currently, new projects take an average of five years to come online. Our permitting process is outdated. We are relying on laws like the 1970 National Environmental Policy Act that

do not support innovation and are in drastic need of updating.

We need to be energy independent and regain global leadership over China and Russia. While American manufacturing is the cleanest in the world, countries like China and Russia don't have the same high environmental standards. We can ensure American leadership in, for example, steel and cement manufacturing, by penalizing imported products that don't meet global cleaner standards and rewarding American-made products that actively work to improve their environmental standing.

We need to unlock American resources. Currently, we are too reliant on countries like China to supply critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper, rare earth minerals and graphite that we need to support our energy projects. This dependence handicaps American businesses and

only adds to global emissions. Making it easier to source these materials here in America, therefore employing American workers, is necessary to ensure our energy security.

We need to work with Iowa farmers who are already leading with solutions. Natural climate solutions, planting trees and farming practices like cover crops and biochar that improve soil health, have a major impact on reducing carbon emissions while making forests and farms more sustainable and resilient to floods and fires. They are also profitable and create good paying and reliable jobs across our state.

This approach is based in realism and puts America first. Here in Iowa, with our strong workforce and abundant resources, we are in a prime position to support the U.S. as a global energy leader. It is time to take our place as a world leader in energy production and hold bad actors accountable.

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U.S. Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D., Iowa Republican, represents the second congressional district. She serves on the Education and Labor Committee, Homeland Security Committee, Veterans' Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Conservative Climate Caucus.



We protect America by guarding our electric grid



By U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney

Our nation's economy, security, and public health depend on the reliable supply of electricity. The electric grid is the backbone of our economy. However, new risks have emerged as our electricity system has become more interconnected and digitized, and industrial control systems increasingly allow remote access.

Over the past few years, there have been a number of attempts by foreign actors to infiltrate the nation's energy

systems. Most recently, the Biden administration issued a warning that advanced persistent threats – or highly skilled hackers – have exhibited the capability to gain full access to disrupt the U.S. energy sector. While past responses to these increased threats have been uneven on the part of utilities – due to different levels of resources because of their size or the region they serve – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was signed into law includes provisions to help address these threats.

As co-chair of the House Grid Innovation Caucus, along with my colleague, Congressman Bob Latta (OH-R), I have long focused on policy solutions to enhance grid reliability and maximize the energy efficiency of the grid. Two pieces of legislation that Congressman Latta and I introduced were folded into this recent historic package: the Enhancing Grid Security Through Public-Private Partnerships Act, which directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to facilitate and use public-private partnerships to address the physical and cybersecurity risks of electric utilities, including through training, information sharing, and technical assistance; and the Cyber Sense Act, which establishes a DOE program to test the cybersecurity reliability

of products and technologies used in the bulk-power system in order to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

These new programs will help fill critical gaps by enabling increased information sharing, making technical expertise more readily available, and establishing a much-needed cybersecurity vulnerability reporting process and database. They will strengthen the electric utility system while strengthening partnerships between DOE and industry. By enhancing formal channels of communication and cooperation, the successful protocols that may have prevented a cyberattack on just one utility can now be shared for the benefit of the whole power system.

Preventing power outages from cyberattacks is crucial to protecting American lives and businesses. However, enhancing cybersecurity is not the singular solution to safeguarding our energy future. Physical threats are becoming increasingly severe due to climate change – including wildfires, hurricanes, and deep freezes. Repeated power interruptions from each of these disasters have occurred in the last few years – from public safety power shutoffs and other grid disruptions in California to widespread outages following Hurricane Ida in New Orleans

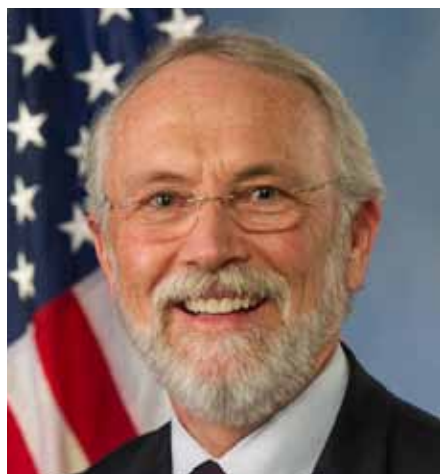
to an unprecedented energy crisis due to Winter Storm Uri in Texas, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives. We must harden our energy infrastructure to protect against physical threats – including kinetic attacks – in addition to promoting forward-thinking energy policies that reduce our fossil fuel dependency. It is essential that we adapt our grid to respond to the challenges of the modern era by decarbonizing our power generation, increasing storage, and harnessing new technology that can make better use of the energy we produce in the right places at the right times.

