

AMERICA'S ENERGY EDGE



America's Energy Edge

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America needs a new generation of prospectors



**By Audrey Robertson,
Assistant Secretary of Energy,
Office of Critical Minerals and
Energy Innovation**

Every advanced technology begins with materials extracted from the earth. From modern weapons systems and semiconductors to energy infrastructure and consumer electronics, the building blocks of America's economic and national security depend on mineral supply chains, many of which are heavily influenced by China.

President Donald Trump has made rebuilding those supply chains on American soil a national priority. Under his leadership, Energy Secretary Chris Wright and this administration have streamlined permitting for domestic mineral projects, unlocked public and private investment and taken steps to increase American production and processing.

Those efforts are laying the groundwork for a stronger domestic minerals industry. But mines, processing facilities and manufacturing plants cannot operate without the skilled professionals who design, build and run them. Even as we work to reduce our reliance on foreign mineral supply chains, we face a shortage of the people we need to establish domestic ones.

China's advantage is not limited to mining or processing capacity. It has invested heavily in the human capital necessary to sustain these industries. China's 45 mining engineering programs graduate about 3,000 students each year, approximately 16 times the number graduating annually in the United States. If America intends to win the global race for critical minerals, that is a gap we need to close.

We can start by introducing young Americans to careers they may never



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**The people who will
operate America's new
mines and processing
facilities are sitting
in classrooms right
now — and now is the
time to reach them.**

have considered. For students trying to identify fields that can offer both opportunity and staying power, mining engineering, materials science and a range of related disciplines deserve a closer look.

These are not relics of an earlier industrial age. Modern mineral development combines advanced technology and sophisticated data analysis with expertise in geology, engineering, computing and environmental science. At a moment when students are questioning old assumptions about which degrees provide security, the minerals sector offers mounting opportunities for prestigious, in-demand, well-compensated work. America's 14 mining schools — down from a high of 25 in 1982 — have sustained near-100% job placement rates in recent years.

The Trump administration wants more Americans to seize those opportunities.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched a new program: Providing Opportunities for Specialized Education in Critical Technologies, or

PROSPECT. This initiative will allocate up to \$100 million to help universities attract students to careers that are vital to the creation and maintenance of domestic mineral supply chains. Through financial-aid packages, modernized curricula, experiential learning, and greater exposure to experts in the field, PROSPECT can help more Americans secure a future in these careers.

Transformation on the scale envisioned by this administration requires long-term thinking. A mine can take years to permit and construct, and developing a skilled engineer or geoscientist takes time, too. The people who will operate America's new mines and processing facilities are sitting in

classrooms right now — and now is the time to reach them.

The United States has world-class universities, innovative companies and an entrepreneurial culture that is second to none. What we need now is a new generation of prospectors — the homegrown mining engineers, geologists, metallurgists and data scientists who can make the most of our abundant mineral resources.

I encourage young Americans looking for meaningful, challenging and stable work to think outside the box of conventional majors and career paths. Go somewhere unexpected. Work underground, in a lab, at a mine site or operating the autonomous vehicles that modern mines require. You will be on the cutting edge of AI, material science and technology. The next generation of American prospectors will look nothing like the last — but they'll be no less integral to their country's prosperity.

Audrey Robertson is Assistant Secretary of Energy, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation.

We need meaningful, durable permitting reform this year



By Liz Bowman

In early September, the Third Circuit vacated and remanded a lawfully issued Water Quality Certification that New Jersey's environmental regulator issued for Williams' Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) — a \$1.8 billion pipeline expansion project that will address the energy reliability crisis in New York City and help overall reliability across the northeast, including in New Jersey, while providing jobs and tax revenue to New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The pipeline will significantly reduce CO2 emissions — the equivalent of removing thousands of cars from the road each year.

The Clean Water Act 401 certificate was sent back to NJ based on some procedural technicalities after two activist groups filed lawsuits challenging New Jersey's issuance of the permit — a permit that came after seven years of state review, multiple rounds of modeling and technical submissions, a public comment period and a public hearing.

This follows similar eNGO challenges to other pipeline project permits, including the Southeast Supply Enhancement Project, the MVP Southgate project and the Regional Energy Access project. Environmental groups are even challenging FERC's "consideration of certificate reissuance" for a Williams pipeline project that is still in the commercialization process.

These environmental activist lawsuits that result in court cancellations do not stop the use of reliable baseload power sources. They do not improve environmental outcomes. And they do not help the communities where these projects are proposed. They do, however, increase emissions and raise Americans' energy prices.

We have the ideas, talent and capital to build big things in this country. But

too often, our country's long, expensive and duplicative permitting process stands in the way.

When projects sit in review and litigation for years, costs rise, investment stalls and communities miss opportunities for jobs and economic growth.

A faster, more predictable permitting process can help move critical energy infrastructure forward while maintaining important reviews.

Federal permits are moving more efficiently and with more transparency because of the Energy Dominance Council and the Federal Permitting Steering Council. But we cannot take for granted the country's need for long-term regulatory certainty and strong, durable permitting reform passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

This is not just about economic growth and meeting rising demand for energy. Absent real, comprehensive reform, America will lose jobs, energy independence and economic opportunity to China.

This is not just about economic growth and meeting rising demand for energy. Absent real, comprehensive reform, America will lose jobs, energy independence and economic opportunity to China.

China dominates as the global manufacturing superpower because of its rapid ability to scale infrastructure. China now generates over double the electricity of the U.S. and is the world's largest electricity producer, accounting for one-third of global generation. And since 2000, China has increased its generation tenfold while US generation remained flat.

AI, electrification and the onshoring of manufacturing are creating unprecedented growth in power demand. From 2010-2024, the U.S. saw 5% electricity demand growth, but from 2025-2034 the U.S. is expecting at least 52% growth. We need to build the power facilities and linear infrastructure necessary to meet this growth or we will surely fall behind.

