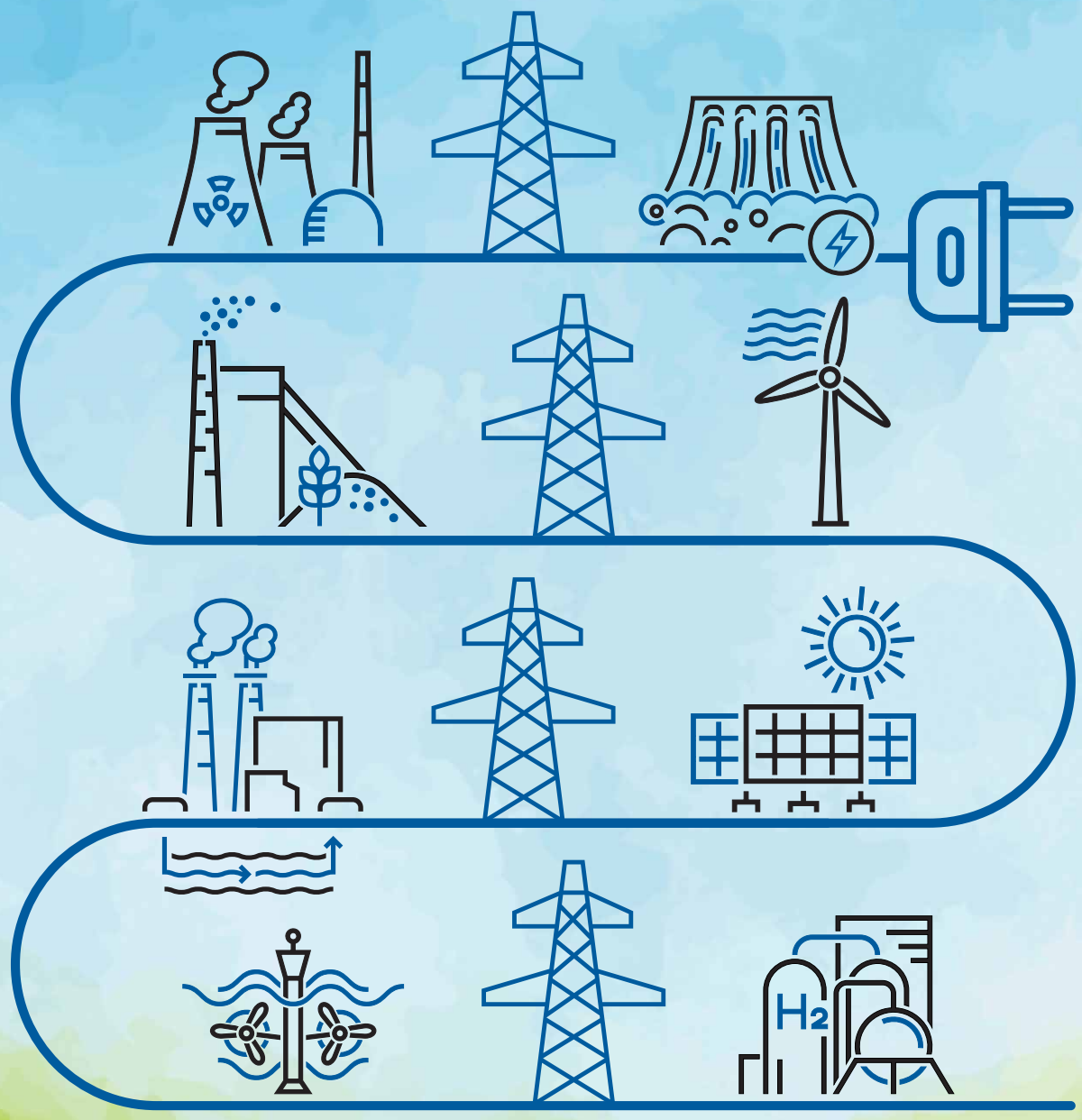
Unbridled Clean Energy

Innovating for the Future



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Unbridled Clean Energy

Innovating for the Future

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Montana's Hungry Horse Dam, spanning the Flathead River, stands among the tallest dams in the nation.

Supporting made-in-Montana energy

By U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont.

Unleashing made-in-America energy has been a hallmark priority of the conservative movement for years. It bolsters our economy and provides millions of jobs. Most importantly, having strong domestic energy production decreases our reliance on foreign nations and protects our national security. The demand for U.S. energy is expected to grow at least 50% over the next 25 years. It's critical that we do everything we can to support more made-in-America energy, so we are prepared for this growth in demand and maintain our energy dominance in an increasingly competitive global market and continue to bolster our workforce.

Montana is rich in natural resources and a net supplier of energy to the rest of the nation. We have more recoverable coal than any other state in the U.S. as well as abundant sources of crude oil and natural gas. Montana also has abundant renewable energy like hydropower, which provides the second largest share of electricity generation in our state. However, we struggled under the Biden administration, which caved to the demands of radical environmentalists who cared more about stoking climate alarmism than about actually finding ways to gain access to more baseload energy. We saw critical permits stonewalled and unfair rulings on subjects like EV mandates and carbon reporting, all of which caused us to offload our energy production and rely on imports from Russia and China. Montana's four coal mines – Spring Creek, Rosebud, Bull Mountains, and Absaloka/Big Sky – were always under threat of closure by Biden officials in order to pursue their green dream.

It's critical that we do everything we can to support more made-in-America energy, so we are prepared for this growth in demand and maintain our energy dominance in an increasingly competitive global market and continue to bolster our workforce.

Thankfully, President Donald Trump and his administration have rejected environmental hysteria and are focused on passing commonsense policies that increase American energy on all fronts – from coal and natural gas to hydro, wind and solar.

Thanks to Montana's unique geography, hydropower is an affordable and reliable source of baseload power in the Treasure State. Six of our ten major electric power plants run on hydropower. And uniquely, Montana is home to the first tribally owned electric plant in the U.S., on the Flathead River. It's clear that hydropower is a critical source of energy produced in Montana and powering the nation.

But unfortunately, the relicensing program for hydropower dams can take nearly a decade- a product of D.C. bureaucracy that slows the process and harms Montana as a result.

Earlier this year I introduced S. 1020 with Sen. John Fetterman (D-Penn.), as well as my Republican colleagues Sens. Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy of Louisiana, Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), and Tim Sheehy (Mont.), to approve six-year extensions for hydropower projects licensed before 2020. The bill will end construction delays due to supply chain shortages and keep these critical projects running.

I am confident that under the leadership of President Trump and his administration, and with a Republican majority in the U.S. Senate, we will be able to get these important permitting reforms in place. I look forward to working with my colleagues to further made-in-America energy and increase effective energy production.

Sen. Steve Daines is a member of the Senate Energy and National Resources Committee and a leading voice in the Senate for commonsense energy policy.

Energy dominance means building more domestically, selling more globally

By Jeremy Harrell

In a world of growing demand, having energy is power. The United States faces a dual threat — meeting domestic demand and competing for global market share. China has been quietly reshaping the global energy landscape, exponentially building more on their soil, and outspending the U.S. nearly ten-to-one in overseas energy finance.

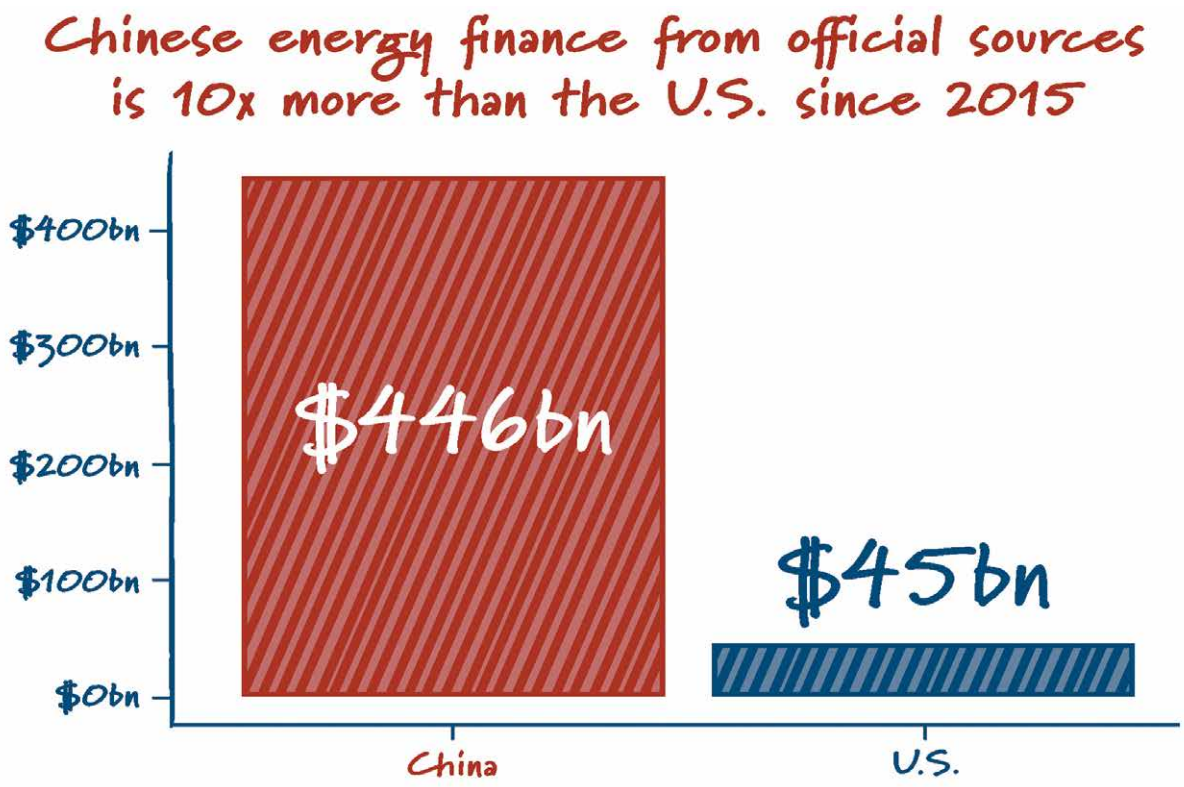
China added 475 gigawatts of new electricity generation in 2024. Meanwhile, the U.S. added just one-tenth of that. China built 74 gigawatts of new energy storage. The U.S. built 10. China built 54 gigawatts of new fossil fuel generation, primarily unmitigated coal. The U.S. built just two gigawatts of lower-emission gas.