All of this will require federal investment, as well as a strong commitment from industry. We have made significant strides with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and in the coming months, Congress will continue to push forward solutions to help strengthen, protect, and future-proof our energy infrastructure.

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U.S. Representative Jerry McNerney, California Democrat, represents the state's 9th Congressional District. He has served in Congress since 2007, and sits on the House Energy & Commerce Committee and the House Committee on Science, Space & Technology.



Central Washington sets the standard: embracing innovation, lowering energy costs



By U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse

The Biden administration's anti-American energy agenda has led to gas prices hitting all-time highs across the nation. Coupled with Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, it is more critical than ever that our nation establishes a strong, reliable, all-of-the-above domestic energy portfolio. Thankfully, we have a prime example of how to do just that.

I proudly represent a region of the country that exemplifies innovation, technological advancement, and an all-of-the-above energy portfolio: Central Washington. My district is home to our state's largest wind and solar farms, as well as innovative biomass and new hydrogen technologies. Most importantly, we have the region's only nuclear power plant and a system of

powerful hydroelectric dams. And because we embrace clean and renewable baseload resources, my constituents enjoy some of the lowest energy costs in the country.

Central Washington will soon be home to the United States' first advanced modular nuclear reactor funded by the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program. Advanced nuclear energy systems hold enormous potential to lower emissions, create new jobs, and build a strong economy, and this investment is not only going to help shape the future of clean energy innovation for the Tri-Cities and Central Washington, but for the entire nation. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) will house the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Storage Launchpad, which will lead the country in energy storage research and development.

World-class scientists and researchers at the PNNL are also playing a critical role in our nation's energy future by working with federal partners to design state-of-the-art turbines that are improving fish passage through hydroelectric dams—in our region and across the country.

The federal dams along the Snake and Columbia Rivers not only provide immense irrigation, transportation, and flood control benefits to local communities, but they generate clean and carbon-free electricity—all while maintaining a fish passage rate of over 90% for our native salmon species. Despite these remarkable statistics, misguided attacks on these dams threaten both

our regional energy security and the very lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest. Given the threats facing our country, and the world, it's imperative that we protect this critical infrastructure.

We have embraced progress, and we will continue to improve energy development, capacity, and storage for the whole country—if not the world.

While it's easy to brag about my home state, the underlying message remains: We must restore American energy independence. Luckily for us, the path is clear. All it takes is supporting the many American energy producers we already have—with an emphasis on baseload energy resources. Wind turbines only spin when the wind blows, and solar panels only work when the sun is shining. Nuclear and hydropower provide baseload energy to the communities in my district all year long, and we have the capacity to take those benefits nationwide.

As Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, a group of 75 Members of Congress representing rural communities across the United States, I have spent the past year and a half hearing directly from rural Americans and lifting their voices in our nation's capital. These communities agree that we must embrace the diverse energy resources our country has to offer for the benefit of our national security, our economy, and our environment.

In the United States, we produce energy cleaner and safer than anywhere else in the world, for traditional resources like oil and natural gas as

well as for emerging resources and innovative technologies. That is why we cannot allow the Biden Administration and far-left Democrats to force us to choose between the two. When it comes down to it, we should not be looking at our energy portfolio as “or” but rather as “and.”

We need American oil and natural gas, and we need carbon-free energy resources like hydro and nuclear power.

Just as I am fighting for my constituents against attacks on our dams, I will continue to fight for the U.S. energy sector, defend our producers from wrongful attacks, and work to restore American energy independence. The American people depend on it.