And America's energy security depends on our ability to supply our allies with American natural gas. With global LNG demand growth expected to increase from 57 bcf/d in 2025 to 90 bcf/d in 2035, LNG facilities need strong permitting reforms to capture this growth.

An effective permitting reform package should eliminate duplicative environmental reviews, amend the Clean Water Act 401 process that is being used to delay and relitigate projects that federal and state regulators have already approved, and overhaul the judicial review of permits.

That means removing the need for standalone state-issued Section 401 certifications for Natural Gas Act pipeline and LNG projects. Without a standalone state Clean Water Act 401 certification, there would not be standalone Section 401 lawsuits from activists.

We also need to stop courts from vacating permits for reasons that do nothing but increase the cost of America's energy bills. Good reform will make a procedural NESE-type challenge substantially harder by

ensuring that those who bring lawsuits can show they have been harmed and by ensuring that mistakes which do not impact people or the environment can be fixed without adding cost or slowing down a project. We should not be vacating permits without evidence that people or the environment will be harmed, particularly when errors can be easily fixed by the issuing agency. Such reform will also expedite the review process, saving the American people hundreds of millions of dollars on their utility bills.

To be clear, the Third Circuit did not find that NESE would violate water quality standards or put people in harm's way. The court nit-picked the record for drafting and documentation mistakes that will be fixed on remand, not substantive reasons that justify stalling a \$1.8 billion project necessary for affordability and reliability across multiple states. If New Jersey isn't able to act quickly enough on remand, the court's decision could put millions of people at risk if the northeast experiences an extended period of cold weather, not to mention the increased cost they'll see on their utility bills.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed three strong bills last December that address many of these permitting

issues. The *Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act (SPEED Act)*, the *Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act (PERMIT Act)*, and the *Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act* all passed with bipartisan support.

In March, Sens. Dave McCormick, R-Penn., and Peter Welch, D-Vermont, introduced a bill to modernize America's electric grid and cut red tape. And Sen. Alan Armstrong, R-Okla., introduced the *American Energy and Mineral Infrastructure Act of 2026*, which includes key parts of the House's bipartisan permitting reform bills.

The work continues with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee leading a bipartisan Senate package that is expected to be a broad and comprehensive package of reforms to multiple environmental laws incorporating provisions from both the House and Senate bills that have been passed and introduced, respectively.

Pressure is building for Congress to pass permitting reform, with every industry from telecom to manufacturing championing the need for reform.

While we agree that Congress needs to pass permitting reform, we also feel strongly that permitting reform is only worth the President's signature if it fixes the permitting problems and lawsuits that are standing in the way of our ability to build the pipelines and LNG facilities needed to lower Americans' energy prices.

Durable, long-lasting permitting reform must include reforms to the Clean Water Act to prevent states and activist groups from weaponizing the permitting process, strengthening judicial review safeguards, streamlining NEPA reviews and LNG export approvals and removing the ability for courts to vacate or enjoin agency actions under NEPA.

At Williams, we want to build the safest, most environmentally protective projects to lower Americans energy costs and grow our domestic economy.

But we need help from Congress in the form of real, meaningful permitting reform.

Liz Bowman is Vice President of Government Affairs and Outreach at Williams, a Fortune 500 infrastructure company with operations spanning the natural gas value chain, including gathering, processing, interstate transmission, storage, and wholesale marketing and trading of natural gas and NGLs.

Lawsuits and activist states blocking pipelines need a reality check.

CUT THE RED TAPE. REAL ACTION NOW.

Americans are paying the price for delays and red tape. Only real reform of judicial review and the Clean Water Act's 401 process can get America back to building.

Stop activists from making American energy more expensive.

We need real reform now.

williams.com/permitreform



American refineries for American oil



By U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D.

Energy is a constant geopolitical linchpin. The recent arrest of former Venezuelan president and narcoterrorist Nicolas Maduro and the ongoing conflicts in Iran and Ukraine have kept this importance in focus. These events and their ramifications highlight why President Donald Trump's commitment to energy dominance is so crucial to our nation.

From the very first days of President Trump's second term, his intense focus on securing American energy dominance has been a core part of his energy agenda.

For decades, increasing oil production in places like North Dakota masked the declining number of domestic petroleum refineries. It takes policy makers off the hook, allowing them to hide the security consequences of diminishing refining capacity.

This is why I say the United States is "sort of" energy independent. While we produce oil at record levels, we fall short of being able to substantially refine our own oil for the benefit of Americans. This disconnect is playing out in real time. Production and refining disruptions in China, Russia and the Middle East are unduly impacting prices here because we lack the capacity to refine domestic crude to meet market demand and withstand the upheaval.

The vast majority of our remaining refineries reflect the oil production reality of decades past and are built to refine imported heavy sour oil rather than our own premium light sweet crude. In fact, we haven't built a new refinery since the 1970s, and only about 30% of our refineries are optimized for light sweet American crude. Oil-rich California imports nearly 60% of its oil from foreign sources. This props up unfriendly regimes and incentivizes dirtier production. Increasing refining capacity here at home can be done by retrofitting



An oil refinery along the Missouri River near Bismarck, North Dakota.

Expanding refining capacity requires being realistic about the recipe for success. Those ingredients include a healthy industry and a more supportive regulatory regime which includes certainty and consistency for refiners.

existing decades-old refineries or building new ones.

The temptation to maintain the status quo remains strong.

But energy security is a fundamental part of national security, and you cannot have one without the other. Increased oil production is important, but without sufficient domestic refining capacity it means less benefit for American consumers. With bold action we can make America more energy-secure and protect our nation from volatility in global oil markets.

Expanding refining capacity requires

being realistic about the recipe for success. Those ingredients include a healthy industry and a more supportive regulatory regime which includes certainty and consistency for refiners. One of the greatest threats to refinery projects is misguided regulations aimed at penalizing refiners instead of treating them as the economic and geopolitical assets they are. Federal regulations have a nationwide impact, but state regulations also dramatically impact the feasibility and ease building of large-scale projects like refineries.

