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**#NCEW24 | September 23-27, 2024 | Washington, D.C. & Virtual**

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# National Clean Energy Week

# Clean energy solutions for a stronger America

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# Americans want clean, affordable, and reliable domestic energy



By Heather Reams

**T**he 8th annual National Clean Energy Week (NCEW) is here, and there is plenty to celebrate!

NCEW is a bipartisan effort aimed at highlighting the importance of clean energy development in the United States. For one whole week, clean energy advocates and policymakers come together to explore the challenges facing America's energy industry and the commonsense solutions we have with which to meet them.

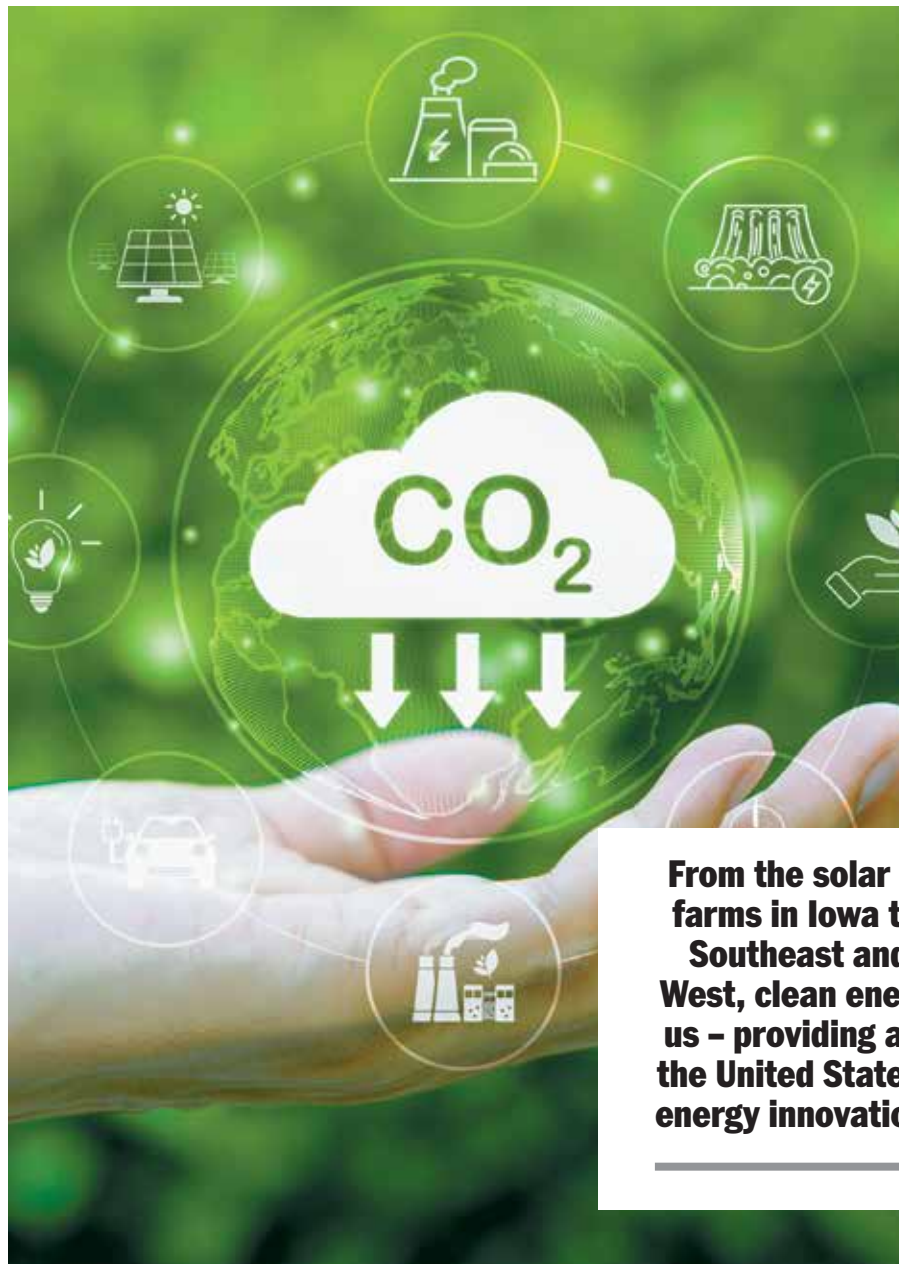
As chair of NCEW, I am proud – although perhaps a bit biased – to say this year's celebration is going to be one for the books. Not only have we seen record amounts of clean energy development and job creation over the past year, but recent polling from Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES) assures us that we are on the right track with American voters.

What do the polls tell us? Americans believe the climate is changing. They want more clean energy. And they want to do so through free market principles – not government mandates.

For me, that is an easy message to understand. As a lifelong Republican and mother who is dedicated to leaving this planet better than I found it for my children and future generations, I see clearly our pathway forward is through more American-made clean energy.

From the solar panels in Arizona and wind farms in Iowa to the nuclear plants in the Southeast and hydropower dams in the West, clean energy is happening all around us – providing an excellent opportunity for the United States to lead the world in clean energy innovation and emissions reduction.

As we are sure to hear from energy leaders throughout National Clean Energy Week, businesses need certainty most of all to continue expanding



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and reducing emissions. That means creating a regulatory framework that rewards investment, not one that results in duplicative permitting processes, costly delays and decades of frivolous litigation.

While there is strong momentum in Congress to pass legislation that would reform our broken permitting process, NCEW aims to highlight exactly how modernizing our permitting system in the United States will speed up clean energy projects already in development, attract additional investment and ensure that we can continue to meet growing energy demand with lower-carbon resources.

Clean energy tax credits – many of which have Republican roots and enjoy a history of bipartisan support – are also key to ensuring local communities can reap the benefits of clean energy

production. Since the recent clean energy tax credits went into effect, the United States has created 46,000 clean energy jobs in congressional districts across the country, primarily in those districts represented by Republicans.

This development has helped turn the tide for many conservatives who experience the benefits of clean energy, including job creation, lower energy costs and community investment from companies that may not have occurred otherwise. Incentives like this are critical, particularly for new and nascent technologies working to get off the ground. Hydrogen, for example, can change the game when it comes to low-carbon energy production and carbon capture, utilization and storage. With seven regional Hydrogen Hubs going up across the country, it's imperative to make sure the incentives from the

federal government are aligned with what is needed by industry.