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U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse, Washington Republican, represents the state's 4th District in Congress. As Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, he uses his position to advocate for efficient, commonsense policies and regulation reform that spur economic development, strengthen local management of natural resources, support all-of-the-above energy solutions, and empower rural communities across the West and beyond. Newhouse is a third-generation Yakima Valley farmer and lifelong resident of Central Washington, bringing real-world experience to Congress as a businessman and former state legislator ready to work hard in support of conservative solutions that encourage job creation and economic opportunity for Central Washington's rural communities.

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Stop virtue-signaling, start producing



By U.S. Rep. Randy Weber

I've heard it said that you can't get drunk on stupid, but I'm not so sure that's true. Democrats here in Washington seem to be having a grand old time.

For one thing, they blindly bow down before the altar of "renewables"—chiefly, wind and solar energy—without regard for the actual costs (both economical and environmental) associated with the implementation of these sources. Democrats have not exactly been forthcoming with the American public on some of the drawbacks and environmental concerns that arise from a large commitment to wind and solar. Rational environmentalists, like Michael Shellenberger and Bjorn Lomborg, have written insightfully about these panaceas and their shortcomings.

Regrettably, Democrats refuse to educate the American public about the tradeoffs that would accompany a premature and ill-conceived transition to an economy powered only by sunshine and a mellow breeze. Instead, they doggedly vilify legacy sources like coal, oil, and natural gas.

And nuclear energy.

Yes, seemingly hell-bent to double-down on stupid, these Democrats remain steadfast in their opposition to a clean energy source that would—almost single-handedly—help them achieve their goal of reducing carbon emissions. For a party that preaches the supremacy of science, it's mind-boggling that Democrats haven't made nuclear power the cornerstone of their strategy to electrify the grid.

Nuclear power is reliable, efficient, and safe. It derives from an incredibly dense fuel. A single uranium pellet, slightly larger than a pencil eraser, contains the same energy as a ton of coal, 3 barrels of oil, or 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

It is a good way to provide baseload power to the grid that does not produce greenhouse gases (GHG). The current fleet of U.S. reactors—built mostly in the 1960s—provide about 20% of our nation's electricity. They have an extensive record of safety, spanning several decades with only one accident in the U.S.: a core meltdown at Three Mile Island (1979), with zero fatalities.

The biggest obstacle to bringing more nuclear power online is the opposition from Democrats and the far-left eco-fanatics that power their campaigns.

Their sensationalized concerns center around the questions of safety and waste. Regarding the former, the facts—as mentioned above and inconvenient though they may be—tell a more compelling story than the nuclear hysterics might otherwise have you believe.

Regarding the latter—the disposal of nuclear waste—the Democrats, and especially the late U.S. Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), made solving the problem all but impossible. You see, the United States has a final waste depository (Yucca Mountain) that was designated by an act of Congress. But Democrats, at the direction of their environmental overlords, persistently stripped funds from appropriation packages that would get Yucca Mountain up and running.

With funding for the disposal site at an impasse, Democrats rejoice in the status quo: Without a waste repository, new nuclear power plants will never be realized. Democrats know that local communities would never allow for new plants to be built, if the spent nuclear fuel is stored on sites embedded in those same communities—because interim storage ultimately becomes indefinite storage.

On the other hand, if the United States finally solves the waste problem, we will break the back of anti-nuclear obstructionists and put America on a sustainable course where our citizenry always has access to an efficient, safe, and abundant source of energy.

Or we could suffer the fate of Germany. In their headlong rush to mollify environmental know-nothings like Greta Thunberg in pursuit of climate-change

dogma, the Germans had committed to shuttering all of their nuclear production capability.

Then, Russia invaded Ukraine. Now, in addition to rescinding the planned closure of three remaining nuclear plants, the German government may also reopen three other recently closed facilities.

This catastrophic decision to replace proven energy generation methods with renewables (as fomented by Russian funding sources), before any otherwise well-intentioned transition had been completed, provides a case study in what not to do with a sovereign nation's energy production portfolio.