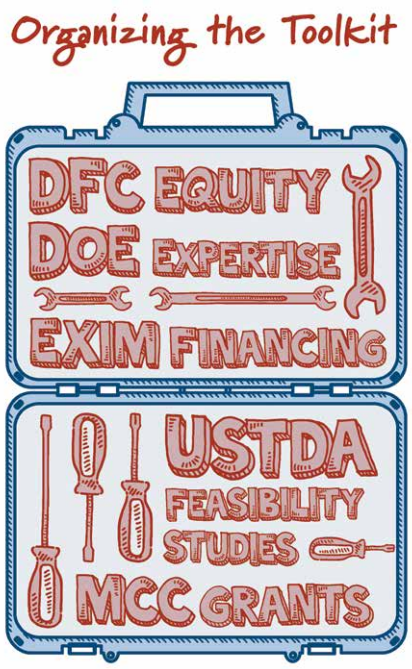
By every metric, China is building more energy than we are. And that energy is fueling growth across their economy.

And make no mistake, as China further develops its own domestic capacity, it will sell even more of its products globally, furthering its global influence.

A first-of-its-kind analysis by ClearPath of U.S. and Chinese energy investments reveals staggering numbers: since 2015, China has poured $446 billion into global public energy projects compared to just $45 billion from the U.S. In Brazil, the Western Hemisphere's second-largest economy, China has spent more than $60 billion, dwarfing America's $472 million.

These gaps aren't just about building and financing; they are going on offense globally. China has bought itself a stake in Brazil's energy future, now owning at least 12 percent of the country's power grid. China is setting standards, securing supply chains and using bully tactics on long-term partnerships that give it leverage over economies critical to U.S. security. Chinese state banks often tie loans to predatory conditions that push nations like Brazil away from other strategic partners, leaving them more dependent on China.





For the U.S., this is more than an economic opportunity lost. It is a giant geopolitical head start. Brazil is an emerging energy powerhouse and one of the fastest-growing markets. By ceding ground to China, we weaken our strategic position and limit U.S. business opportunities. The U.S. should not try to out-subsidize China, but true American energy dominance requires global market leadership.

The U.S. never will, nor should it, try to out-subsidize China to compete. But the U.S. must treat energy finance as a core pillar of national security, not an afterthought.

The good news: America has the tools to win, but only if we sharpen and use them. That starts with enhancing the scale and strategic focus of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), giving it the flexibility and a revolving fund to make long-term investments that reinforce American supply chains and strengthen our allies.

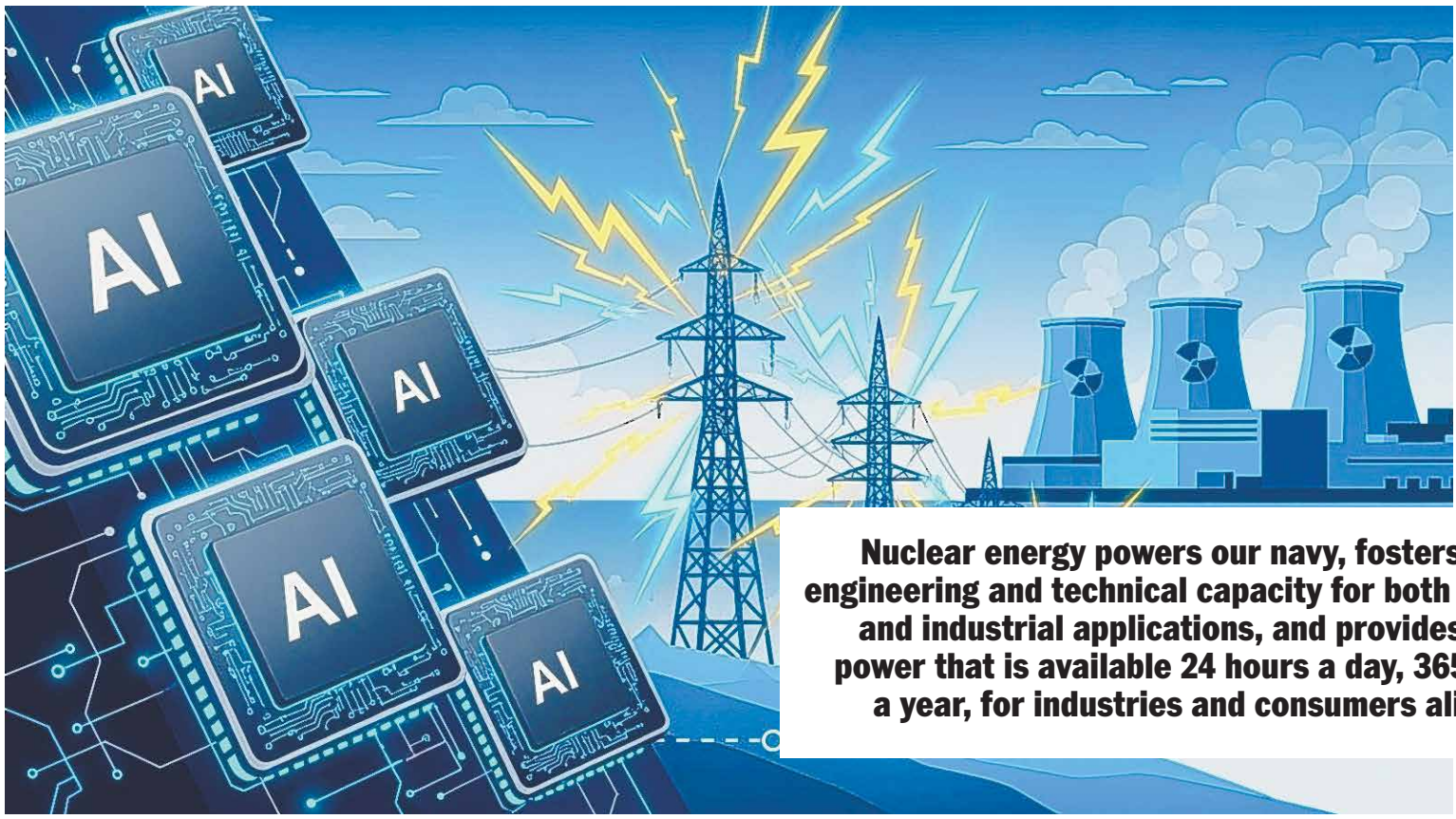
The Export-Import Bank (EXIM) also needs a stronger financing toolkit to reshore American manufacturing and supply chains. Raising its default rate cap would allow EXIM to back bigger, American-made projects, from advanced nuclear reactors to next-generation grid systems, that showcase U.S. leadership and reduce reliance on Chinese state-backed financing. Creating National Interests Accounts would ensure our investments serve clear strategic objectives.

Finally, the U.S. needs an Energy Security Compacts (ESC) framework: an interagency playbook that unites DFC, EXIM, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Department of Energy. Through long-term agreements with clear, measurable outcomes targeting energy security and infrastructure, America can once again set the pace for global energy development. ESCs offer a bipartisan pathway to strengthen the Trump Administration's work in countering China and Russia, while elevating energy security as a core pillar of U.S. foreign policy.

Our innovation and entrepreneurial spirit have long been foundational to American strength. Today, that dominance is being contested not on our soil but in markets abroad. If we fail to act, China will continue writing the rules of the global energy order. If we rise to the challenge, the U.S. can secure energy independence and global energy dominance, cementing our role as the partner of choice for nations like Brazil and beyond.

America has some of the strongest and most competitive companies in the world, but they are running into too many limitations to get products built domestically and reach new markets. We must get serious about competing with China by strengthening America's capabilities to permit development domestically, and by promoting energy technology and expertise worldwide. Both building domestic supply chains on rising U.S. demand and a global order book support our economic growth and geopolitical leverage. This isn't just about economics; it's about national security and reducing global emissions through American innovation, rather than Chinese control.

Jeremy Harrell is the CEO of ClearPath, a conservative energy organization whose mission is to accelerate American innovation to reduce global energy emissions.



Nuclear energy powers our navy, fosters the engineering and technical capacity for both military and industrial applications, and provides the power that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for industries and consumers alike.

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AI needs power. Nuclear energy delivers

By U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Ky.

It's been more than 80 years since Enrico Fermi first harnessed the power of the atom in his Chicago-based lab. Since that first moment of nuclear power production, the United States has led the world in the development and deployment of nuclear technology.

Now, at the dawn of the new technological age of artificial intelligence (AI) and of adversarial competition from China, our nuclear energy leadership remains critical for our national and energy security.

In recent years, China has sought to challenge our dominance in nuclear power. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), China is on track to overtake the U.S. as the top nuclear power provider by the end of the decade. In the last five years, more than 80% of the global supply of new nuclear energy capacity came from China alone.

Time is of the essence; we must strengthen our nuclear infrastructure and deploy more nuclear power generation, including advanced technologies, to help meet our growing energy needs. To keep America on the leading edge of industries across the entire economy, we need the reliable energy capacity that nuclear power can bring to the grid.

Nuclear energy is critical to our national security and our energy security. Nuclear energy powers our navy, fosters the engineering and technical capacity for both military and industrial applications, and provides the power that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for these industries and consumers alike.

Nuclear Energy is also clean energy. And with new designs, can be deployed near factories and even AI data centers.

In the last Congress, we delivered major statutory reforms to help accelerate nuclear power and help us maintain our competitive advantage.

One major reform, known as the ADVANCE Act, is a law refocusing the government's mission to include efficient, predictable licensing, the proper siting of reactors, and robust international engagement to promote more rapid deployment of advanced nuclear reactors.

We also enacted laws to ban Russian uranium and to support the build out of our domestic nuclear fuel sources, including for the most advanced reactors, ensuring that we are not forced to rely on adversarial nations such as China and Russia for critical supplies.