The refining industry also needs to

get out of the mindset of managed decline and see the opportunity to utilize the crude we produce.

There's optimism. North Dakota and Texas, both leaders in crude oil production, have promising projects on the horizon. In Belfield, N.D., the Davis Refinery is fully permitted and working towards additional financing. Once completed, it will be able to refine nearly 50,000 barrels per day of light sweet American crude for customers across the Midwest. This past spring, President Trump announced an additional refinery in Texas. It's not a coincidence both projects will be built in energy-savvy states with regulatory environments which encourage investment. The most proactive states create environments where businesses thrive and quickly adapt to emerging opportunities.

Beyond simply adding more refineries, every additional facility means more jobs for American workers, competing with foreign hostile powers, and economic growth in surrounding communities.

The work to ensure energy security through increased refining capacity is a marathon, not a sprint. The long-term permitting reforms Congress is writing are essential to building and retrofitting refineries efficiently and quickly. We must overcome the challenging roadblocks and focus on what we need to keep transportation moving and our military operational.

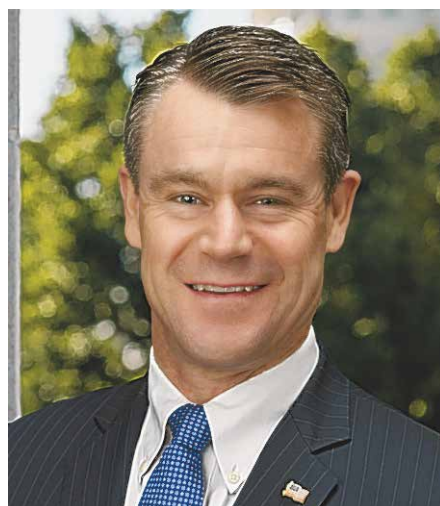
Thanks to President Trump we are the energy superpower of the world, but our refining capacity is our Achilles' heel. It's time to challenge wishful thinking and look at real-world solutions for Americans to produce more oil, refine it on our shores and sell the world both.

U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer, North Dakota Republican, is the Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He also serves on the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committees. Cramer previously served three terms as North Dakota's At-Large Member in the U.S. House of Representatives and served as a North Dakota Public Service Commissioner for nearly a decade.



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We need more American scientists and engineers



By U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.

During the American Revolution, an aging Benjamin Franklin looked towards the future with both optimism and melancholy.

“The rapid progress true science now makes, occasions my regretting sometimes that I was born so soon,” he wrote in 1780. “It is impossible to imagine the height to which may be carried, in a thousand years.”

He might have added that the driver of those great discoveries would be the imaginations of free men and women. By Americans. And his time frame, as it turned out, was conservative.

In the two-and-a-half centuries since he lived, Dr. Franklin’s countrymen have eradicated previously incurable disease, split the atom, traveled the skies and into space, and allowed the immediate transmission of information through the internet and global digital networks.

If we want America to lead in critical technologies, we must prioritize and invest in our own citizens.

A large driver of these and other innovations is American ingenuity. Our world-class universities have trained generations of the brightest minds, while our free enterprise system has given them the opportunity create and build here.

There is no guarantee, though, that future breakthroughs will continue to be made by our citizens. Nor can we assume America will always lead in global innovation.

Competitors such as China are making major investments in their own scientific workforces, while temporary visa holders now earn a large share of U.S. STEM doctorates, including majorities in several critical fields like engineering. These trends coincide with a global race to develop emerging technologies that will prove essential to economic prosperity and national security, including AI, quantum science,

biotechnology, and semiconductors.

Yet the United States enters this competition with a growing workforce challenge. Shortages of American scientists and engineers in critical fields could slow innovation, weaken our industrial base, and make it harder to compete

with the Chinese Communist Party. And while international students make important contributions to our economy, the United States should not rely so heavily on other countries to supply the talent our economic strength and national security depend on. If we want America to lead in critical technologies, we must prioritize and invest in our own citizens.

To address this challenge, Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., and I have introduced the *Promoting High-skilled Doctoral Talent (PHD Talent) Act*, which will create direct pathways for American students to earn Ph.D.’s in critical technology fields by supporting accelerated bachelor’s-to-doctoral programs.

Our bill will also strengthen partnerships between universities, National Labs, and industry so students gain hands-on research experience and graduate ready to contribute to America’s innovation economy. Taxpayer-funded

student support under this program is reserved for American citizens, U.S. nationals, and lawful permanent residents, ensuring federal resources are focused on our domestic STEM workforce. By reducing the time it takes to earn a STEM Ph.D., the bill will enable more highly skilled researchers to enter the workforce sooner, while still maintaining high academic standards.

President Donald Trump has set a goal of rebuilding America’s scientific workforce, investing in the next generation of researchers, and winning the technology race with China. His administration’s Genesis Mission is already bringing together AI, advanced computing, and National Lab resources to accelerate American discovery. The PHD Talent Act complements those efforts by building a deeper bench of American scientists and engineers prepared to carry that work forward.

It is critical that we provide American students a clearer path to advanced degrees and the confidence that the federal government is prepared to invest in their potential. To do so, Congress should pass the *PHD Talent Act*.