Virtually all polls indicate that the American public has no patience for, nor can it afford, a Democrat administration that will crater our hard-fought standard of living in pursuit of some utopian alternative. Thankfully, our fellow citizens are waking up to the dangers of a dogmatic regime willing to sacrifice our safety, economic security, and energy independence for the sake of virtue-signaling eco-speak that will do little to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The good Lord willing, time is running out on stupid.

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U.S. Representative Randy Weber, Texas Republican, holds a key leadership role on the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology (SST), serving as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Energy. He represents the state's 14th Congressional District and is also a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

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Let's innovate our way back to energy independence by sidelining bad policy and bureaucracy

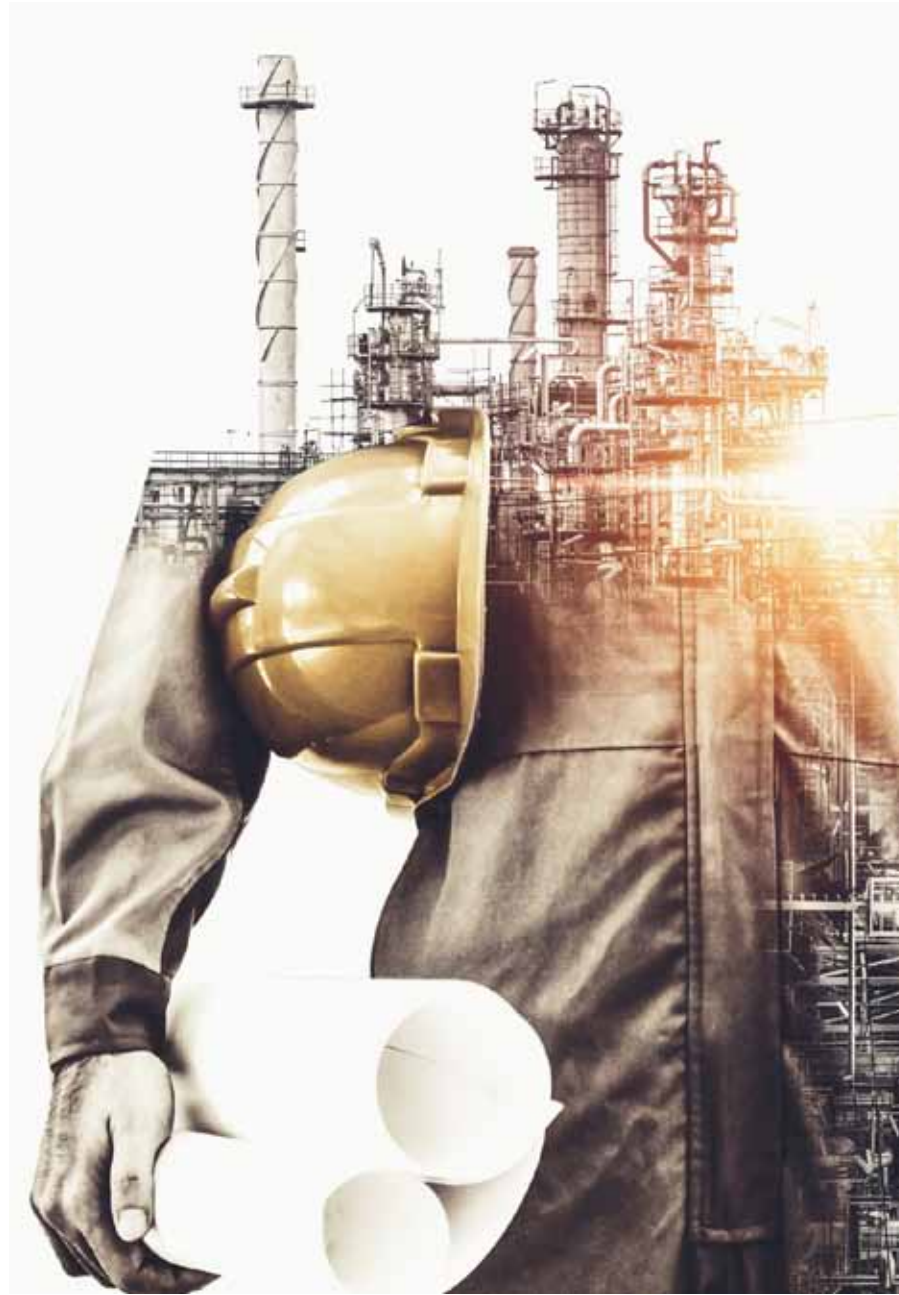


By U.S. Rep. David Schweikert

The past 15 months have been a textbook example on how to tank American energy policy for years to come. President Biden campaigned on restricting pipeline permits and ending the use of fossil fuels, and from his first day in office he started enacting policies to do just that. But this administration has gone even further to stymie American energy independence, and the consequences are just beginning to be felt throughout the country.

Let's start with the basics. In 2019, our country became a net energy exporter. How did we achieve this? It was through pro-growth, all-of-the-above energy policies that allowed oil and natural gas production to reach record highs while also utilizing nuclear and renewable energy sources. This led to fair prices at the gas pump and consistent utility costs across the nation. Fast forward now to present day and all of this has been flipped on its head.

Since January of 2021, the Democratic party has had unified control of Congress and the White House. In that time, they have restricted and outright denied pipeline permits, promoted Environmental Science Governance (ESG) for financial institutions, and blocked automation in transportation and at shipping ports. All of this has led to the energy problems that we are facing today. By limiting pipeline construction in the U.S., we have effectively dismantled our ability to ensure American-sourced energy can move across the country, as well as severely limiting our energy export capacity. Enforcing ESG-aligned policies has removed massive sums of capital from the energy sector and has sent a negative signal to the markets from the federal government. By blocking



automation in ports and in other transportation services due to union pressure, we have actually made the environment dirtier than it otherwise could be.