By reforming the process for licensing new reactors, we are helping to ensure that regulatory red tape will not be a major impediment to successful deployment. Developers can now focus their attention on what it takes to finance and safely build out our next generation of nuclear reactors.

The scale of future energy demand is unprecedented — and made more challenging by policies that have been forcing the retirement of baseload generation in our electric system.

Our nation will need tremendous amounts of generation to meet growing consumer and AI data center demand, with some estimates showing the need for about 250 gigawatts in new dispatchable generation to ensure we have reliable power. Meeting this challenge is vital.

Earlier this year, the Department of Energy released a startling report, warning that power outages could increase by 100 times in 2030 as a result of baseload power plants coming offline, along with projections for increased demand created by the need to develop AI technologies.

To meet this demand and solve our reliability problems, we need to deploy all our tremendous energy resources, from natural gas to coal to uranium and hydropower, that can provide reliable electricity. This is why the successful deployment of nuclear power in the coming years is also so critical.

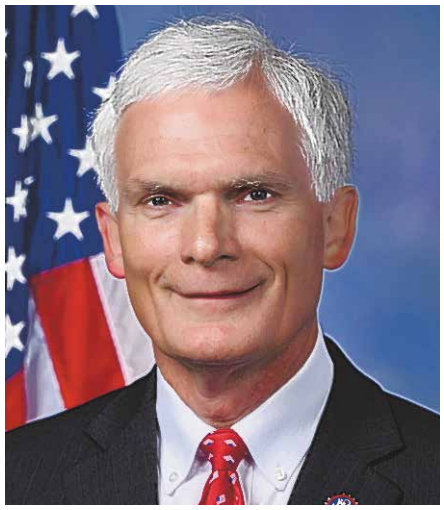
The tremendous power from nuclear energy can help rapidly fill in the gap in baseload power we need, diversify our energy supplies, and develop new technologies — all while strengthening our national security simultaneously.

Losing the race for AI dominance to China would be the equivalent of losing the space race to the Soviet Union — a devastating blow to our economy, our privacy, and our national security. To ensure our success, we need to invest in nuclear technologies.

Our nation's security and the strength of our electric grid will depend on our ability to develop and maintain advanced nuclear energy. By continuing to focus on strengthening our fuel supply chain and streamlining the permitting process to bring more nuclear reactors online, we can ensure our nation continues to have an abundance of clean, affordable, and reliable energy for decades to come.

Rep. Brett Guthrie represents Kentucky's 2nd congressional district. Following his military service in the Army, Guthrie joined a Bowling Green, Kent., based manufacturing business that was started by his father and represented the 32nd district in the Kentucky Senate. Guthrie was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008 and serves as the chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Nuclear energy is the clean energy of America's future



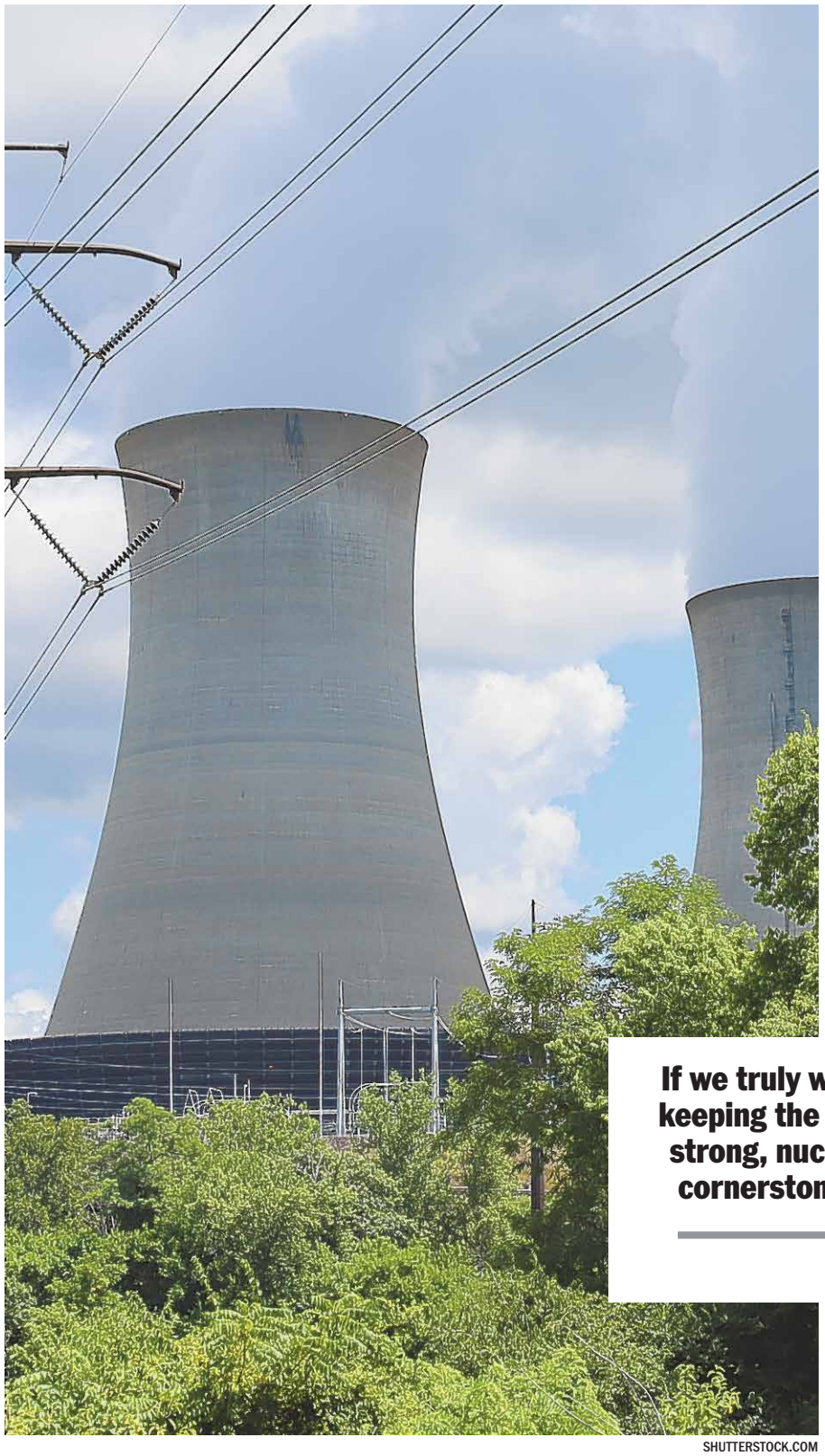
By U.S. Rep. Bob Latta, R-Ohio

When we talk about clean energy, solar and wind power dominate the conversation. But if we are serious about cutting carbon emissions, meeting growing energy demands, and keeping costs low for families, we cannot afford to overlook one of the most powerful tools available for our disposal: nuclear energy.

Experts acknowledge we need to be producing more energy in this country, not less. At a recent Energy Subcommittee hearing, I asked the Regional Transmission Organizations (TRO) and Independent System Operators (ISO) if America needs more, or less, energy to meet demand. Every witness said America needs to produce more energy to meet the growing demand. They also made it clear that we cannot afford to take any existing generation offline. Growing demand means we need more energy available for families; manufacturers of all sizes, including farmers; and medical facilities.

Today, 94 nuclear reactors across 28 states generate 20 percent of our nation's electricity. To meet increasing demand, we must bring more energy online. The domestic nuclear industry has the potential to triple its capacity to 300 gigawatts (GW) in 2050. If we truly want lower emissions while keeping the lights on and the economy strong, nuclear power must remain a cornerstone of our energy strategy.

Nuclear energy is not only the largest source of carbon-free electricity in the United States, but also one of the most reliable and affordable. While solar and wind are important parts of our all-above-clean energy strategy, nuclear power uniquely provides consistent baseload energy around the clock. Looking ahead, both traditional reactors and emerging small modular reactors (SMRs) will play a vital role in meeting our growing energy demands. These innovations promise faster deployment, enhanced safety features, and the ability to fill gaps renewables leave when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow. Investing in nuclear energy today ensures that America can remain energy independent, competitive, and secure in our future for generations to come.



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Nuclear power plant located in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

As Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have made it one of my top priorities to bring more nuclear energy to the United States. This Congress, I have introduced a bipartisan and bicameral bill, the Nuclear REFUEL Act, to help increase investment of nuclear energy in the United States. These reforms will help unleash American energy dominance and ensure we remain competitive on the global stage.

Beyond affordability, nuclear power is also an economic driver. Nuclear power stations create thousands of high-paying and long-term jobs, support local communities, and sustain economic growth. The reality is we need to produce a large amount of power from every available source, and nuclear energy will play a major role in meeting this demand. For a district like mine in Ohio, and countless others across the country, that means more opportunities for skilled workers, more growth for manufacturers, and a stronger economy. More clean energy for America means more opportunities, more jobs, and more affordable power. And with nuclear energy leading the way, we can deliver reliable energy that secures our future and strengthens our communities.

As we work to expand our nation's energy production, nuclear energy must be at the forefront of that conversation. Nuclear energy also strengthens our national security. While countries like China and Russia race ahead with new developments and next-generation reactors, the United States cannot afford to fall behind. By advancing nuclear technologies today, we ensure that America sets the global standard for safety, innovation, and clean energy leadership.