Sen. Todd Young is the senior U.S. Senator from Indiana. He serves on the U.S. Senate Committees on Finance; Commerce, Science & Transportation; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

RFS volumes are driving rural investment, securing America's energy future



By Donnell Rehagen

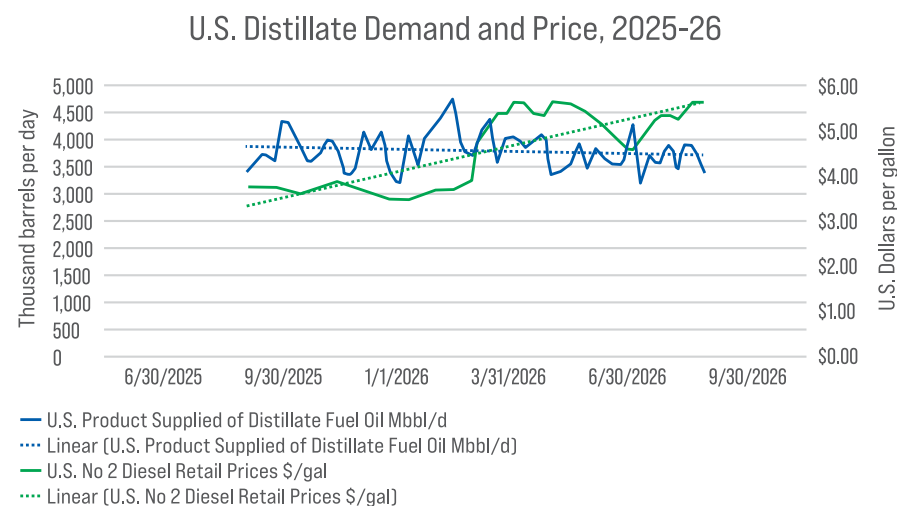
This past March, during the Great American Agriculture Celebration at the White House, President Donald Trump launched the historic 2026-2027 Renewable Fuel Standard volumes. He proudly proclaimed that the “highest volumes of renewable fuels in history” would “generate over \$10 billion of rural economic benefit, create an estimated 100,000 new jobs, and massively increase our nation’s energy supply.”

The new rule realigned the RFS program with its original purposes: to build a stable, domestic market for U.S. crops, generate economic opportunity and investments in rural communities and expand renewable fuel production to meet the nation’s energy needs.

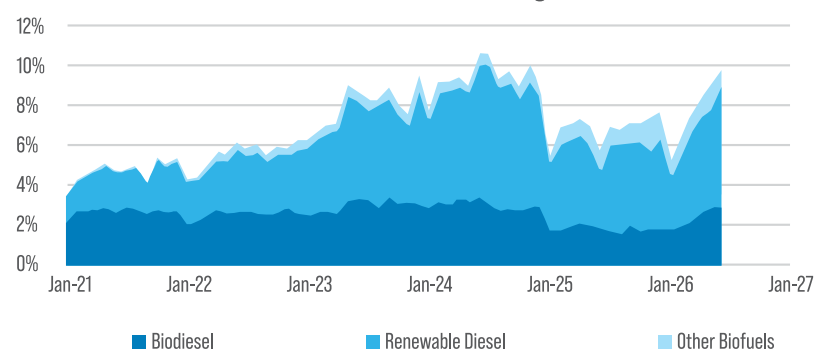
In the months since the Environmental Protection Agency finalized the rule, U.S. biodiesel, renewable diesel and renewable jet (SAF) producers have been delivering on all three goals. The industry is bringing new capacity into production, building new supply chains and making additional investments across rural America for future expansion.

U.S. biodiesel, renewable diesel and SAF companies aggressively ramped up production in response to the RFS rule. In June and July this year, producers generated the largest and third-largest domestic volumes in the RFS program’s history, exceeding 85% capacity utilization rates across the industry. And there is still room for growth driven by this year’s robust RFS volumes.

U.S. renewable diesel capacity expanded by 100 million gallons since the RFS rule’s finalization. In May, Hawaii Renewables commissioned a new plant on Oahu and in June, XCF Global commissioned its New Rise Renewables Reno plant in Nevada. Both facilities are actively ramping up production of



Biomass-based Diesel as a Percentage of U.S. Distillate



renewable diesel and plan to increase SAF production in the future.

The commercial maturation of SAF production is encouraging new private investment. In September, Montana Renewables announced it would complete a 200-million-gallon-per-year SAF facility and add another 60 million gallons per year of renewable diesel in 2028. The company reduced the cost of financing the project nearly five-fold, through successful demonstration of the technology.

With expanding capacity, the U.S. biomass-based diesel industry is creating record demand for U.S. agricultural feedstocks. In June, biodiesel and renewable diesel producers used 1.55 billion pounds of domestic soybean oil — the highest one-month total in history. Back in 2005, the emerging biodiesel industry purchased nearly the exact same amount of soybean oil through the first full year of the RFS program. Biodiesel and renewable diesel today represent 10% of the value of all soybeans grown in the United States.

That value is driving new farmer-led

investments across the soybean supply chain, from new processing facilities to transportation infrastructure. In September, CHS announced the start of construction for Wisconsin’s first large-scale soybean processing facility. It is a \$700 million investment that will process 80 million bushels of soybeans — about two-thirds of the state’s soy production — and create 80 new jobs.

In July, ADM announced investments to expand domestic oilseed processing capacity by 25 million bushels in its existing facilities in Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Combined, ADM’s four facilities employ 2,650 people and annually purchase \$8 billion worth of agricultural products from area farmers. And in August, both Shell Rock Soy Processors and Platinum Crush announced they are on schedule to complete expansions to their crush capacity in Iowa.

In July, AGP began shipping unit trains of soybean oil from the recently completed David City, Nebraska, processing facility to a West Coast

renewable diesel producer, creating a feedstock pipeline on rail. The first train consisted of 96 tank cars carrying more than 20 million lbs. of oil, which is enough to produce 2.5 million gallons of renewable diesel.

The added supply of renewable diesel and biodiesel will be critical to U.S. energy security in the coming months. Distillate fuels are the lifeblood of the U.S. economy, tied to multiple indicators of economic growth. They’re used in on-highway transportation, rail and marine shipping to deliver every single consumer item across the country. They’re also used in heating, farming and construction.

U.S. demand for distillate fuels has changed very little over time, declining perhaps 3% over the last year. Even as prices climbed roughly 50% since March this year, demand for diesel remained steady — demonstrating the strength of the economy. Moreover, as we enter harvest season and winter weather, demand for distillates to run farm equipment and heating systems will again increase.