The United States is home to the brightest minds in the world, which is why there is no excuse for us not to continue leading the world in energy development and emissions reduction. Our nation has a strong history of leadership when it comes to deploying new technologies. We want to maintain that leadership by capitalizing on our carbon advantage.

In 2006, the United States' manufacturing output was double that of China. Today, China's manufacturing output is double that of the United States, and our reliance on China for goods and resources has similarly grown. Not only is this dangerous for our national security, but it has a negative impact on our environment as well. In fact, the average product manufactured in China results in three times the emissions than if that were product were manufactured in the United States.

Achieving dominance over China and other foreign adversaries like Russia

when it comes to energy production is crucial, which means we must continue to invest in research and development at our national laboratories and encourage adoption of new, low-carbon technologies by American energy producers.

We can achieve these objectives by empowering our energy producers to do what they do best and by eliminating government mandates that do more harm than good. National Clean Energy Week is the perfect opportunity to elevate these important conversations and more.

I hope you will join me, alongside industry leaders, policy experts, and lawmakers, in celebrating NCEW as we work toward providing certainty for energy producers, targeted investments and global leadership – all in the name of providing clean, affordable, reliable American-made energy for all.

.....  
*Heather Reams is president of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES). She also serves as chair of National Clean Energy Week.*

# Congress must continue to invest in the security that comes from domestic battery innovation



By Roger Miksad

**T**he U.S. battery industry is vital to the national economy. Batteries play a critical role in virtually every aspect of our society and are an essential component of cars, trucks, forklifts, data centers, emergency backup systems and more. Every facet of the government and commerce relies on them every day to keep our country running and protect economic growth.

Our domestic security relies on our ability to have a safe and reliable source for batteries. Our progress toward a more electrified future hinges completely on our nation's competency with manufacturing, recycling, and innovating batteries.

Advocacy for a strong domestic battery industry has never been more essential to ensuring the nation's power needs are met. For more than a century, Battery Council International (BCI), the nation's longest-running battery industry trade association, has been such an advocate. BCI has worked tirelessly with government partners along with technological and industry leaders to continue to best position our country toward domestic battery security.

BCI believes this is a critical time to ensure America is ready for an electrified future that will feature a wide variety of demands and a breadth of battery technologies. In addition to supporting diverse applications, the battery industry must also forge a resilient supply chain that isn't overly reliant on a single product, company, or foreign adversary nation.

Batteries built with lead – a domestically abundant material – must have a key role in our strategies to protect sources of U.S. energy and economic resiliency. For more than 125 years, these batteries have provided the firm



**The bipartisan investments of the past four years are showing profound impact, with more than \$177 billion in private industry investments in battery and EV infrastructure projects announced in just the last two years. These investments are essential: the need for batteries will continue to grow rapidly, as cumulative energy storage capacity will increase more than tenfold by the end of 2030.**

foundations built on by other energy storage technologies such as flow, sodium, lithium-ion, advanced lead, and others. All together, the downstream impact of the domestic battery manufacturing industry adds up to \$8.1 trillion in total economic output and 48 million U.S. jobs.

We urge Congress to support a vibrant and diverse domestic battery industry, and we believe the future must include the innovation of lead battery technology in order to be successful. A strong domestic battery industry is critical in this age of supply chain disruptions and contentious global trade policies, and the nation should continue to invest in American stability through lead battery manufacturing.

The bipartisan investments of the past four years are showing profound impact, with more than \$177 billion in private industry investments in battery and EV infrastructure projects announced in just the last two years. These investments are essential: the need for batteries will continue to grow rapidly, as cumulative energy storage capacity will increase more than tenfold by the end of 2030.

To help foster continued innovation and leadership in battery technology and production, BCI recommends two practical actions.

**First, Congress should fully fund and incentivize essential R&D.**

The U.S. Department of Energy must be provided the appropriations to

fully fund key research programs that foster innovation through public-private partnerships.

DOE's national labs, the Office of Electricity, and advanced science initiatives are excellent stewards of taxpayer dollars. History has shown that wise investments in basic industrial science can pay dividends long into the future. That includes looking beyond lithium-ion technology to support next generation lead batteries, as well as flow, sodium and other emerging battery chemistries. Batteries that have high rate of recyclability and support a closed loop economy should be prioritized.

The ever-growing need for energy storage requires partnerships between DOE and industry that will bridge the gap between new ideas and real-world commercialization of next-gen energy storage.

**Second, Congress should support domestic battery manufacturing upgrades.**

Congress and the White House have rightly focused on bringing new battery manufacturing and supply chain capacity to the U.S. in recent years. Now, the nation needs to invest equally in strengthening our existing domestic battery manufacturing base to bring advanced technologies and techniques to market.

For example, Congress should immediately eliminate punitive excise taxes on key battery component materials like lead oxide, antimony and sulfuric acid that put U.S. battery manufacturers at a cost disadvantage.

Additionally, lawmakers should expand incentive programs previously aimed at onshoring or reshoring and make those incentives more readily available to existing facilities. It is a wise policy for the nation to invest in those firms that have demonstrated a commitment to their hometown economies for many decades.

U.S. battery companies have a 125+ year track record of delivering reliable energy storage to our nation. With these and other BCI recommended policies we are confident that lawmakers can help America's battery industry to meet the challenges facing the nation, and to power the energy storage needs of the nation for another century.

By supporting targeted and responsible incentives for innovation in the industry, Congress can ensure domestic battery manufacturing remains vibrant and independent in the years to come.

*Roger Miksad is the President & Executive Director of Battery Council International.*



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# It's time to hold China accountable on pollution



By U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.)

**F**or years, China has strengthened its economy, military, and geopolitical influence at the expense of the U.S. This must stop. It is time to hold communist China accountable with comprehensive legislation that addresses economic development, national security, and the environment. The

Foreign Pollution Fee Act (FPFA) is the path forward.

Over the years, China has gained an unfair trade advantage over American companies by intentionally not enforcing environmental standards. A business deciding between opening a manufacturing plant in the U.S. or China has a clear monetary incentive to pick China. This has contributed to 2.5 million American jobs being lost to China over the last 20 years.