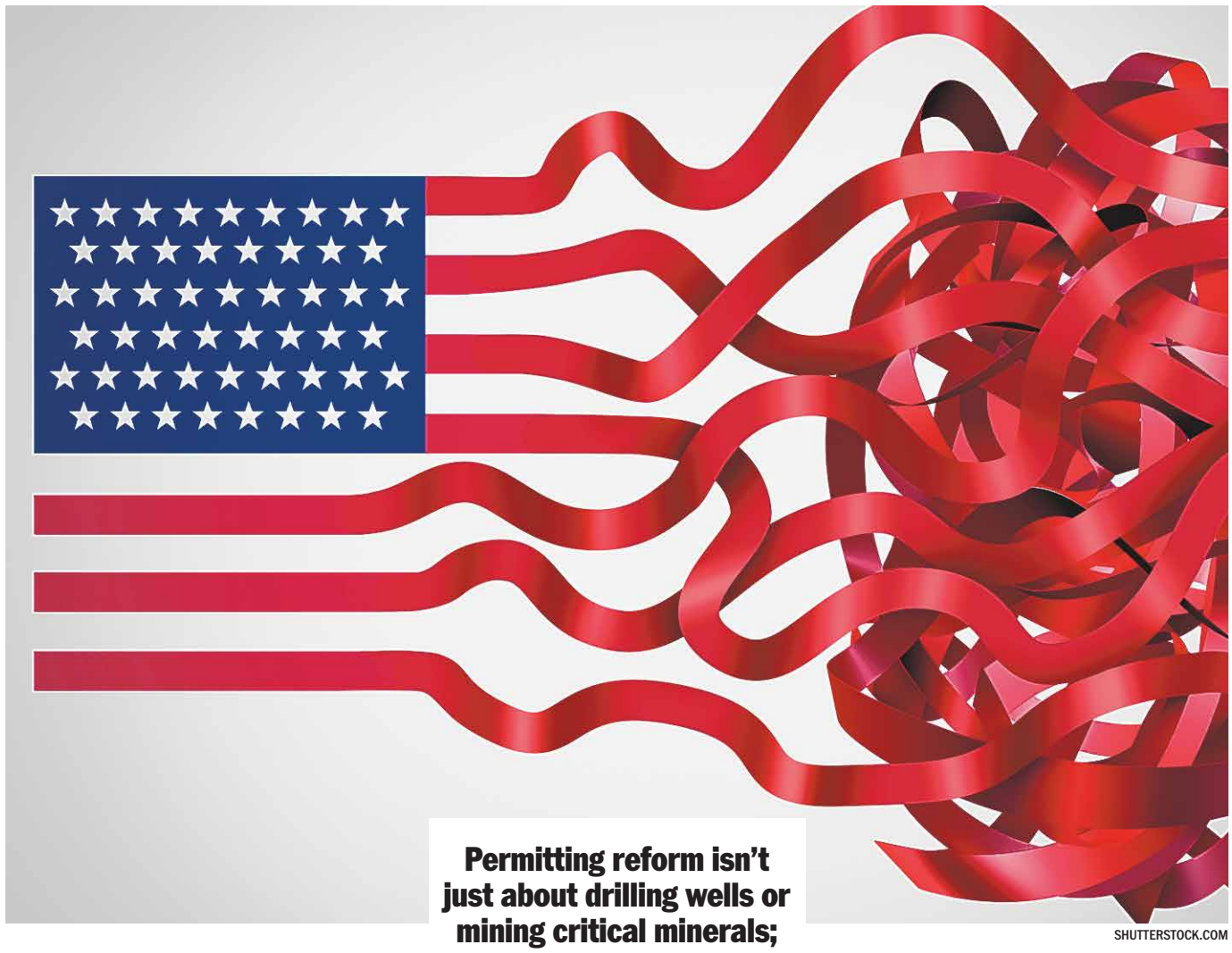
If we truly want lower emissions while keeping the lights on and the economy strong, nuclear power must remain a cornerstone of our energy strategy.

Nuclear energy is the key to meeting our energy needs, lowering costs, and creating jobs here in the United States. If we invest in this reliable and affordable resource, we can strengthen our economy, secure our energy future, and deliver lasting results for American families and communities.

Rep. Bob Latta is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. *He is chair of the* Energy Subcommittee *and is a member of the Communications and Technology as well as the Environment Subcommittee. He is also a member of the House Energy Action Team and the Conservative Climate Caucus.*

Republicans' continued push to restore American energy dominance

By U.S. Rep. Troy Balderson, R-Ohio



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A cornerstone of Republicans' 2024 electoral mandate has been to restore common sense to Washington. For four long years, the American economy was battered by historic inflation and a slew of radical regulations that upended entire industries — particularly our energy sector.

By every measure, the United States has what it takes to be an energy-dominant nation. We are blessed with abundant natural resources, a free market that rewards innovation and efficiency, and the most skilled workforce in the world. Yet under President Biden, we not only squandered that potential — we ceded ground to adversaries like China and Russia.

As chairman of the House Energy Action Team (HEAT), my responsibility is to bring Republicans together to right the ship and stand united in putting American energy dominance front and center. And while we've already secured major victories, the work is far from finished.

One of our first priorities this Congress was to reverse misguided initiatives from the last administration. Chief among them was the deluge of big-government mandates and heavy-handed subsidies underpinning the Democrats' "Green New Scam."

The Biden White House relied on taxpayer-funded handouts to prop up speculative investors while waging an all-out war on coal and natural gas. As a result, energy markets are rattled by regulatory uncertainty, driving electricity prices higher and leaving families and businesses to pay the price.

The Working Families Tax Cuts law cut off funding for this far-left energy agenda that punished our most reliable power sources and bet our future on wind and solar projects that cannot meet the growing demand from AI and advanced manufacturing alone.

That is why HEAT is focused on solutions that unlock our vast natural resources and ensure energy abundance for decades to come. This means finally taking on much-needed reforms to our permitting process.

For far too long, America's permitting process has stood as a barrier to our own progress. Clogged by red tape and litigation, critical energy projects are delayed for years, costs are driven up, and companies are forced to rely more on foreign suppliers — often adversaries like China — for the energy, minerals, and materials we need. President Trump made important strides to streamline this process with his decisive executive orders, but Congress must act to codify these actions and provide much-needed stability.

This month, the House passed one of my bills, the GRID Power Act. This legislation will help expedite electricity generation projects that bring dispatchable power online and improve the reliability of our grid. These projects can face wait times of up to five years in the interconnection queue before they are reviewed, jeopardizing our ability to meet the United States' skyrocketing power demands.

Permitting reform isn't just about drilling wells or mining critical minerals; it's about building supply chains for manufacturers, creating high-paying jobs, and ensuring our power grid can withstand future demand.

The reality is simple: if we want affordable energy, a stronger economy, and a strategic edge over China, Congress must act. Permitting reform isn't just about drilling wells or mining critical minerals; it's about building supply chains for manufacturers, creating high-paying jobs, and ensuring our power grid can withstand future demand.

House Republicans, led by HEAT members, are advancing commonsense permitting reforms. The Streamlining Critical Mineral Permitting Act accelerates approvals for vital mining projects so we can source materials here at home instead of from Beijing. The Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act and the Improving Water Quality Certifications and American Energy Infrastructure Act end the abuse of water rules that have been weaponized to block new energy infrastructure. And the Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act reins in frivolous lawsuits that delay projects for years and drive up costs for taxpayers.

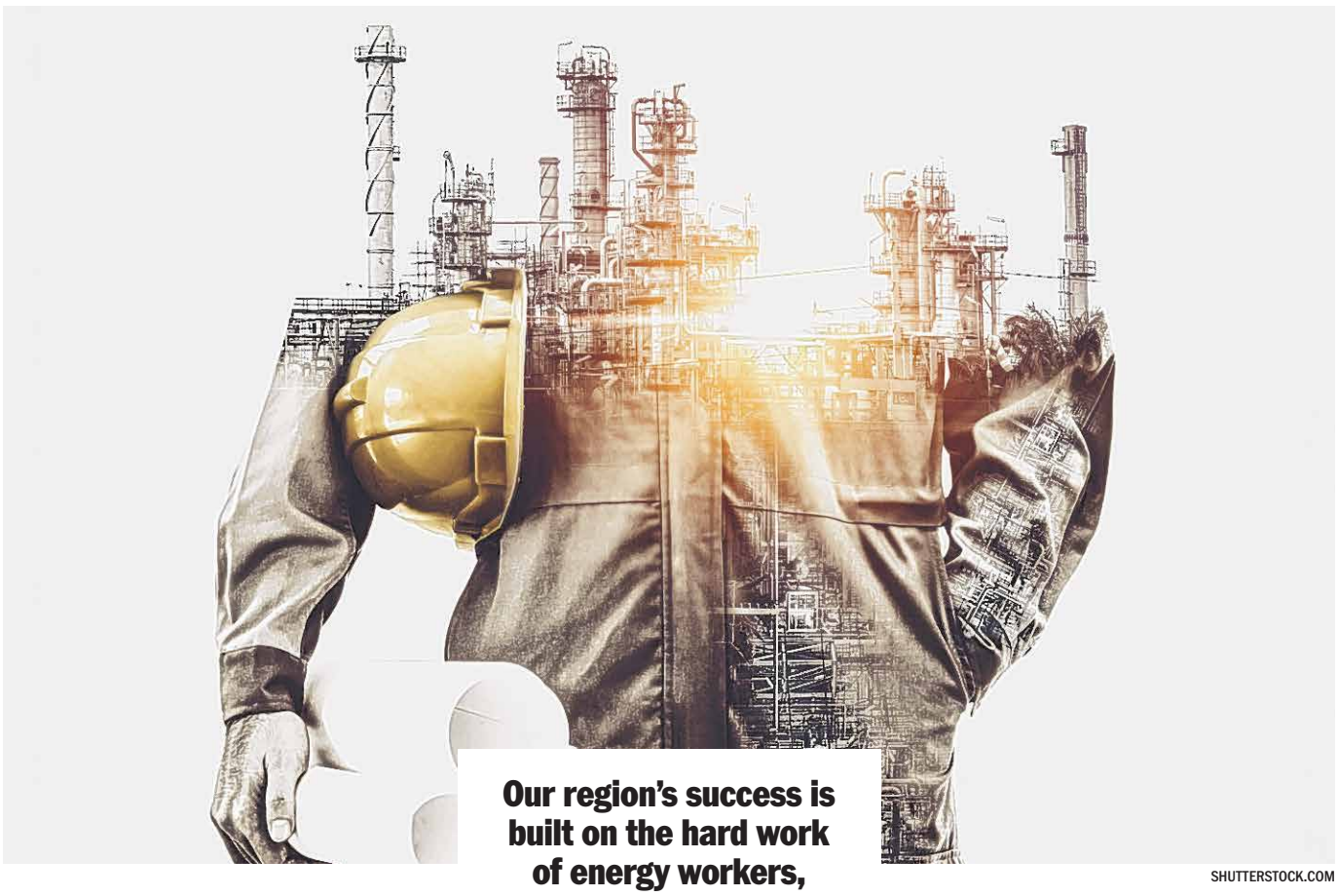
Outsourcing our nation's energy security is no longer acceptable. America has been blessed with unmatched natural resources that can power our nation affordably and reliably well into the future, but unless we get the government out of the way, we will never be able to reach our full, God-given potential.