Upholding the historic RFS volumes is crucial to meeting demand and maintaining economic activity. Without the added production capacity and supply of distillates, prices would be even higher and economic growth would slow.

The United States needs a growing supply of diesel fuel and the biomass-based diesel industry can provide a better, cleaner option right now. Combined, biodiesel and renewable diesel are growing to meet 10% or more of the nation’s distillate needs. And according to the U.S. Department of Energy, biodiesel is saving consumers at the pump. Most important, the industry is actively investing in capacity and supply chains to contribute more.

The United States needs a strong Renewable Fuel Standard now more than ever. Expanding domestic production and use of biodiesel, renewable diesel and SAF is vital to meet the demands of the U.S. economy in the next six months. Recognizing and supporting the industry’s current and future investments in capacity and supply chains spreads the benefits across the country, especially to rural communities. And meeting consumer demand for affordable, cleaner fuel extends the benefits beyond energy security.

Donnell Rehagen is CEO of Clean Fuels Alliance America. As CEO, he works closely with Clean Fuels’ board of directors to ensure the industry has a clear, sharp vision of the future — full of growth and opportunity for the members it serves.

American Opportunity Powered by Clean Fuels



Clean Fuels
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cleanfuels.org

The biodiesel and renewable diesel industry
supports more than \$42.4B in economic impact
and 100,000+ jobs in the U.S.



Materials supported by United Soybean Board, soybean farmers and their checkoffs.



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On renewable fuels, follow Nebraska's lead



By U.S. Sen. Pete Ricketts, R-Neb.

Nebraska is a biofuels state. We are a leading producer of crops used for biofuel production. We are finding new opportunities to integrate and make biofuels in our supply chains. And we've incorporated them into our everyday lives. Nebraskans know that biofuels are a win-win-win. It's time for the rest of the country to follow our lead.

The first win is for American consumers. Biofuels save consumers money at the pump. In 2025, Nebraskans saved over \$300 million using E10 or higher ethanol blends. The last time I filled up at Hy-Vee, I saved 55 cents a gallon with E10. Using biodiesel,

Nebraskans pay about 20 cents less a gallon at the pump. This extra money can be used for a house payment or groceries. And that's why I am pushing for nationwide E15 and diversifying our biofuel markets. It would save Americans even more money.

Nebraskans know that biofuels are a win-win-win. It's time for the rest of the country to follow our lead.

When I was Governor of Nebraska, we ran a program on standard state vehicles to test how 30% ethanol blends (E30) would perform. As of 2025, over 600,000 gallons of E30 had been used in state vehicles. We saved taxpayers more than \$300,000 in fuel costs with E30. The study proved that fueling up with this higher ethanol blend was safe, clean and cheaper.

But biofuels aren't just good for consumers – they are also good for the environment. In the state E30 study, 529 fewer tons of CO2 emissions have been emitted so far. Higher ethanol blends also lower pollutants such as carbon monoxide that can be harmful to people with heart disease. They also improve local air quality by lowering tailpipe emissions of harmful particulate matter. This is a huge win for the environment.

It's more than just ethanol blends, though. While Governor, I also signed the *ImagiNE Nebraska Act* to encourage

public-private partnerships. This extends to biofuels projects. Just last month, I joined a ribbon-cutting for one of these projects. A new, state-of-the-art facility at Adams Land & Cattle in Broken Bow will convert cattle manure into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas

(RNG). The feedlot is already preparing cattle for market. With this project, 1.2 million MMBtu of RNG will be produced each year. RNG helps economic development in rural communities and increases the nation's fuel diversity.

Home-grown fuel can power more than the highways, though. It can power transportation in the seas and skies. I'm leading the fight in the Senate to support biofuels in different transportation sectors. I introduced the *Renewable Fuels for Ocean-Going Vessels Act* to create new maritime markets for domestic biofuels, such as biodiesel and RNG. Projects in Nebraska would be able to play a role in this. I am also a cosponsor of the *Farm to Fly Act*, which would expand the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel. This is the next step of American energy independence.

The cost-savings for consumers paired with the benefits for the environment make biofuels great

for farmers and ranchers. Biofuels help them get better prices for their crops. Increased demand also spurs job growth in rural communities. And with partnerships like the Neogenyx Adams Land & Cattle site, biofuels are creating new revenue streams in the agriculture supply chain.

That's why I continue to fight for biofuels on behalf of our agricultural communities. For example, Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cuts. The legislation extended the 45Z clean fuel tax credit to support domestic biofuel production. This is dual purpose: it supports farmers and ranchers, and bolsters domestic energy production. I am also working with the administration to ensure small refinery exemptions do not undercut our farmers and ranchers. Stable markets are necessary for our farmers and ranchers as they feed and fuel our world.

Biofuels are a win-win-win. They drive down the cost at the pump for consumers, are good for the environment, and help farmers get better prices for their crops. And there's a fourth win: their role in American energy independence. Nebraska's proven solutions are ready for America.

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Sen. Pete Ricketts is the junior U.S. senator for Nebraska. He previously served two terms as governor of Nebraska. He's a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he chairs the subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water.



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A coal train is loaded at a mine in southeastern Montana, where coal remains a key part of the state's energy industry.

Montana energy is back and better than ever



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

Montana is famous for world-class fly fishing, and some of America's greatest national parks. But Montana is also rich in natural resources.

Our energy sector provides thousands of jobs and contributes millions to our economy, which is why bolstering Made-In-Montana energy has been a priority of mine. As I reflect on my tenure in the Senate, I believe we've made substantial progress in unleashing the full power of Montana energy.

I was a newly elected Senator during President Barack Obama's second term, which was an era of climate hysteria. One of the first actions I took as a senator in 2015 was to hold an official Senate hearing at Crow Agency in Montana to

push back against President Obama's radical anti-coal rules.