This is negatively affecting our environment. Up to a quarter of sulfate pollution in the western U.S. comes from Chinese emissions, according to a study published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. China's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions now exceed those of the U.S. and EU combined.

As this took place, China's GDP grew from 19th globally to second. China has used its economic strength to become the second-greatest military power in the world. China uses military power as a hegemonic tool, seeking to intimidate Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and other U.S. allies.

China gets American jobs, expands economically, and uses economic strength to militarize, while America gets China's pollution. At the same time, the U.S. spends billions to make sure our manufacturing and energy production is the cleanest in the world. This is wrong.

Classical economics says that there is a place for fees or tariffs if there is an externality, like pollution, not included in the price of a good. This is the basis for the FPFA. This fee capitalizes on the fact that the U.S. has invested billions to control emissions. The FPFA would be commensurate with the avoided cost of complying with international pollution control norms. This decreases the ability of China (and other high-polluting countries) to underprice U.S. manufacturers. The FPFA will incentivize high-polluting countries to reduce emissions. To the degree that it equalizes manufacturing costs, it can encourage re-shoring jobs. Speaking of China in particular, in concert with the economic advantage shifting to the U.S., China will have less money to militarize. For

the U.S., it's a win, win, win, instead of a lose, lose, lose.

I recently presented my plan to Americans from across the country visiting D.C. in the latest episode of Bill on the Hill. People agreed that putting a fee on dirty products coming from high-polluting countries was not only wise policy but the reasonable course of action. This is consistent with recent nationwide polling that found that 84% of Americans favor taxing foreign companies for importing products that emit more GHG than comparable U.S. products.

It makes absolutely no sense to continue allowing China and other countries to pollute freely and weaken the U.S. economically, and relatively speaking, militarily. We must turn the tables to make China pay instead of making the American people pay. The FPFA does this.

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*Sen. Bill Cassidy was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2014. He serves on the Finance Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee (HELP), the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Committee.*

# There is no clean energy plan without nuclear



By U. S. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)

**I**f the United States is truly to achieve far-reaching environmental improvement goals without sacrificing affordable electricity or good-paying American jobs, we must use an all-of-the-above strategy that considers a wide spectrum of innovative clean energy technologies. Key among these is the use and advancement of nuclear energy, which is and will continue to

be a critical component of our nation's baseload power needs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, nuclear is the largest domestic source of clean energy in the United States, accounting for nearly half of America's clean energy portfolio. A comprehensive domestic energy portfolio is incomplete without the deployment of nuclear

laboratories, including INL, to stay at the cutting edge of nuclear innovation and meet our country's energy needs. If the United States does not lead on nuclear energy, our adversaries like China and Russia will.

This summer, President Joe Biden signed into law the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE)

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technologies. Thankfully, my home state leads the nation in nuclear innovation.

Idaho is home to America's leading nuclear energy lab, the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). For 75 years, the INL has promoted international nuclear competitiveness through research, innovation and workforce development. We must work to ensure federal policy helps empower America's national

Act. The need for this law was identified in a U.S. Department of Energy report that underscored the decline of our industrial nuclear supply capabilities threatens our national interests and security. The ADVANCE Act will implement key report recommendations to improve the nation's nuclear infrastructure, secure America's uranium supply chain, grow the economy,

create jobs, reduce carbon emissions and strengthen national security.

Continued investment in maintaining U.S. leadership in nuclear innovation will decrease our nation's reliance on foreign energy sources and allow the United States to provide energy security at home and abroad. This should be a bipartisan priority.

Beyond the scope of nuclear, investment in clean energy innovation must responsibly use taxpayer dollars to promote free market values and principles, not pick winners and losers based on a radical green agenda. To meet sustainability goals and boost the economy, clean energy choices must be affordable and accessible to all.

As we continue to grapple with world challenges and increasing energy demands, we must seek out clean energy solutions that preserve American energy independence, strengthen our national security, diversify our energy portfolio and grow the economy.

.....  
*Sen. Mike Crapo is the Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee. He also sits on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and Senate Budget Committees.*

# A policy roadmap for the reliable electricity Americans deserve



By Todd Snitchler

America's power grid faces an era of tremendous opportunity and tremendous challenge. Demand for electricity is growing significantly for the first time in decades, driven by data centers, artificial intelligence, electrification, and a manufacturing resurgence. This demand can spur a rush of innovation and investment needed to bring our energy infrastructure into the future. But it also puts more pressure on a strained

**“We need more of everything to power the grid of the future. Meeting the demands of an increasingly electrified economy, all while keeping power affordable for consumers, will require every tool at our disposal.”**

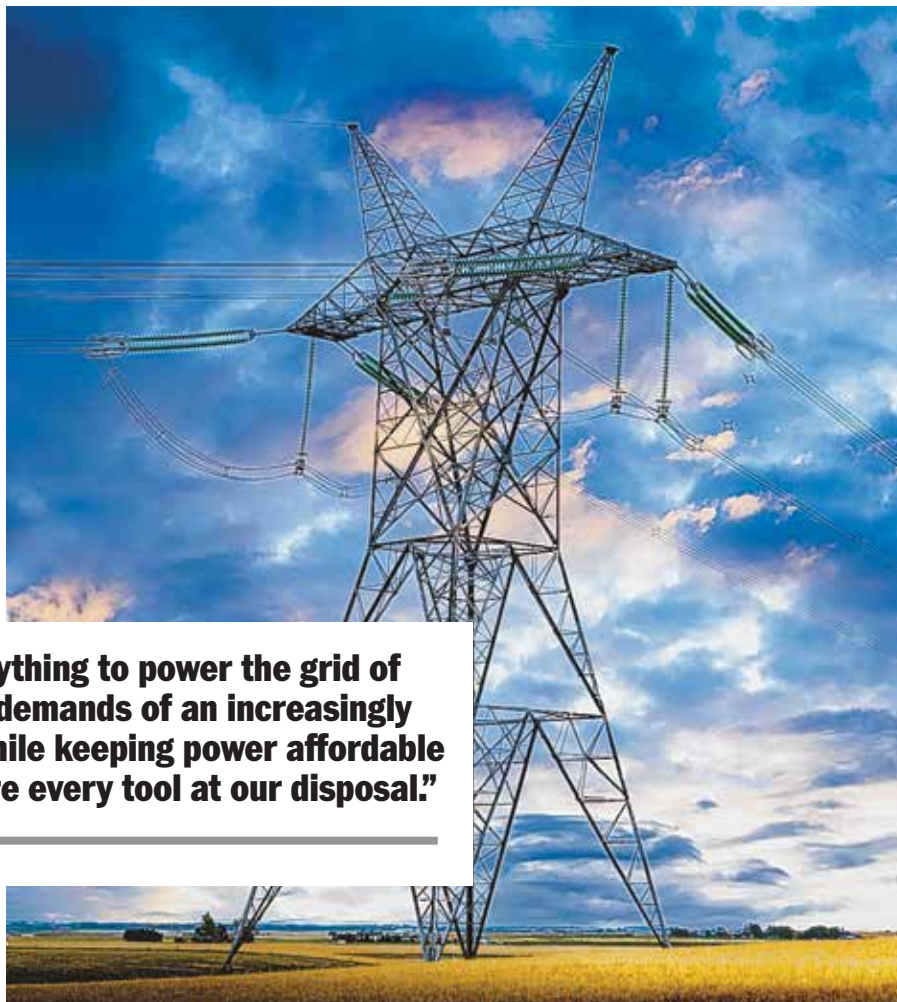
system. The nonpartisan independent operators of nearly every single electric grid in the U.S. have issued serious warnings that maintaining reliability is a growing concern. Moreover, customers are facing years of higher costs ahead, even as inflation cools in other sectors.