Together, these Republican reforms will lower energy bills for families, strengthen American manufacturing, and speed the build-out of reliable, dispatchable power that keeps our grid resilient. With HEAT leading the way, Congress is delivering on its promise to restore American energy dominance.

Rep. Troy Balderson represents Ohio's 12th Congressional District. He serves as Chairman of the House Energy Action Team (HEAT) and is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Powering our economy: How the working families tax cuts deliver for the energy industry

By U.S. Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas



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Our region's success is built on the hard work of energy workers, our unique resources, and the companies powering it all. Without these, American energy dominance is not possible.

Energy fuels every aspect of modern life. It powers our homes, fuels our vehicles, and drives our innovation. From the most routine parts of our daily lives to the backbone of our economy, affordable and abundant energy is essential.

As the representative for America's most prolific oil and gas producing region, I've seen firsthand the importance of policies that bolster American energy independence and dominance. Our region's success is built on the hard work of energy workers, our unique resources, and the companies powering it all. Without these, American energy dominance is not possible. That's why we must cut red tape, foster a pro-energy economy, and pass commonsense legislation that strengthens our energy future.

In stark contrast to these goals, the Biden-Harris Administration spent four years implementing disastrous energy policies that pandered to woke environmental extremists over the needs of everyday American families and workers. These policies drove up energy prices and led to a weakened electric grid that has jeopardized Americans' safety and security. Thankfully, with President Donald Trump back in the White House and Republicans in control of Congress, we've hit the ground running to reverse these catastrophic energy policies.

The most tangible way we have done this was by passing the Working Families Tax Cut package. This transformational legislation is a massive win for hard-working Texans back home in my state, and all across the country. It supports a pro-growth, pro-worker, pro-family, pro-business, and pro-energy economy. It implements President Trump's energy dominance agenda, serving as yet another example of "promises-made, promises-kept" from this administration and congressional Republicans.

This legislation is historic in every aspect, but among its most critical achievements are the pro-energy provisions within it.

For starters, it dismantles the Biden administration's $500 billion in "Green New Scam" tax credits that wasted taxpayer dollars on unreliable energy schemes that prioritized woke-ideology over real results. Repealing them protects our energy sector from further distortion and ensures our markets return to proven, dependable energy sources.

This legislation also ends the weaponization of permitting and unlocks American energy potential by reinstating quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales and mandating at least 30 lease sales in the Gulf of America over the next 15 years. This provision will bring long-term certainty to producers, giving families and businesses access to reliable, affordable energy.

A fundamental economic principle is that when you tax a producer, you tax the consumer, and the Biden-era natural gas tax did exactly that, creating unnecessary volatility and uncertainty for producers and consumers alike. With the Working Families Tax Cuts, we delayed this harmful tax for ten years to lower costs, protect jobs, and incentivize robust domestic production which is a major win for American families and small businesses.

With this legislation, we are also making critical investments into next-generation, dispatchable baseload power to keep our grid stable and our economy competitive. It is no secret that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving and requires exceptionally high levels of energy to keep running. By making these investments, we are ensuring our power grid can meet these skyrocketing energy demands.

Furthermore, this legislation appropriates funds to repair and begin replenishing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) that President Joe Biden recklessly drained for political points with no plans to refill it. The SPR is a critical national security asset for the United States. Energy security is national security, and ensuring we have a full and secure SPR is essential to safeguarding our country for any potential future conflict.

While Democrats continue to push the idea that our energy grid should be reliant on wind and solar alone for the future, Republicans understand that unreliable energy leads to higher costs, more blackouts, and less jobs. The facts don't lie, energy prices skyrocketed nearly 30% during the Biden-Harris Administration, and families paid the price at the pump and at home. This is why we built the Working Families Tax Cut to put energy policy back on track

The bottom line is that this legislation is a critical step in the right direction to help ensure we have a stable economy and abundant energy sources for generations to come. At the same time, there is still much to be done, and I am committed to continuing our momentum and building upon this legislation to deliver more results to the American people.

Rep. August Pfluger represents Texas' 11th congressional district, which includes the Permian Basin – the nation's largest secure energy supply. He is the first member of Congress to represent Midland and Odessa on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep. Pfluger graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy before serving in the military for over twenty years as a decorated fighter pilot and later as an advisor on the National Security Council during President Trump's first term. He still serves as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

How West Virginia can drive energy exports and secure US leadership

By U.S. Rep. Carol Miller, R-W.V.

As a co-founder and current co-chair of the Congressional Energy Export Caucus, I know firsthand how vital energy exports are to strengthening the American economy and safeguarding our position as a global energy leader.

Representing West Virginia, I see the impact every day. Expanding energy exports supports local communities by creating good jobs for hardworking men and women, and lowers costs here at home, all while giving our allies abroad a secure and dependable alternative to hostile foreign suppliers.

With global competition intensifying, the United States must act decisively to cement its role as the world's dominant energy producer. The path forward begins with unleashing the full potential of liquefied natural gas production (LNG), while also continuing to utilize traditional energy resources such as coal mining.

By pairing these foundational industries with innovative technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS) and other emerging clean energy solutions, we can achieve the balance needed for long-term growth.

West Virginia is well-equipped with the resources needed for the proper execution of CCS. With Class VI primacy, state officials have authority over the implementation of new CCS wells without having to go through federal red tape and long waiting periods at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Class VI primacy allows West Virginia to move projects forward and expand clean energy production. By resuming LNG permits and advancing carbon capture, we can drive growth, create thousands of new jobs for Mountaineers, and strengthen America's leadership in energy.

One way I have already advanced this mission is by co-founding the Congressional Energy Export Caucus with my colleagues, making the growth of American energy a bipartisan priority. Through this effort, we are showing the world that energy security is not a partisan issue but a national imperative.

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In January, the Congressional Energy Export Caucus celebrated the Department of Energy's decision to resume processing applications for LNG. This is an important step towards restoring confidence in America's energy industry, as LNG exports allow us to fully utilize our abundant resources, expand production, and provide our allies with a dependable supply of energy.

Continued U.S. leadership in exporting LNG also furthers global emissions goals. Unlike the United States — where methane emissions are modest, regulated, and declining — Russia's natural gas production facilities and distribution networks are old, largely unregulated, and leaky. A Department of Energy study shows that American LNG can be up to 30% cleaner than Russian natural gas and that if we do not fulfill the demand for LNG and let other countries like Russia control the markets, emissions will continue to rise.

Along with this, I was proud to stand by and support President Donald Trump as he announced a trade deal with the European Union (EU) in late July. This deal consisted of the EU promising to purchase $750 billion in U.S. energy exports and invest $600 billion into our nation by the year 2028. I have heard from several high-ranking officials from countries around the world that they believe buying U.S. energy exports will be a key component of President Trump's trade deals, and I am confident that President Trump will see this through.

I will continue working with the president and his administration as well as energy champions in Congress to see this agreement come to fruition and bring large energy investments to our nation's economy.

West Virginia takes great pride in our energy exports. We are the nation's second-largest coal producer and account for over 15% of the nation's coal production. I know how important this industry is to West Virginia, and the rest of the nation, which is why I have introduced and co-sponsored several pieces of legislation in support of the coal mining industry.

Expanding energy exports supports local communities by creating good jobs for hardworking men and women, and lowers costs here at home, all while giving our allies abroad a secure and dependable alternative to hostile foreign suppliers.

Combining coal mining with innovative technologies to maximize exports has been one of my biggest priorities in Congress, which is why I collaborated with my colleagues earlier this year to introduce the Methane Reduction and Economic Growth Act. This bipartisan bill focuses on capturing and repurposing mine methane emissions to be used as energy in the United States. This is a huge step in investing in cutting edge technologies and fusing together multiple energy strategies to bolster American energy dominance.

Along with this, I am in full support and voted in favor of The National Coal Council Reestablishment Act, which permanently reestablishes the National Coal Council, so it isn't forced through complicated federal hurdles every other year.

West Virginia sits at the heart of America's energy future, where our coal expertise and all-of-the above energy mindset can expand exports and strengthen our economy. By continuing to champion our longstanding baseload energy production and investing in the next generation of energy technology, we can produce reliable energy for the world and stay ahead of our adversaries in the global energy race.

Rep. Carol Miller represents West Virginia's 1st Congressional District. Miller serves on the Committee on Ways and Means. Prior to her election to Congress in 2018, she served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 2006 to 2018 where she rose to become the first female Majority Whip.

The nuclear option: The future of American energy dominance

By U.S. Rep. Randy Weber, R-Texas

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) data centers is reshaping America's energy landscape and national security priorities. These facilities are instrumental in enabling America to maintain its position as a global superpower. Stifling growth in this industry is not an option. We cannot allow an adversary, like China, to lead the world in AI development. The Chinese Communist Party already uses AI to advance its military and geopolitical ambitions. To be clear, this is a race we cannot afford to lose.

Data centers use enormous amounts of energy, placing greater strain on an already over-exerted energy grid. The United States Department of Energy notes that data centers used a little more than 4% of the nation's electricity in 2023. By 2030, that number is expected to triple to a staggering 12% of domestic electricity use.

Make no mistake, I am fully behind America's push to remain the world's AI leader, and I applaud the Trump administration's efforts to make that possible. This sector can bring thousands of high-paying jobs to America, stimulating our economy and keeping the country competitive in the global marketplace. However, we need a robust energy grid to seize this opportunity. Rolling blackouts and brownouts are becoming more common in markets where poor policy decisions have prioritized renewable pipedreams over reliable sources. If we maintain the status quo, we will be living up to Einstein's definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

There is no silver bullet when it comes to solving our energy grid crisis. However, a good starting point would be to advance policy solutions that prioritize dispatchable 24/7 energy sources over intermittent ones. We are doing just that in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. A diversified national energy portfolio is the key to longevity, but it must be reliable. While natural gas, coal, and hydropower (region-dependent) can all help to meet this demand, there is another energy source that has the potential to propel our nation into a new generation of global leadership.