Montana breathed a sigh of relief when President Donald Trump was elected in 2016 and began to roll back many of the radical ideas that extreme environmentalists were pushing. We passed tax reform to bolster Montana energy jobs, struck down rules that harmed our coal mines and supported Montana hydropower dams. But when Joe Biden became president in 2020, Montana energy was once again under attack.

This was the time of the Green New Deal. President Biden wanted to force us all to drive electric vehicles and shut down Montana's coal mines and power plants. Every day, Montana's energy sector was blasted with frivolous litigation, bureaucratic red tape and burdensome regulations that hindered our critical industries. Montana has more recoverable coal than any other state in the nation. Despite this, Biden supercharged his attacks on coal, oil and gas and stalled projects throughout the state, threatening the livelihoods of hundreds of hardworking Americans. He even pushed through a rule prohibiting all new coal development in Eastern Montana. By the end of Biden's

term, all of Montana's large-scale active coal mines and the Colstrip Power Plant were on the brink of closure.

That's why it was so important when President Trump took office once again in 2025, and we acted swiftly to unwind the Biden administration's radical anti-energy agenda.

The first victory was saving the Bull Mountains Mine. On Independence Day 2025, President Trump signed the Working Families Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law, which included my provision to keep the Bull Mountains Mine up and running. This was a huge win and saved over 250 mining jobs. I visited the mine shortly after this victory and met the miners whose jobs we had saved—many of them were the multi-generational coal miners. They work hard, support their families and are true examples of the American spirit.

The Working Family Tax Cuts Act also included my bill to restart federal oil and gas leasing in Montana, which had all but ceased under President Biden. My bill, the *Supporting Made-In-America Energy Act*, ensures that the Bureau of Land Management holds quarterly oil and gas lease sales in Montana, as well as many other states.

This will keep royalties, jobs and taxes growing in our rural communities long into the future.

A few months later, we had another important victory, when President Trump signed my bill repealing Biden's disastrous Miles City Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA), which unlocked mining in Montana's coal-rich Powder River Basin. The Powder River Basin is America's largest coal reserve and is critical for our energy independence. In caving to environmental hysteria, the Biden administration ignored the local community and locked up two million acres of land, which would have cost Montana more than \$4 billion in future revenue. Reversing this wrong-headed policy was a huge win, not just for Montana's jobs and economy, but for our nation's energy security as a whole.

As my time serving in the U.S. Senate draws to a close, I'm grateful for the opportunity to have fought together with President Trump, Gov. Greg Gianforte, Sen. Tim Sheehy, Rep. Ryan Zinke, and Rep. Troy Downing on behalf of the Treasure State. Montana is the best state in the nation, and we are paving the way for a bright future—a future that will create hundreds of jobs and ensure our nation remains the global leader in energy production.

A fifth-generation Montanan, Sen. Steve Daines serves as the senior U.S. Senator from Montana. He's a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, as well as the committees on Finance, Foreign Relations, and Indian Affairs.

The grid security gap Congress can close this year



By Jeremy Harrell

America needs to build more power infrastructure than it has in generations, and that infrastructure must be secure. Threats are coming from many directions.

In April 2026, federal agencies including the Department of Energy (DOE), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Security Agency warned that Iranian-affiliated hackers were inside American critical infrastructure, manipulating the industrial controllers that run plant equipment and falsifying what operators saw on their screens. Three months earlier, Winter Storm Fern cut power to more than a million customers across the South and Mid-Atlantic as ice downed lines. Meanwhile, at PJM, the nation's largest grid operator, roughly 20 gigawatts of generation went offline as extreme cold shut down critical energy infrastructure. In December 2022, unidentified attackers opened fire on two Duke Energy substations in North Carolina, cutting power to over 45,000 customers for nearly five days during freezing winter temperatures. One was a cyber-attack, another was an extreme weather event and the last was a physical attack coinciding with cold weather.

America is entering the largest buildout of its electric grid in generations, and with it comes a real opportunity for Congress to secure lasting authority for the grid's defenders. DOE's Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response (CESER), the federal office charged with protecting this system, stands ready for that mandate. Congress can seize this moment, and there's never been a better time to act.

In 2025, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's information

sharing center logged more than 3,500 physical security incidents on the grid, up from 2,800 two years earlier. On the cyber side, ransomware attacks on industrial organizations rose 64% from 2024 to 2025, hitting 3,300 organizations worldwide, with at least one new intrusion group discovered during an incident response at U.S. electric and water utilities.

None of this is an argument against building our electric grid; it's an argument for building security, both physical and cyber, into it from the start.