The issues our power grid faces deserve thoughtful conversation, compromise on political nice-to-haves, and deliberate action to ensure reliability in the face of rapid change. We need innovation and investment in all resources to meet the moment. Competitive power suppliers have shown they can lead the nation – bringing some of the largest battery storage projects worldwide to key regions like California and Texas, piloting carbon capture efforts, operating nuclear plants efficiently and safely, maintaining massive geothermal resources, and developing cutting-edge wind and solar projects, among other examples. As EPSA members contribute

billions of dollars to new technologies and zero-emission generation, decision-makers must have a realistic understanding of the continuing need for dispatchable, “always-on” power sources like natural gas.

Natural gas generation has grown increasingly efficient and clean, and it is a vital partner to wind, solar, and other forms of renewable or zero-emission power. But aspirational policies on climate are racing ahead of operational re-

Recent actions from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) are deeply encouraging. Members of both parties in Congress are working together to find real answers. Grid operators have taken significant steps towards reforming long interconnection queues that have kept many new energy generation projects waiting for years for a connection to the grid. Much more still needs to be done, but the signs are finally pointing in the right direction.



alities, thus creating huge new demands for transmission and infrastructure while raising consumer bills. Meanwhile, those same policies are forcing inexpensive, dispatchable generation off the grid. Many of the country's largest electric grids are facing a looming supply gap because megawatts of dispatchable energy are being replaced only with intermittent resources like wind and solar, or not at all.

We are acting on climate change. But energy reliability must be a non-negotiable part of that conversation. Balancing both is possible and solutions are out there – and they don't require forcing ratepayers to foot the bill for massive handouts to utilities.

After years of distortions from subsidies and political meddling, wholesale power markets are sending the right price signals to attract investment in a wave of new generation. Competitive electricity markets have a proven track record of fostering investment, innovation, reliability, and lower costs for customers – and competitive power generators have shown they are uniquely poised to bring new generation solutions online efficiently and without shifting investment risk onto captive ratepayers.

Now, the question is whether the mountains of red tape and litigation that stall new power lines, pipelines, and power plants can be reduced quickly

enough. If not, more demand will be chasing less supply and families across America will inevitably suffer. Many projects that do make it through interconnection queues today unfortunately face a perfect storm of baroque permitting rules, local opposition, and high interest rates.

New legislation from Sen. Joe Manchin (I-WV) and Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) on reforming our inefficient permitting system would go a long way towards resolving decades of issues building energy infrastructure. It's an all-too-rare example of the kind of legislation that would be a pragmatic win for whichever party occupies the White House. But even with strong action on permitting, the full effects won't be felt for years, which makes it imperative that policymakers take a pragmatic approach today and keep essential generation online.

Bipartisan legislation like this acknowledges a critical truth: we need more of everything to power the grid of the future. Meeting the demands of an increasingly electrified economy, all while keeping power affordable for consumers, will require every tool at our disposal.

The grid needs significant investment in dispatchable energy sources, along with more renewable energy, more battery storage, more transmission, and other new technologies to run reliably and feed rising demand.

It's equally critical that we preserve market structures that make sure that the risks of those investments fall on companies and their shareholders, not utility customers. We need to build more and faster—and we need smart policies that encourage that investment.

The time for passing the buck about the inevitable consequences of bad policies is over. Policies that shut down essential power plants without considering the consequences on a reliable energy system aren't helping. A permitting and approval process that slows projects to a crawl is no longer something we can afford.

A better system is both possible and necessary. Solutions will require cooperation, bipartisanship, and honesty about the true costs of an evolving system. But a more pragmatic, market-oriented, and reality-based approach is the right way to meet the challenges we face head on.

*Todd Snitchler is president and CEO of the Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA) which represents America's competitive power suppliers who own about 160,000 MW of electric generation resources throughout the U.S.*

# For energy reliability, we need natural gas



By Amy Andryszak

In a rapidly evolving world, natural gas remains critical. It is foundational to accelerating development and usage of renewables while maintaining U.S. energy reliability. But as energy demand rapidly grows, infrastructure deployment must keep pace.

The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) is a trade

association representing most interstate natural gas pipelines in the U.S. Approximately one-third of energy consumed in America today travels through natural gas infrastructure, and our industry's robust design standards and strong regulatory oversight ensure our members' infrastructure has an

demand when intermittent renewable sources are unavailable makes it a versatile, necessary safeguard to avoid supply interruptions.

That builds on the role natural gas has already played in reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. A recent EPA emissions report attributed the

**Alongside its demonstrated reliability, natural gas bolsters development of renewables. Its ability to meet demand when intermittent renewable sources are unavailable makes it a versatile, necessary safeguard to avoid supply interruptions.**

enviable reliability record. An INGAA member study found from 2006 to 2016, pipelines delivered 99.79% of "firm" contractual commitments. Simply put, operators delivered nearly 100% of the gas promised to customers, underscoring the dependability of our systems and members' pledge to continuous improvement.