Allow me to introduce the nuclear option (no, not the Senate procedural motion). I believe that nuclear energy will have the largest role to play in fueling American AI development, and the time to act is now.

However, for nuclear energy to reach the pinnacle of American energy dominance, two things must happen: debunking the myths of the dangers of nuclear energy and fostering a financial ecosystem that encourages long-term, serious investments in the industry.

For nuclear energy to reach the pinnacle of American energy dominance, two things must happen: debunking the myths of the dangers of nuclear energy and fostering a financial ecosystem that encourages long-term, serious investments in the industry.

Ask anyone to name an incident involving nuclear power, and I guarantee they can cite Chernobyl. That happened nearly 40 years ago and was caused by faulty reactor design and operator error. That Soviet-designed RBMK reactor was destined to fail; we do things a little differently here in the U.S. Our reactors are pillars of stability. The domestic nuclear fleet consists of 54 plants hosting 94 reactors across 28 states. This fleet boasts a remarkable safety record, enabling the industry to operate at the highest levels of reliability and performance.

Private industry has driven innovation in the nuclear space. Partnered with a commonsense regulatory environment, support from milestone-based development programs at the DOE, implementation of the ADVANCE Act, and the reorganization of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we are well-positioned to expand our nuclear fleet. However, we cannot support this advanced technology with antiquated systems and procedures.

We need a reliable fuel supply chain to power this revolution. Investments in mining, processing, and enrichment are critical to the growth of nuclear power. It would also be irresponsible not to address the storage of spent nuclear fuel and the need for reprocessing. With all the spent nuclear fuel currently sitting across our nation, we could power our current fleet for over 100 years with the right reprocessing.

We can build the fleet of the future, consisting of large reactors, small modular reactors (SMRs), and microreactors, the latter two of which can be scaled depending on demand. SMRs and microreactors also enable the industry to meet consumers where they are and where they will be going forward.

The current political climate, no pun intended, is poised perfectly for expanding our energy capabilities, and nuclear energy will be the catalyst for American excellence for generations to come. For us to achieve this goal, we cannot sit around while our adversaries take advantage of our inaction. Time is of the essence, and I hope my sense of urgency is shared across our great nation.

Rep. Randy Weber is a third-generation Texan representing the 14th District of Texas. In Congress, he serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has the broadest jurisdiction of any legislative committee in Congress. Weber also serves on the Committee on Science Space and Technology.

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Embracing an all-of-the-above energy policy for a stronger America

By U.S. Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb.

Simply put, our ability to produce energy is one of the most important issues facing our country. Recently in Congress, there has been significant debate dedicated to different sources of energy and the degrees to which they are utilized. However, these conversations too often overlook the simple fact that our country is barely producing enough energy to keep the lights on.

According to a recent report from the Department of Energy, if we continue to ignore our lack of power generation capabilities, the risk of power outages to homes and businesses across the country will increase to 100 times their current level by 2030.

I believe we can create a policy ecosystem that allows both renewable generation and fossil fuels to thrive.

This frightening fact will only be compounded by the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI). As AI continues to become further intertwined into our daily lives, more large-scale data centers will be needed to power advancements in this technology. We do not currently produce nearly enough energy to support this burgeoning industry. Without new energy production, our nation cannot remain the global leader in AI, and we risk ceding this position to foreign adversaries like China.

This is why I will continue to support an all-of-the-above approach to energy production that does not pit renewable generation against fossil fuels. Each option has its benefits and drawbacks. For example, solar energy can be brought online quickly to start pumping power into the grid; however, it's not as consistent as fossil fuels, which can be fully harnessed even when the sun is not shining. There is also a significant place for nuclear energy in this discussion. I believe the federal government must invest in research on this technology to help decrease up-front costs for companies interested in constructing new nuclear plants.

Our nation also needs to invest in carbon capture and storage. This method collects carbon emitted from fossil fuel energy sources and sequesters it deep underground. Carbon capture could eliminate the negative environmental impacts of fossil fuel energy generation.

Maximizing our energy production will not only make our country more innovative but also help promote geopolitical stability abroad. Lest we forget, Europe's reliance on Russian energy supplies created vulnerabilities as the war in Ukraine roared on. By leveraging our energy resources, we can reduce our allies' dependence on other nations' energy supplies and strengthen our diplomatic alliances with them.

As our energy needs continue to grow, every type of power production method will be necessary. The real solution to our nation's energy challenges is an all-of-the-above approach that is collaborative, pragmatic, and focused on finding common ground, a philosophy that would do well to carry over into politics. Energy fuels economic growth, development, and security. It was foundational to our nation's emergence as a superpower, and it is an essential component of today's technological advancements.

Don Bacon represents the 2nd District of Nebraska in the U.S. House of Representatives. A Member of the Armed Services Committee, he serves as Chairman of the Cyber, Information Technologies and Innovation Subcommittee. He previously spent nearly 30 years serving in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 2014 as a Brigadier General.

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To meet America's energy demand, innovation alone isn't enough

By U.S. Rep. Gabe Evans, R-Colo.

Colorado's 8th District is an incredible example of what an "all-of-the-above" energy approach can look like. From wind and solar to oil and natural gas, our district proves that every form of energy production has an important role to play in strengthening our economy while protecting our environment. While traditional energy sources have powered our nation for generations, clean energy has quickly risen as a reliable and innovative partner in the mix. Whether it's solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal or biomass, these technologies are helping to lower emissions, drive down costs, and expand America's energy options — all while making the cleanest and most environmentally and socially responsible power anywhere on the planet.

But here's the reality: innovation alone isn't enough to meet our nation's growing energy demand. For these resources to truly meet their potential, we must make them more accessible for American families and businesses to drive down costs and get more electrons on the grid. Clean energy tax credits are a critical component of this national strategy.

Even with the right incentives in place, projects are too often delayed for years – or even canceled outright – because of recurrent litigation and outdated, overly complicated federal and state permitting processes.

These credits have helped fuel Colorado's economy, creating new jobs, supporting small businesses and large companies alike, and attracting billions of dollars in private sector investment. They give families and businesses more choices, whether that be lowering their power bills or upgrading to better energy systems. Most importantly, they strengthen our nation's energy independence by ensuring we are not reliant on foreign adversaries like China, Russia, or Iran to meet our needs. Energy security is national security and now, more than ever, we need to invest in both traditional energy sources and innovative energy technologies for a more resilient, secure America.

We must have the infrastructure to support the next generation of energy technologies like geothermal and advanced storage. Transmission lines, pipelines, and modernized grids are all part of the equation. If we want affordable, reliable, and secure energy, we need the ability to move it where it is needed most. That's why I – alongside 20 other Republican members of Congress – pushed for a sensible approach to the clean energy tax credits in the Working Families Tax Credit bill, which was signed into law in July.

Still, one of the biggest obstacles to fully realizing our energy potential is a broken permitting system. Even with the right incentives in place, projects are too often delayed for years — or even canceled outright — because of recurrent litigation and outdated, overly complicated federal and state permitting processes. When American companies are ready to break ground and deliver results, it makes no sense for Washington bureaucracy and red tape to hold them back.

That's what I'm determined to fix. I serve as a co-leader of the Permitting, Energy, and Environment Working Group under the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. In this role, I am working with colleagues across the aisle to modernize our permitting system while keeping local voices and commonsense environmental safeguards in place. We are focused on cutting unnecessary delays, speeding up approvals for critical infrastructure projects, and ensuring America can compete on the global stage.

As a veteran and former police officer, I know that operational readiness requires practical solutions. Energy independence is no different. If we cannot build the infrastructure needed to produce, move and deliver affordable energy here at home, we put our economy and our national security at risk.

Colorado's 8th District has proven that an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy works. From farmers and ranchers who depend on affordable energy to power their operations, to manufacturers bringing business to our communities, to families simply trying to make ends meet — energy drives it all. With the right reforms, we can continue to grow local jobs, attract new investment, and ensure Colorado District 8 and our nation remain leaders in energy innovation across the board.

We can power America's future if we give our communities the tools, incentives, and flexibility to lead. That is what I'll continue fighting for in Congress.

Rep. Gabe Evans is proudly serving Colorado's Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to public office, Gabe served his country in the U.S. Army as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot, as an Arvada police officer, and in the Colorado State Legislature. Gabe and his wife, Anne, own and operate a family farm in southern Weld County where they raise their two boys.

Lansing's green nightmare is killing the American dream

By U.S. Rep. John James, R-Mich.

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For too many in Michigan, the American Dream has fallen out of reach.

Lansing, under the guise of the "Green New Deal," has sold our state out to "100% clean energy" mandates. The result? Soaring home and energy prices, the longest power outages in the nation, and fewer opportunities.

Misguided policies have created a housing crisis. The median cost of a new Michigan home in 2025 is over $430,000, pricing almost 80% of Michiganders out of homeownership. A vast majority of Michiganders believe that housing and rent costs are rising too fast.

Michigan is 140,000 houses short of supply, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer is pushing to adopt 2021 building codes: regulations that would add $15,000 to each home with requirements like unclear sprinkler rules and mandated solar. Already, regulatory costs add $93,870 to the price of each new Michigan house.

Tens of thousands of first-time homebuyers are losing their shot at homeownership — locked out, priced out, and pushed away from the American Dream.

The pain doesn't end there. Gov. Whitmer's "MI Healthy Climate Plan" mandates that Michigan get 100% of its electricity from wind, solar, and batteries by 2050. That would mean an average $2,746 annual cost increase per customer.

Whitmer's rush to 100% "clean energy" has left our families stuck with the longest power outages in the nation, while paying some of the highest utility and electric bills.

Michigan Democrats, following the globalist, far-left playbook, have deliberately weakened our grid, pushing overreliance on energy sources that can't meet demand when they're needed most. President Donald Trump, speaking at the UN Tuesday, hit the nail on the head: the rush to 100% clean energy only inflicts pain at home.