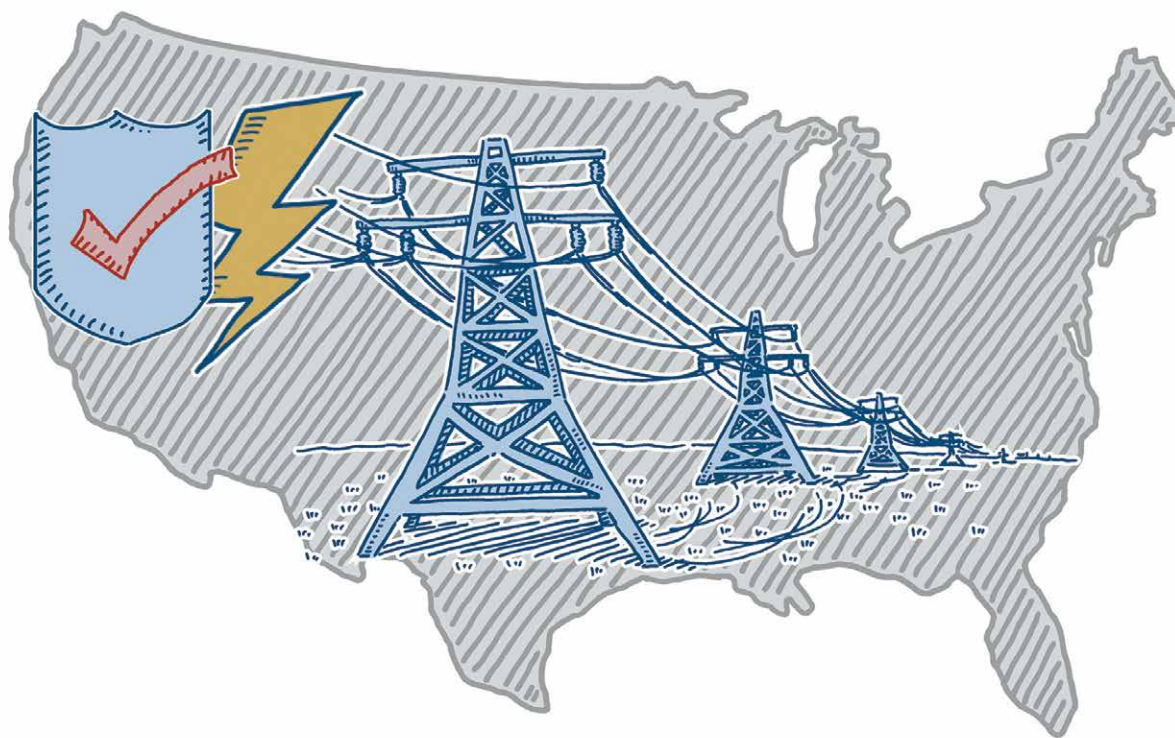
American electricity demand has broken out of a long plateau. After 15 flat years, consumption has grown 2.1% annually over the last five, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects it to climb from a record 4,195 billion kilowatt-hours in 2025 to 4,391 billion by 2027. Data centers and advanced manufacturing are the engines of this economic growth, creating jobs

the world to adopt it, because that's the only path to cutting global emissions. But the grid we are building differs in kind, not just size. Meeting it means adding millions of networked devices — advanced transmission technologies, battery controllers, EV chargers and the 130 million smart meters already covering nearly 80% of American meters — to a grid that predates the internet. Digitization makes a modern grid smarter, unlocking capacity and making it more efficient. But defending it will require new tools and greater coordination.

That work has a federal home. DOE's CESER Office carries out the Department's role as Sector Risk Management Agency for the Energy Sector. It collects the disturbance reports utilities must file after major incidents, stewards critical RD&D, and leads the federal energy response

and the Secretary of Energy important energy security authorities, but today, many are exercised by CESER only through departmental delegation. That means without a full authorization, CESER's specific role could easily be changed by future administrations.

Authorization would not expand the federal footprint or impose new mandates, and it shouldn't. The private sector owns more than 80% of American energy infrastructure and knows those systems better than Washington does. The federal advantage lies elsewhere: the expertise of the National Laboratories, classified threat intelligence no utility can reach alone, testbeds no single company could justify building for itself and the ability to coordinate across states, companies and agencies when a major disruption occurs. Congress does not need to invent a new agency or launch another federal program. It simply needs to make permanent the



in communities across the country and positioning the U.S. to be a more secure global leader in the next generation of technologies and industries like Artificial Intelligence.

We should want this. AI leadership reshored manufacturing and electrification are national assets that foster long-term economic growth. The right response is to build here: clean, firm generation; transmission; and new technologies that keep power affordable and reliable. American innovation has already made clean energy deployable. Now the mission is leading

when the lights go out — whether due to ransomware, hurricanes, intrusion or wildfire. It also co-runs the threat intelligence partnership covering utilities serving more than 75% of American customers. President Donald Trump's 2017 cybersecurity executive order directed DOE to assess the nation's ability to prepare for and respond to cyberattacks on the electric grid and in 2018, DOE created CESER to lead its work on cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response. Congress has given DOE

energy security mission the government is already carrying out.

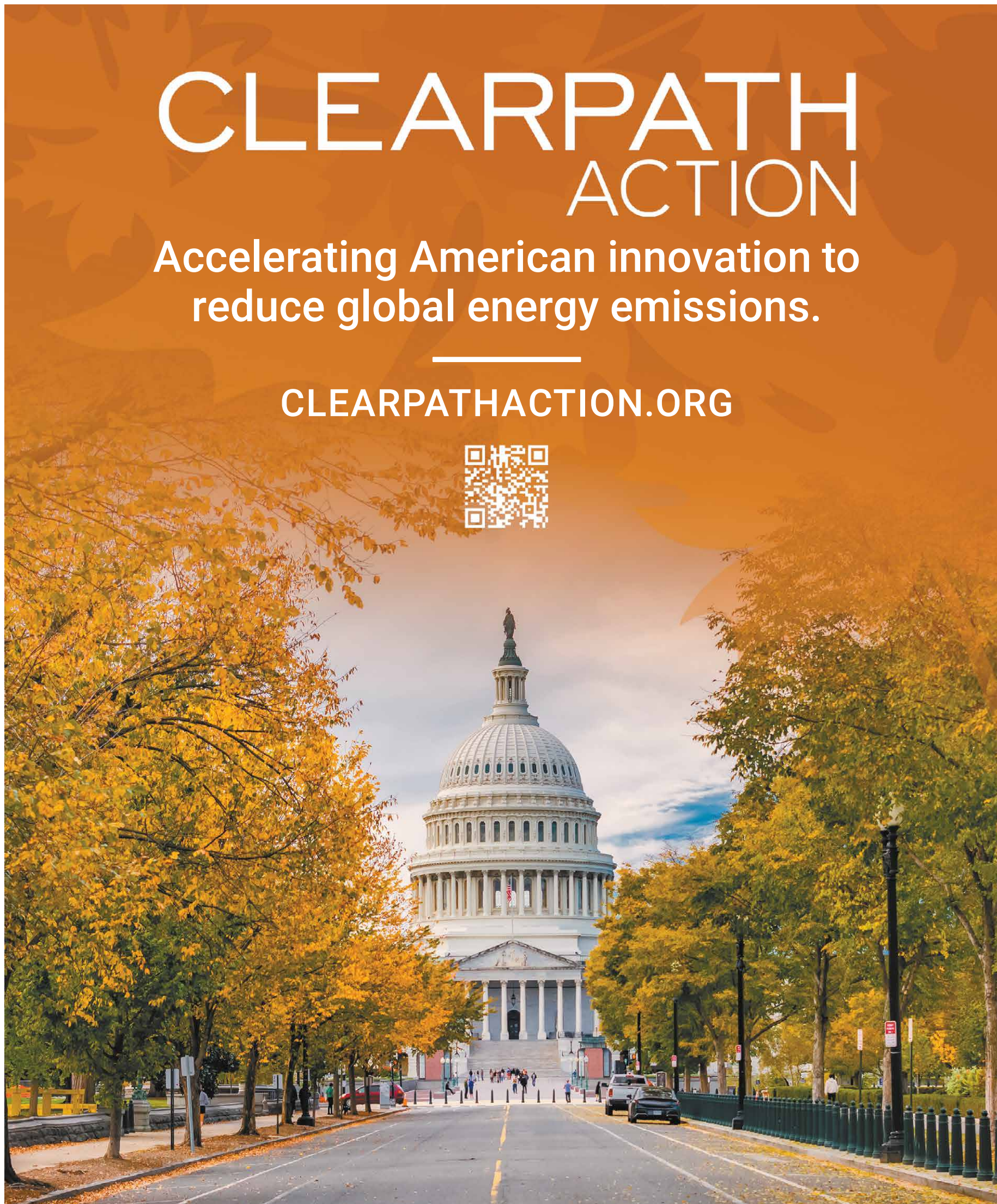
America will build an extraordinary amount of energy infrastructure this decade. But it will be hard to measure the success of an energy system that leads the world in clean technology but sits at the mercy of its adversaries. Comprehensively authorizing CESER is overdue and has long enjoyed bipartisan support. It costs almost nothing against the price of finding out what happens without it.