Take, for example, the burning of coal. Does the left realize that their policies have resulted in the United States burning 23% more coal this past year? This was done under the belief that top-down regulations will "make our environment cleaner," but they have actually made it dirtier. When you use the regulatory system to discourage the use of viable energy options, you do not lessen reliance on the need for energy overall, you just force it to be pulled from other sources. In this instance, regulatory actions against pipelines and fossil fuels have led to coal being a main supplier of

energy again – which has done the opposite of the Democrats' rhetorical goal of utilizing "clean energy."

However, if we put all that aside, the most fascinating part of this administration's energy agenda is the refusal to accept solutions that already exist. The President shut down the Keystone XL pipeline with the stroke of a pen on his first day in office, seemingly to protect our environment. This administration is also keen to reduce methane emissions. If the argument is that methane is being released from leaky, unsafe pipelines, is there an inexpensive solution that can capture methane at staggeringly high rates? This is where creativity and innovative solutions come into play. For example, demonstrations have shown that

copper mixed with clay can be boxed around a pipeline and capture methane emissions immediately. Or, what about the clean air initiatives proposed by the Democrats that would cost the country trillions of dollars. What if we used citizen science and crowdsourced clean air reporting that would show specific areas of poor air quality? With a cost-effective sensor that plugs into your phone and can be purchased online by any American in the country, we could have the best sourced air measurements in the entire world, and they would not be reliant on stationary sensors that aggregate for entire metropolitan areas.

One of the most effective policy changes we can make in order to promote the building of energy infrastructure is to reform the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), which has become a bureaucratic burden for our country. When it was first signed into law over 50 years ago, NEPA had good intentions. However, it has fallen victim to Washington bureaucracy and has stymied growth in public energy policy. We can reform NEPA to ensure individual states have the right to oversee their own environmental infrastructure projects, and we can expedite the process to ensure projects take only a year or two to complete, not a decade. This solution exists, but it takes a willing Congress and a willing President to turn it into law.

For the United States to become energy independent once again, we must embrace pro-growth policies and accept and scale up solutions that exist. We cannot continue to cut viable – and needed – energy sources for the sole purpose of scoring political points. The path that the Democrats have led us down has resulted in the energy crisis we are experiencing now, it is not solely due to the war in Ukraine. However, we have the opportunity now to change direction and place American energy policy back on the path to independence. All it takes is a willingness to do so, and I am up for that fight.