We can – and must – protect our environment, but an ivory tower approach concocted by environmentalists on some university campus that leaves working Michiganders behind isn't a serious solution.

Clean air and clean water are nonnegotiable. But we must walk and chew gum at the same time. We can – and must – protect our environment, but an ivory tower approach concocted by environmentalists on some university campus that leaves working Michiganders behind isn't a serious solution.

Then there's the backbone of Michigan's economy: the auto industry. President Biden's radical EV mandates, supported by Whitmer, would have devastated our auto sector, put thousands of jobs at risk, and raised vehicle costs. If you want an EV, get an EV, but the government has no right to tell you what car you can buy.

I'm proud that my legislation pushing back on these EV mandates was signed into law by President Trump to restore choice and lower costs for families and consumers.

Lansing's "clean" energy push may sound good to some, but it doesn't counter, or even mitigate, the reality that China is responsible for a third of global emissions. Worse yet, many of these "clean" technologies deepen our dependence on adversaries and are built on materials sourced from horrific labor conditions that cause environmental disasters around the world. While there's little evidence that Michigan's policies actually help the environment, there is ample evidence that they hurt opportunities and threaten human rights at home and abroad.

It's time for a new course. Michigan isn't afraid of the future, but we DEMAND to be part of it. We know what works, and we've seen what doesn't work. Here's where we start:

End the overbearing regulations. Under President Trump's leadership, we're seeing much-needed permitting and regulatory reforms. One example is the One Big Beautiful Bill, which cut red tape on natural gas, a resource that provides more than 40% of Michigan's energy and delivers cleaner, more reliable power. This reform alone could lower gas bills for Michiganders by 5-10% by this winter.

Michigan must do the same to unleash innovation — not pile on regulation — so we can build, grow, and prosper. Families and businesses deserve a climate that rewards ingenuity, opportunity and promotes certainty; not one suffocated by fantasy, crushed by bureaucracy, and crippled by regulatory whiplash.

Cut red tape to make housing affordable. Reverse Whitmer's unworkable building codes and regulatory burdens that add tens of thousands to the cost of homes. I'm proposing a new law in Congress to simplify building codes and reduce costs, and we must do the same in Lansing.

Advance an all-of-the-above energy strategy. Michigan needs reliable, affordable energy. We must strengthen, not deliberately weaken, our grid and seek a multitude of options. This will lower energy and electric bills, and once again make Michigan a state that attracts jobs and investment.

Our choice is simple: an energy future that is unaffordable, unreliable, and un-American, or one that puts Michigan families and jobs first.

Governor Whitmer's Green nightmare is killing the American Dream. But it's not too late to change course. It's time to protect opportunity, promote prosperity, and put Michigan families back in the driver's seat.

Rep. John James represents Michigan's 10th Congressional District. He's assigned to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he sits on the subcommittees on Energy, Health, and Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Strengthening Colorado communities by clearing the backlog

By U.S. Rep. Jeff Hurd, R-Colo.

When a county can't repair a bridge or when a town can't upgrade a water system, most of us assume it's a problem with funding or planning. And lots of times that's the case. But what about when the planning is done, the funding's in place, and the only step left is a permit? Too often, that's where the process stalls.

Too often, we find out the problem comes from delays in Washington. Communities across Colorado know the work that needs to get done, but bureaucratic delays stand in the way. It should not take years of waiting to move forward on projects that are essential to our safety, economy, and way of life. That has to change.

In many cases, projects meant to protect, restore, or responsibly use these waters are held up by significant permitting delays. Under the Clean Water Act, many infrastructures, flood control, stormwater, and conservation projects must receive permits or jurisdictional determinations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These determinations decide whether land or water is regulated, who can build where, and how wetlands are impacted.

This alone is not a problem. Actually, they can be an important safeguard. Permits and jurisdictional determinations are vital for regulating quality standards for surface waters and play a central role in maintaining the health of our water. The problem stems from the Corps facing a backlog of thousands of pending cases. Until those determinations are processed, projects cannot move forward. That means communities are left waiting, sometimes for years on end.

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In Colorado's Third District, these delays come with real-life consequences. Job creation and infrastructure investments are put on indefinite hold. Water storage and treatment projects are stalled. Bridge repairs are postponed. Floodplain protections are left undone. Farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and small towns are forced to absorb higher costs and missed opportunities. It doesn't have to, and can't, stay like that.

That is why I introduced the Jurisdictional Determination Backlog Reduction Act. This bill requires the Corps to allocate the resources needed to clear the backlog and process future applications in a timely manner. It does not weaken environmental protections or change the standards of the Clean Water Act. It simply ensures timely decisions so communities, both here in Colorado and across the nation, can get to work.

It should not take years of waiting to move forward on projects that are essential to our safety, economy, and way of life. That has to change.

Whether it is repairing a rural bridge in Delta County, improving irrigation in the San Luis Valley, or advancing a water storage project on the Western Slope, our local communities should not have to wait forever while paperwork piles up in Washington. The Corps has a responsibility to provide answers, and Congress has a responsibility to hold agencies accountable when they fail to deliver.

Colorado families, farmers, and small businesses are resourceful and resilient. They are ready to move forward. Forcing them to wait endlessly on red tape serves no one. My bill to clear the Corps' permitting backlog is about respecting their time, their money, and their future. Keeping projects on track helps keep costs under control and keeps communities strong. Many of these projects are not wants, but needs of the community.

Colorado values its water, its landscapes, and its way of life. Protecting our waterways is integral to who we are. With this bill, we can both safeguard our environment and give communities the certainty they deserve. It is time to clear the backlog and let people get back to work. The Corps must act, and it's our job in Congress to ensure they do.

Rep. Jeff Hurd represents Colorado's 3rd district, one of the most stunning and diverse regions in the country. He serves on three key House committees: Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space and Technology.

America's energy future: Built by workers, not Beijing

By U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey, D-Texas

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I got into this work partly because I know energy policy isn't just some debate for folks in Washington, D.C. It's about good-paying jobs for workers in Texas and across the country. It's about the price you pay at the pump, what it costs to heat or cool your home, and whether your lights stay on when the grid is strained. For families, energy isn't abstract — it's part of daily life. And right now, our energy security is being threatened.

That recent meeting between Russia, China, and North Korea — with our friends in India sitting at the table— should be a five-alarm fire for all of us. A new team is forming, and they want to be the ones who call the shots on the world's energy. China, especially, has been playing the long game. For years, they've worked to corner the market on the minerals and materials that go into batteries, solar panels, and other clean energy technology. They want the world hooked on their supply chains. If we're not careful, we'll be buying our energy future from them — and paying whatever price they decide to set.

That's why I recently sat down with India's ambassador. We talked about how Texas, and America, can be a partner. Texas has always been an energy powerhouse. We pump oil and gas, but we're also leading the way in wind and solar. That all-of-the-above mix is exactly what India is looking for. By teaming up, we can sell more American energy abroad, create good-paying jobs here at home, and keep India from getting hooked on China's supply chains.

But we can't keep shooting ourselves in the foot. When we slap heavy, across-the-board tariffs on friendly nations like India, we don't just hurt their industries — we make it harder for them to buy from us. That pushes them right into China's arms. Our trade policies need to be smart and aimed at our real rivals, not our friends. This is a tough fight, and we can't afford to stumble over our own mistakes.

For families, energy isn't abstract – it's part of daily life. And right now, our energy security is being threatened.

First, we've got to unleash our own energy workers. America produces oil and natural gas cleaner and safer than just about anyone else. Our allies want it, and we've got plenty to share. But too often, projects to build pipelines or export terminals get tied up for years in red tape. Every delay is a missed paycheck for American workers and an open door for countries like Russia to sell their fuel instead. Every tanker of American LNG shipped overseas is more money in a Texas worker's pocket — and less money in Putin's war chest. That's what energy security really looks like.

Second, we need to double down on invention and production here at home. Nobody in the world can out-innovate America. We've got the best scientists, engineers, and builders. Let's put them to work on the next generation of energy: better batteries, safer nuclear, cleaner fuels, smarter grids. And here's the key: let's not just design it here, let's build it here. That means factories, supply chains, and jobs on American soil. If we keep outsourcing production to China, we'll never be truly secure. If we build it here, we own our future.

This isn't about choosing between oil and gas or renewables and nuclear. We need it all. Texas has shown that you don't have to pick sides — we're leading in oil and gas and in wind and solar. That "all of the above" approach is how we keep energy affordable, reliable, and homegrown.

Being the world's energy leader puts America in the driver's seat. It means our workers get steady paychecks, our families get lower bills, and our country is safer because we're not relying on adversaries for what we need.

At the end of the day, this isn't rocket science. It's about letting American workers do what they do best: build, innovate, and win. If we unleash American workers, if we work with our friends instead of punishing them, and if we compete head-on with China, there's no doubt in my mind that America can stay the world's energy leader and keep our homes running affordably.

That's not just good policy. That's peace of mind for every family that wants a fair shot, steady work, and a secure future.

Rep. Marc Veasey, a dedicated public servant from Texas, has built a reputation as a leader in energy policy and bipartisan solutions. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Veasey plays a pivotal role in shaping national energy strategy, focusing on American energy security, affordability, and innovation. He recently launched the American Energy Dominance Caucus, aiming to enhance the U.S. role in global energy markets while fostering job creation and economic growth. Rep. Veasey serves on several key subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Energy, the Subcommittee on Health, and the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee.

Turning valor into voltage: Veterans and the grid of tomorrow

By U.S. Rep. Jen Kiggans, R-Va.

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Every year, over 200,000 U.S. service members transition out of the military. These veterans possess highly technical skills, deep discipline, and leadership honed by a mission-first mindset. At the same time, the United States faces a deepening shortage of skilled workers in the energy, advanced manufacturing, and utility sectors. These are the very fields that underpin our economic resilience and national security.

The numbers speak for themselves. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly 10,000 electricians leave the workforce annually, but only about 7,000 new ones enter. The energy sector is struggling to build and maintain the infrastructure needed for a modern grid, and advanced manufacturing continues to face acute talent shortages across the country. These aren't abstract policy problems — they are operational chokepoints that could impact everything from clean energy buildout to critical infrastructure security.