Alongside its demonstrated reliability, natural gas bolsters development of renewables. Its ability to meet

17% drop in net emissions from 2005-2022 to increased use of natural gas. These margins are only expected to grow as our industry continues to work towards addressing emissions in pursuit of shared climate goals. INGAA members are at the forefront of this effort, with average methane emissions for transmission compression stations decreasing by 28% from 2019 to 2021. This is equivalent to removing 266,079 passenger vehicles

from the road.

Energy demand, fueled in part by the AI revolution, is growing rapidly. Unfortunately, buildout of natural gas infrastructure is not keeping up: data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows interstate pipeline capacity additions have declined since 2018, totaling less than 1 billion cubic feet per day last year, while total natural gas consumption has risen by nearly 2.4 trillion cubic feet, an average of 4% annually. To ensure reliability as demand grows, we must continue investing in infrastructure to move natural gas from production to consumers.

Natural gas delivers reliable, affordable, and clean energy that powers our lives and drives innovation, but we need infrastructure to safely move it to homes and businesses across the nation. Failure to expand natural gas infrastructure is preventing us from fully realizing the incredible benefits of one of our nation's most plentiful resources.

*Amy Andryszak is president and CEO of the Interstate National Gas Association of America.*

# Clean energy starts with permitting reform



By U.S. Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.)

During National Clean Energy Week, we commemorate the innovation and successes of clean energy producers across America. Yet while we celebrate our advancements, we must also renew our work to modernize the permitting process. Without these reforms, we will lose valuable ground against foreign adversaries like China

and Russia and put our future energy dominance at risk.

What's now devolved into an outdated and cumbersome permitting process was initially intended to promote informed decisions and assess the environmental impacts of major federal actions and projects. Today,

Time is not on our side. As America faces growing threats from adversaries across the globe, these prolonged NEPA analyses and the constant litigation that follows them pose significant barriers to all-of-the-above energy production, infrastructure projects, forest management, and more. China

**Time is not on our side. As America faces growing threats from adversaries across the globe, prolonged NEPA analyses and the constant litigation that follows them pose significant barriers to all-of-the-above energy production, infrastructure projects, forest management, and more.**

the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) has mutated into a significant impediment to the infrastructure and energy projects essential to America's energy and national security. NEPA reviews are exercises requiring agencies to amass behemoth environmental treatises, increasing project costs and creating delays for projects ranging from transportation and infrastructure to forestry, conservation, and energy development.

is building an average of one new coal plant per week; they're not waiting for our bloated agencies to spill ink or our courts to finish litigating projects. We must push back by developing our resources, which will provide cleaner, safer, and more reliable energy right here at home.

Enter permitting reform. This month, the House Committee on Natural Resources heard testimony on my draft legislation that would address

the statutory flaws of NEPA that create lengthy timelines and frivolous litigation. These flaws will be our downfall if not corrected and brought into the 21st Century.

My proposed amendments would build on the NEPA reforms passed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, limiting the scope of environmental reviews and clarifying when NEPA is triggered. The legislation also creates timelines for judicial review under NEPA, establishes limitations for standing and limits vacatur and injunction of agency decisions. These changes will cultivate certainty in the permitting process and spur domestic investment in critical infrastructure, energy and conservation projects.

As we celebrate the strides we have taken in clean energy this week, let us also not forget the time for permitting reform is now to bring these projects and ideas to life. Our energy and national security depend on it.

*Rep. Bruce Westerman represents Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and as Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources.*





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# Our energy permitting process is BANANAs



By U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter (R-Ga.)

**G**rowing up fishing with my dad off Georgia's coast, I learned a cardinal rule of boating: never bring a banana. This might be a harmless myth, but when it comes to permitting, BANANAs aren't just bad luck; they're poison pills.

The "Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything (BANANA)" philosophy that plagues our permitting

system is delaying clean energy projects for years.

Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 have recently come online in my home state of Georgia, marking the largest emissions-free energy source in the country and powering 1 million homes.

**Imagine if you had to wait 30 days for approval from the DMV to put new tires on your car, only to wait an additional year while it was litigated in court. That's the type of insanity we force builders to go through every day.**

Despite growing bipartisan support for nuclear energy projects, due to the reliable, renewable, and baseload energy they provide, regulations are standing in the way. It takes 6.7 years on average to approve a reactor license, and an additional 9 years to build the plant. Even after a project gets its permits, small issues – such as vibrations in Plant Vogtle 3 that required a pipe brace – can cost as much as \$1 million per day and take a month or more for approvals.

That's on top of frivolous NEPA lawsuits filed to block clean energy

projects, costing taxpayers millions of dollars per year.

Imagine if you had to wait 30 days for approval from the DMV to put new tires on your car, only to wait an additional year while it was litigated in court. That's the type of insanity we

force builders to go through every day.

Earlier this year, the ADVANCE Act was signed into law, marking a bipartisan achievement for nuclear energy permitting reform. This is a step in the right direction; however, these issues are not unique to nuclear.

According to the American Clean Power Association, likely bureaucratic delays on 100 gigawatts of new domestic clean energy projects will result in an additional 500 million metric tons of carbon emissions over the next ten years. This should make the Biden-Harris

administration furious, as it directly threatens the lofty goals it laid out as part of the so-called Inflation "Reduction" Act.

To build a reliable and affordable clean energy economy, we must first be able to build. China is beating us in both manufacturing and critical materials production because the United States' permitting landscape makes it one of the most expensive places in the world to build new infrastructure, no matter how widespread the support or positive the impact.

That's why the Senate must act on the House-passed comprehensive permitting reform bill, H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act. This bill includes permitting reforms in all industries, allowing for increased energy production, streamlined energy infrastructure and exports, and boosted production and processing of critical materials.

Say it with me, "this system is bananas:" B-A-N-A-N-A-S.

.....  
*Rep. Buddy Carter represented Georgia's First Congressional District. He serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he is chair of the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.*

## Coastal communities need a sustainable future



By U.S. Rep. Greg Murphy (R-N.C.)