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U.S. Representative David Schweikert, Arizona Republican, serves on the Ways and Means Committee. He represents the state's 6th Congressional District and also sits on the bicameral Joint Economic Committee, serving as the Senior House Republican Member, Co-Chairs the Valley Fever Task force with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, is the Republican Co-Chair of the Blockchain Caucus, Co-Chair of the Tunisia Caucus, and Co-Chair of the Tele Health Caucus.

We owe American workers, companies, and communities better, homegrown energy production



By U.S. Rep. Blake Moore

In Utah, gas prices are currently \$4.48 per gallon, and nationally, they are up \$1.23 from a year ago. For weeks, the average Utahn has been spending over \$100 each time they fill up their gas tanks.

This is unacceptable and unsustainable.

Vladimir Putin's egregious war on Ukraine is wreaking havoc on global stability and contributing to these skyrocketing energy prices. Despite Biden's insistence otherwise, rising gas prices predate Putin's current war on Ukraine and are the product of a flawed approach to energy policy and federal spending.

To ease the pain at the pump, we must bolster American energy production as we counteract Russian supply. For years, Russia has positioned itself as a global energy superpower and exporter. Around 40% of the European Union's natural gas and 25% of Europe's oil comes from Russia. And in 2021, American imports of Russian oil hit an all-time high. Then in late March, Putin's army invaded Ukraine and put our global reliance on Russian energy into clear view as gas prices soared to over \$4 per gallon.

I was proud to vote to limit dependence on Russian energy, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. Since joining Congress, I have seized every opportunity to focus on American energy independence, and at every step, this effort has been met with opposition from the Biden administration.

Instead of shackling American energy production, we must take every action possible to unleash our energy producing capabilities. This will help us meet our own needs and provide energy to our allies while reducing global reliance on dangerous foreign actors. As consumer inflation levels continue to



skyrocket to the highest levels since 1981, Americans need real action.

The United States has vast untapped energy production potential and shoring up our energy production would be broadly beneficial. For starters, American energy provides American jobs. As we work diligently to remove barriers to economic growth, we owe it to our nation to build an economy that allows our workers to work. We must also remove artificial barriers to economic expansion, such as President Biden's policies that have hamstrung American workers, companies, and communities.

On day one, President Biden suppressed domestic energy production through executive orders and then a week after taking office announced a pause on new oil and gas leasing on public lands. When we needed to cut off our supply of Russian energy, the Biden administration turned to adversarial actors like Venezuela and Iran to replace these lost resources. As we seek to support allies and partners, we should not be looking to bad actors to replace our own energy supply. After over a year of pressure, the administration finally announced late

last week that it would proceed with extremely limited lease sales on federal lands, but this is insufficient to address our current energy crises.

Using American energy is also cleaner for the environment. The International Energy Agency said that per unit, Russian energy produced 30% more methane emissions than U.S. energy. According to reports, Russian gas exported to Europe has a 41% higher lifecycle GHG emissions profile than LNG exported to Europe from the United States. Because these demands must be met today, efforts to stifle the American energy industry do little more than outsource pollution to Russia and drive-up global pollution. While efforts to diversify our energy production portfolio will continue and are crucial for reasons related to efficiency, emissions, and economics, we must not lose sight of the bigger picture.

In Congress, I am helping lead the charge to promote energy independence and exports. As Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I introduced the Protecting

Energy Independence and Transparency Act to require the Department of the Interior to issue Applications for the Permit to Drill that have successfully undergone review and reverse the logjam the Biden Administration needlessly created. I have also cosponsored and voted for legislation that will streamline energy approval processes and approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

Because efforts to rein in skyrocketing prices of energy will take time, it is paramount that not a minute more be lost. I call upon Speaker Pelosi and the Biden administration to address our immediate energy needs so we can build American energy independence, relieve the financial burden on Americans at the gas pump, and assist our allies in time of war for the sake of our own security.

Blake Moore, Utah Republican, represents the state's 1st District. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, as well as on the House Armed Services Committee. Moore is a native of Ogden, Utah, and has four sons with his wife, Jane.

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