This raises the question: Why aren't we bridging these gaps?

Veterans often possess the ideal mix of experience and adaptability for these roles. Many have already worked on power systems, heavy machinery, cybersecurity, or supply chain logistics in active-duty settings. Yet barriers remain. Some are bureaucratic: licensing and certifications that don't translate between military and civilian worlds. Others are structural: limited access to employers who understand how to onboard and upskill veterans. The result is a persistent underemployment problem among veterans and a labor shortage in sectors that can least afford it.

Enter the Veterans Energy Transition (VET) Act, a bipartisan proposal I introduced alongside Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Penn. The bill strengthens the Department of Defense's SkillBridge program, which allows servicemembers transitioning out of the military to intern with civilian employers during their final months of active duty. It also establishes a Department of Labor grant program to support companies hiring eligible veterans, spouses, and retirees. Employers can receive up to $10,000 per hire and $500,000 annually to cover training, certification, relocation, and onboarding costs.

Legislatively, the VET Act enjoys strong bipartisan support, earning praise from groups like the Niskanen Center and industry coalitions. On its face, the VET Act is a refreshingly strategic approach. It doesn't just support veterans for their own sake. It aligns national workforce development with energy transition and national security. It helps veterans land good jobs while helping America meet the demands of its rapidly evolving energy economy.

The VET Act is a refreshingly strategic approach. It doesn't just support veterans for their own sake. It aligns national workforce development with energy transition and national security.

Like any plan, this proposal's success hinges on its execution. If it passes — and I'm hopeful it will — the program will need sustained support to be implemented at a large scale.

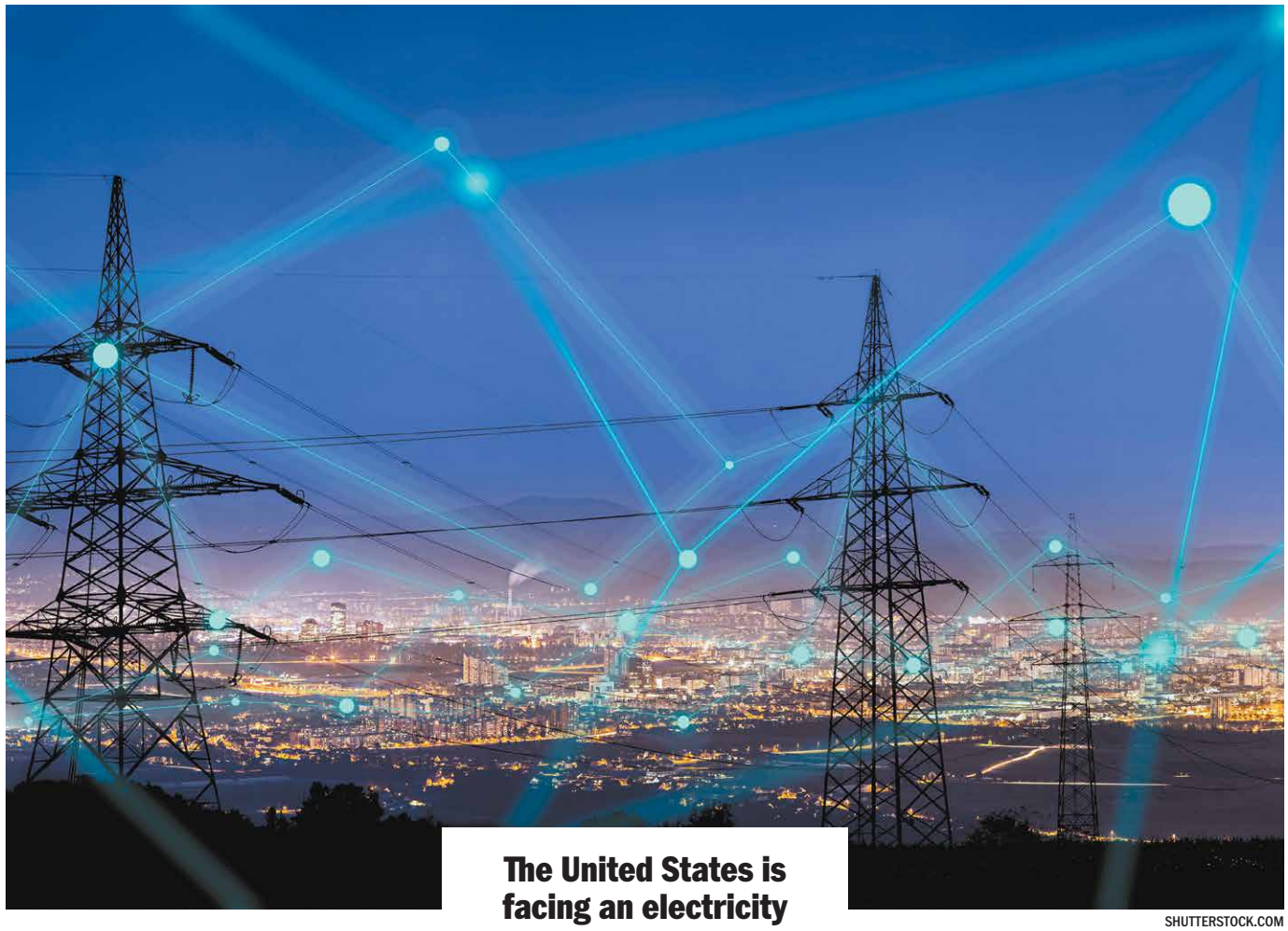
The broader risk is that sound legislation without meaningful follow-through becomes just another underfunded idea. Yet if implemented well, the VET Act could be a model, not just for veteran transition, but for how public policy can meet multiple strategic goals at once: coastal resilience, economic competitiveness, and national security.

Veterans are an asset to America. Policies like the VET Act recognize that reality and act accordingly. That's something both parties and the country should be able to rally around.

Rep. Jen Kiggans, a Republican, represents Virginia's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She serves on the House Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Natural Resources committees. Prior to public office, she served 10 years as a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, flying H-46 and H-3 helicopters and completing two deployments to the Persian Gulf, and then worked in the health care system as a geriatric nurse practitioner.

We must build an energy system that works today, will endure for tomorrow

By U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler, R-N.Y.



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The United States is facing an electricity demand we haven't seen in decades, and an all-of-the-above energy approach may fix that.

Data centers, onshoring of manufacturing, the expansion of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and the continued electrification of our homes and buildings are all driving unprecedented load growth. If we fail to keep up, Americans risk higher costs, less reliable power, and even rolling blackouts in the years ahead. America remaining the leader in the AI revolution is critical for our national security, and we need energy to keep that spot.

That's why I have long supported an all-of-the-above energy approach, one that leverages every available source of power, from renewables to nuclear to responsibly managed fossil fuels.

This isn't just about meeting demand; it's about protecting our national security, lowering energy costs for families and businesses, and keeping our grid resilient for decades to come.

Nuclear energy is experiencing a renaissance, and advanced technologies like Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are reshaping how we think about power generation. SMRs can be deployed where electricity is needed most, providing flexible, reliable, carbon-free energy.

I've worked to ensure our nuclear plants are safe, responsible, and fully capable of supporting our energy and security goals. Earlier this year, I led the effort to prevent nuclear wastewater from entering the Hudson River, and I helped introduce the bipartisan INSPECT Act. This legislation would require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to keep a resident inspector at decommissioning plants, like Indian Point, until all spent fuel is safely transferred into canisters.

These measures aim to protect communities, safeguard the environment, and enhance national energy security.

However, despite the excitement surrounding SMRs, they are still in the process of being developed in the United States. The earliest is expected to go critical in 2028, with the majority projected to come online around 2030. While this new technology is promising and represents the future of nuclear energy, until enough SMRs are available, we must rely on the rest of our generation mix to keep the grid supplied.

Hydropower provides reliable baseload power and flexible peaking energy when demand surges. Its reservoirs act as natural storage, allowing operators to ramp up or down generation quickly, a capability that intermittent renewables cannot match without large-scale battery systems. Modernizing existing hydro facilities is one of the most efficient ways to add clean, dependable energy to the grid while enhancing resilience and energy independence.

Other sources of energy, such as wind and solar, can be inexpensive, deployed quickly, and emit zero carbon emissions. While wind and solar offer many benefits, like every other generation source, they also come with drawbacks. Without battery storage, many of these projects may face reliability and maintenance challenges, ultimately leading to increased costs.

While renewables are critical, fossil fuels remain necessary to meet demand and ensure reliability. U.S. natural gas, unlocked through hydraulic fracturing, has made America the world's largest LNG exporter.

This strengthens our global energy leadership, reduces reliance on foreign adversaries like Russia and Iran, and helps allies while displacing higher-emission sources abroad. At home, responsible fossil fuel use keeps energy affordable for families and businesses, an essential national security and economic concern.

Oftentimes in the pursuit of laudable goals, misguided states and municipalities have restricted critical sources of energy for communities and imposed unrealistic regulations. This is foolish and all it does is to drive up the costs on everything for Americans. Energy policy must be practical, but forward-looking, and always grounded in common sense.

By embracing an all-of-the-above energy strategy, we can provide Americans with reliable, affordable, and resilient electricity, strengthen our global position, and safeguard communities. This means advancing nuclear safety, increasing the utilization of hydroelectric power, building on existing clean energy investments, responsibly deploying battery storage, and maintaining a balanced presence in clean fossil fuels, such as natural gas.

The stakes are high, and we cannot afford to leave any source untapped. Our families, businesses, and national security depend on it.

Whether it comes from renewable sources such as nuclear, hydro, geothermal, solar, and wind, or from fossil fuels like natural gas, oil, and coal, all must play a role in ensuring folks can keep the lights on at a cost that is sustainable for all Americans.

Rep. Mike Lawler is one of the most bipartisan members of Congress and represents New York's 17th Congressional District, which is just north of New York City and contains all or parts of Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties. He was rated the most effective freshman lawmaker in the 118th Congress, 8th overall, surpassing dozens of committee chairs.

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