**N**orth Carolina's coastal communities welcome millions of visitors each year to enjoy its recreational activities and charming beaches and villages. However, for coastal residents, including those along the 200 miles that make up the Outer Banks, living on the Eastern Seaboard brings with it

significant challenges.

From June through November each year, hurricane season threatens the livelihoods of over one million residents on my state's coastline. Grappling with beach erosion, flooding, and intense weather systems isn't a

**Being good stewards of our planet does not require radically changing our lives or bearing the burden of exorbitant costs.**

deeply partisan issue. Adaptation to a changing environment is essential to sustaining our local economies and way of life.

In 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina, becoming the costliest storm in the state's history. Delusively a Category 1 storm, Florence brought with it record rainfall in Eastern North Carolina, taking the lives of 42 residents and ravaging our communities to the tune of \$24 billion in damages. I served in the North Carolina General Assembly in the House of Representatives at the time of this disaster.

In Congress, engaging on climate and flooding issues is a chief priority. Each year, I host a summit to bring together scientific and academic experts, community stakeholders, and elected officials to discuss strategies and legislative solutions to tackle waterway

challenges. As vice chair of the Conservative Climate Caucus, I take pride in advancing a commonsense message on climate issues to the growing body of Americans who are desperate to hear an alternative to extreme proposals.

Being good stewards of our planet does not require radically changing our lives or bearing the burden of exorbitant costs. Coercing individuals into paying higher prices for basic goods or power for their homes will not work – nearly three-quarters of consumers will not tolerate it.

We must embrace an all-of-the-above energy approach to meet

demand and ensure no communities are left behind. Developing sustainable solutions will not happen by edict, but by innovation. On the Outer Banks, the Coastal Studies Institute, a multi-institutional research and educational partnership led by Eastern Carolina University, is doing tremendous work conducting research examining the possibility of harnessing ocean currents, such as the Gulf Stream, and waves to provide clean energy.

If the United States can put a man on the moon, we can build a sustainable future that serves all people. Environmental adaptation and clean energy production are integral to materializing this aspiration, and America's coastal communities are relying on Congress to be a catalyst for progress.

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*Rep. Greg Murphy represents North Carolina's Third Congressional District. He serves on the House Ways and Means Committee as well as the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Committee on House Administration. He co-chairs the House GOP Doctors Caucus and he serves as vice chair of the Conservative Climate Caucus.*

# Why offshore wind is key to U.S. energy dominance and continuous economic growth



By Christopher Minardi

**O**ffshore wind in the United States is seemingly a Catch-22. People tend to have ideas that are either radically for or radically against this maturing technology. Some on the left tend to think

of renewable energy, like offshore wind, as a panacea for climate change, while some on the right see most renewable energy as cost-intensive eyesores. The reality is that renewable energy will not solve all our environmental problems, and it is just as wondrous an experience to gaze upon as any coal or natural gas power plant in operation. What *can* be said for offshore wind is that it isn't going away and the energy security and robust job market that follow this energy source are here to stay and grow.

According to 2022 data from the Energy Information Administration, despite being a net petroleum exporter, the U.S. economy continues to rely on energy imported from foreign sources. This reliance on foreign energy imports is a gap in our national security picture that could be filled with sources of renewable energy like offshore wind, bringing energy production home. As EVs grow in popularity, it's even more critical to have sources of energy that are domestic and less susceptible to problems originating abroad.

It's of course important that we do not eliminate all of our sources of energy from the equation. Offshore wind generation, for example, is dependent on wind strength at sea. We still will

**Offshore wind, as part of a more diverse energy mix, will make us more secure – helping to safeguard the U.S. against everything from cyberattacks to physical attacks.**

need other forms of energy generation, but offshore wind, as part of a more diverse energy mix, will make us more secure – helping to safeguard the U.S. against everything from cyberattacks to physical attacks.

This is all not to mention the expanding job market across offshore

wind. The job market that the industry is creating would make naysayers blush, with most facilities made to support offshore wind in deep red states, such as Nexans' subsea cable manufacturing plant in Charleston, South Carolina and the maritime industry also benefiting, with shipbuilders in Louisiana, Florida, and Texas all hopping on board. The kicker is that these companies in red states are supporting wind farms in New York, Rhode Island, and New Jersey – all deep-blue strongholds.

Offshore wind isn't just another left-vs.-right issue. It's something that could unite the country and allow us to become global leaders in an ever-growing industry. We are leaders in so many other fields, such as technology, healthcare, and artificial intelligence. We need to become leaders in offshore wind.

.....  
*Christopher Minardi is director of communications, G&T Global and North America at Nexans.*

## Securing a cleaner energy future for North Carolina



By State Rep. Kyle Hall, N.C.

**C**ontinuing to develop our clean energy capabilities and technologies will support North Carolina's booming economy while saving ratepayer dollars throughout the state. As we celebrate National Clean Energy Week — September 23–27 — now is a good time for policymakers from Raleigh to Washington, D.C., to recommit themselves to

supporting an all-of-the-above approach to energy that includes renewable and clean energy resources.

According to recent data, our state's clean energy sector — which includes renewables like wind, solar, and hydro-power as well as natural gas, biomass, and advanced nuclear — supports

**It is critical that we continue to expand upon our solar power capabilities in smart, pro-growth ways that ensure we are leveraging more of this clean energy resource in a way that works for North Carolina homes, businesses, and communities.**

nearly 18,000 jobs and has committed to investing over \$20 billion in North Carolina communities. Increasing investments and access to these resources will help strengthen our economic future while ensuring North Carolina remains a leader in energy production.

In 2022, North Carolina ranked fourth in the nation — coming in just after California, Texas, and Florida — in terms of both solar power generation and generating capacity, according to the U.S. Energy

Information Administration. It is critical that we continue to expand upon our solar power capabilities in smart, pro-growth ways that ensure we are leveraging more of this clean energy resource in a way that works for North Carolina homes, businesses, and communities.

Additionally, North Carolina is quickly emerging as a leader in emissions-free nuclear power, which provided roughly one-third of the state's net electricity generation in 2022. Already ranked among the nation's top five producers of electricity from nuclear power, North Carolina is working to grow these capabilities even further by exploring the economic and environmental benefits of small modular reactors (SMRs).

SMRs may generate less power

than a traditional nuclear reactor, but they are also much more affordable to construct and can be sited in areas that may not be suitable for traditional power plants. Thanks to a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, researchers at Purdue University are now moving ahead with critical research into SMR and advanced reactor (AR) technologies, which will hopefully enable North Carolina to continue investing in and enhancing our nuclear capabilities as part of our all-of-the-above energy strategy.

For Clean Energy Week, and all year round, North Carolinians can be assured that their leaders in the General Assembly and in Congress are working to advance commonsense policies that allow us to continue investing in and growing our clean energy capabilities, from solar power to small module reactors. Not only is clean energy helping improve our communities, it is creating jobs, spurring growth, and strengthening our entire economy. Now that's something worth investing in.

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*Kyle Hall represents North Carolina's 91st House District.*

# Rolling on the river: Hydropower as a reliable form of clean energy



**By U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)**

**W**ith new and improving clean energy sources on the rise across the country, this Clean Energy Week I am highlighting our most reliable form of baseload

energy: hydropower.

As a proven energy source providing affordable power for over 30 million Americans, hydropower sustains low rates, even in high demand. Grids operate on a meticulous balance between production and usage. On a second-by-second basis, the amount of energy produced must be the same as what is being consumed. Hydropower's ability to respond to rapid changes in demand, and even store water for emergency use, makes it a necessity for places like the Pacific Northwest that have extreme temperatures in both the hot and cold months of the year.

Oure region is fortunate to have the four Lower Snake River dams that keep our grid secure during high-demand times. Collectively, dams provide the Pacific Northwest with nearly 90% of its renewable energy while adding a plethora of other benefits like transportation and port economies. The dams on the Snake River have allowed the town of Lewiston, Idaho to be the most inland seaport

city through barge traffic—a mode of transportation with a significantly smaller carbon footprint than trucks or rail—that transports goods up and down the system.

Yet rather than applauding this renewable source of clean energy and transportation, the administration has thrown its weight behind the effort to breach the dams. It's an effort that completely contradicts its climate and carbon agenda.

Studies have shown us that if a CO2-free replacement to the dams was attempted, it would cost billions of dollars and result in rate increases that would fall to home and small business owners that rely on community-owned utilities. The reality we face is that, as energy demands continue to increase, we literally cannot afford to kill our most reliable form of energy.

Washington state's population alone is projected to increase by one million people in the next decade. We need to be in the business of adding new energy to our grid, not taking it away. Striking the balance between

energy needed to sustain consumer needs is undoubtedly always a challenge, so removing such a significant brick in our foundation could be catastrophic for the Pacific Northwest as a whole.

This Clean Energy Week, I point to Central Washington as an example of how all forms of clean energy work together to sustain a dependable grid. Every source plays its parts, and the reality is that some play a bigger role than others. It is incumbent upon us in local, state, and federal governments to employ common-sense policies that work for consumers, producers, and our environment so that we may continue to benefit from and innovate new forms of clean, affordable, and reliable energy.

*Rep. Dan Newhouse is a lifelong resident of Central Washington and a third-generation Yakima Valley farmer. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee where he sits on the Agriculture, Energy and Water, and Homeland Security Subcommittees.*



Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa) and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) introduced bipartisan, bicameral resolutions celebrating the power of clean energy in the United States.



## RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2024, AS NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK!

"Through bipartisan collaboration like this, we can create durable, long-lasting policies that can withstand political shifts while continuing to reduce global emissions and strengthen our economy."

HEATHER REAMS, CHAIR OF NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

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 Breakthrough Energy



# Celebrating National Clean Energy Week in Iowa



By State Sen. Mike Klimesh, Iowa

**A**s a legislator in the great state of Iowa, I am proud to say that we are leading the nation in renewable energy generation. Our commitment to clean energy has not only benefited our environment but has also created well-paying jobs and left a positive impact on our state's economy and communities. From solar

and wind energy to biofuels, Iowa is setting the gold standard when it comes to implementing renewables into our all-of-the-above energy strategy, and I remain committed to advancing clean energy policies that are widely supported by people across our state.

In 2021, Iowa achieved a remarkable milestone: nearly three-fifths of our total electricity generation came from

This means investing in renewable energy infrastructure and reliability, not just for Iowa's benefit, but for the entire nation. Fortunately, most Americans, including Iowans, are firmly in favor of these efforts.

A recent national survey has shown that Americans from both sides of the political spectrum support legislative initiatives aimed at improving our na-

**Iowa has long been known for its vast agricultural landscapes and strong work ethic, but we're also becoming a powerhouse in clean energy production. And we view this as a source of pride.**

renewable resources, with wind energy leading the way. Wind powered an impressive 58% of Iowa's net generation. We were second only to Texas in wind power production, a testament to our dedication to renewable energy and Iowa punching above its weight.

But to maintain our leadership position, we must continue to modernize, improve, and secure our energy future.

tion's energy future, including ongoing investments in energy and manufacturing. Moreover, 61% of voters believe that laws designed to improve our nation's energy future will have a positive impact in Iowa and across the nation, and they are inclined to support leaders who champion these initiatives in their elected positions.

Iowans, regardless of their political

affiliations, stand united in their support for efforts by our state lawmakers and those in Washington, D.C., to advance our nation's energy economy. We recognize that supporting the renewable sector through continued investments in energy infrastructure and innovation is not only essential for a cleaner future, but also ensures that our children and grandchildren have access to safe, reliable energy for generations to come.

Iowa has long been known for its vast agricultural landscapes and strong work ethic, but we're also becoming a powerhouse in clean energy production. And we view this as a source of pride. We must continue to invest in renewable energy sources and modernize our grid infrastructure to accommodate the variable nature of wind, solar, biofuel, and hydrogen power. Let us seize this opportunity to invest in renewable energy and secure a brighter tomorrow for Iowa and our great nation.

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*Sen. Mike Klimesh represents Iowa's 32nd Senate District.*

# Hoosiers can be leaders in U.S. energy independence



By State Rep. Kyle Pierce, Indiana

**N**ational Clean Energy Week—September 23-27—is a good time to recognize and celebrate Indiana's commitment to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy ranging from use of traditional energy sources such as coal and gas to cutting-edge nuclear energy research at Purdue University. As a member of the Indiana General Assembly, where I represent Anderson and portions of southern Madison County, I am proud of the progress

we have made as a state to invest in and develop our energy resources to increase America's energy independence, thus diversifying our energy options, creating good-paying Hoosier jobs, and being able to be better stewards of our world for our kids and grandkids.

is the nation's the eighth-largest coal producer, has the seventh-largest crude oil refinery in the nation, is the sixth-largest producer of fuel ethanol in the nation and is the nation's fifth-largest producer of biodiesel. At the same time, renewable energy supplies 12% of the state's total electricity net

**Investing in new and cutting-edge energy technologies is not only a good way to help protect the air and water quality for Americans, it is also the smart thing to do from a purely economic standpoint.**

My view on diversifying our energy options and creating a stronghold for America's energy independence ties back to one of my greatest influences: President Ronald Reagan.

In May 1987, President Reagan wrote in a message to Congress on energy security about the need to "continue conservation and progress toward diversification of our energy resources," among other initiatives to ensure both economic and military security of our nation. Thirty-seven years later, the former president's views remain compelling.

According to [data](#) from the Energy Information Administration, Indiana

generation. This diversification of power sources exemplifies the "all-of-the-above" strategy needed to provide the energy independence required to thrive in the 21st century.

This diversification also has a second benefit: it helps us conserve our great nation's environment and wildlife. Investing in new and cutting-edge energy technologies is not only a good way to help protect the air and water quality for Americans, it is also the smart thing to do from a purely economic standpoint.

Diversifying our energy mix by expanding our use of clean energy resources is helping attract major

investments and a range of new businesses and industries to our state. For example: the [commitment](#) by General Motors and Samsung SDI to build a new electric vehicle (EV) battery plant in St. Joseph County. Representing a \$3.5 billion investment, the EV battery plant is expected to create thousands of construction jobs and roughly 1,600 permanent plant jobs for Hoosiers.

These kinds of investments and innovations are helping advance myriad related technologies here in Indiana. Continuing to support an "all-of-the-above" approach to energy that includes clean and renewable energy resources is critical to strengthening our economy while reducing America's reliance on foreign sources of energy.

Moving forward, I hope fellow lawmakers and policymakers from Indianapolis to Washington, D.C., will continue to support affordable, economically advantageous, and forward-thinking energy policies that will help us power our homes, businesses, and communities more efficiently and reliably while continuing to improve quality of life in communities across the nation.

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*Kyle Pierce has represented Indiana's House District 36 since 2022.*

# Clean Energy Week, North Dakota-style



**By Mayor Brandon Bochenski, Grand Forks, N.D.**

In his Clean Energy Week proclamation, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum talks about North Dakota's all-inclusive energy portfolio, including wind, hydrogen, hydropower and solar – as well as waste heat-generated power, which is supported by a reliable baseload provided by clean fossil fuel-generated energy.

North Dakota is committed to developing innovative solutions for clean, sustainable, and traditionally reliable forms of energy.

Grand Forks supports and continues to play a significant role in the growing renewable energy sector. We are home

improve energy security in a five-state region. This hydrogen hub will enhance decarbonization and reduce CO2 emissions for energy needs in industrial, agricultural, and commercial operations.

LM Wind Power and its 600 employees in Grand Forks produce some

Forks as well as 3.7 million customers in eight states in the Midwest and West. Their net-zero vision goals are to reduce carbon emissions by 80% from the electricity used by its customers by 2030, and they are on their way to delivering 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

Grand Forks Air Force Base is home to Space Development Agency where the Department of Defense low earth-orbit satellites are controlled. We also have large and growing private and military-focused unmanned aerial systems and technology sectors in our community. All will need significantly more energy and energy redundancy in the future.

Through innovation, new technologies and an all-inclusive approach to energy production we join our governor in supporting Clean Energy Week.

*Brandon Bochenski has been Mayor of Grand Forks since June 2020, is a business economics graduate of UND, and retired in 2017 after a 15-year career as a professional hockey player in the AHL, NHL and KHL leagues. He became the first American-born player to ever captain a team in the history of Russia's top league.*

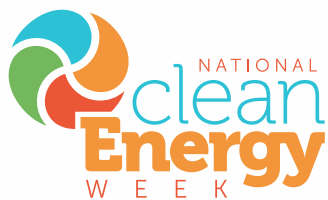
## North Dakota is committed to developing innovative solutions for clean, sustainable, and traditionally reliable forms of energy.

to the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) at the University of North Dakota, which is recognized as one of the world's leading developers of cleaner, more efficient energy as well as environmental technologies to protect and clean our air, water and soil. Historically, EERC works with over 1,300 energy clients in 53 countries and continues to provide practical, pioneering solutions to the world's energy and environmental challenges.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) named EERC and their energy partners the Heartland Hydrogen Hub, one of seven hydrogen hubs to advance regional clean energy projects and

of the world's largest blades for wind turbines which helps power a sustainable world. Wind power in North Dakota provided about one-third of North Dakota's net generation in 2022, ranking among the top six states with the largest share of electricity generated by wind.

Minnkota Power is headquartered in Grand Forks and provides power to electric cooperatives in North Dakota and Minnesota. They have long been a leader in sustainable energy. Similar to the rest of the state, one-third of Minnkota's electric generation comes from wind. Xcel Energy provides power to a customer base in the City of Grand



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**FOR DECLARING  
SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2024 AS  
CLEAN ENERGY WEEK**



# 2024 CLEAN ENERGY CHAMPIONS

## CONGRATULATIONS!

*Each year, CRES awards federal policymakers with the Clean Energy Champion award as a testament to their work supporting commonsense clean energy and climate legislation that protects communities as well as our economy and to celebrate their commitment to building a clean energy future for America.*

“Sens. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Reps. Buddy Carter (R-Ga.) and Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) are leading the charge to advance clean energy in their home states and nationwide, recognizing that American-made, clean energy innovation not only reduces global emissions but also strengthens our economy. Their efforts reflect a pragmatic, all-of-the-above energy approach, and CRES is proud to honor these lawmakers as the 2024 CRES Clean Energy Champions.”

**HEATHER REAMS, CRES President**

**CONGRESSMAN  
BUDDY CARTER**

**SENATOR  
CYNTHIA LUMMIS**

**SENATOR  
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