Jeremy Harrell is the chief executive officer of ClearPath Action.

CLEARPATH ACTION

Accelerating American innovation to
reduce global energy emissions.

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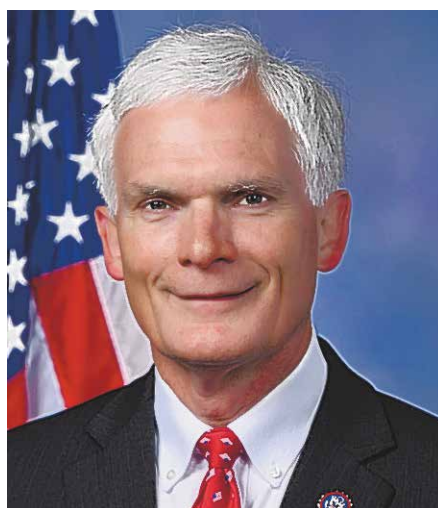




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Power equipment at an electrical substation along the East Coast.

Why a secure grid is more important than ever



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

America's electricity demand continues to grow at an unprecedented pace. From advanced manufacturing, to hospitals, small businesses, data centers and the everyday needs of families, virtually every part of our economy depends on a reliable supply of electricity.

As our energy needs grow, so should the protection of the electrical systems that power our communities. Hardening our electric grid against extreme weather events, cyberattacks, and physical attacks is crucial for our economic prosperity.

As Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee on the House Energy and

Commerce Committee, I have heard directly from grid operators, electrical equipment manufacturers and engineers on how critical a secure grid is for keeping the lights on for American families and businesses. They understand that a resilient grid requires more than simply generating enough electricity. We must also ensure that the infrastructure

reliable, secure, and resilient. These plans serve as a roadmap for states to navigate potential energy disruptions and allow for states to receive funds from the State Energy Program. These funds are used to implement energy security and resiliency plans and allow states to mitigate weaknesses in their energy infrastructure.

As our energy needs grow, so should the protection of the electrical systems that power our communities. Hardening our electric grid against extreme weather events, cyberattacks, and physical attacks is crucial for our economic prosperity.

delivering electricity to homes and businesses can withstand the threats it faces.

We have unfortunately seen the consequences when that infrastructure is vulnerable.

Intentional attacks on substations by humans have resulted in widespread power outages. Extreme weather events such as winter storms, hurricanes, high winds and wildfires have resulted in substations and power lines being damaged and Americans left without power.

Currently, states submit a State Energy Security Plan (SESP) to the Department of Energy to assist states in assessing their energy landscape, identifying vulnerabilities and investigating ways to ensure energy infrastructure remains

However, there are important aspects of a secure energy system these plans do not require. As our energy landscape changes, how we look at grid security must change with it.

That is why I am proud to lead the *Securing Community Upgrades for a Resilient Grid (SECURE Grid) Act*, which passed the House of Representatives this summer. This legislation requires states to take a closer look at how secure and resilient their local electric grids are. Specifically, states must consider threats to local distribution facilities, the risks posed by increasing grid demand, technologies to mitigate threats, the distinctions between weather related threats and physical threats, how public-private

partnerships can assist in meeting energy needs, innovative financing models, and how manufacturers can maintain a secure, reliable and resilient energy distribution system.

Protecting America's electric grid will require a comprehensive approach. We need to look beyond the power plants that generate our electricity and also focus on the infrastructure that ultimately delivers that electricity to American families and businesses. That means examining vulnerabilities at the local, state, and federal levels and giving communities the tools they need to address them. States know their energy needs best. By strengthening State Energy Security Plans and encouraging states to take a more comprehensive look at the threats facing their electrical systems, we can better prepare for the challenges ahead.

If we want the United States to lead the globe in energy production, manufacturing, and innovation, we must ensure we have a grid that is secure enough to withstand whatever challenges come.

Rep. Bob Latta is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he serves as chairman of the Energy Subcommittee. He is also a member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee and the Environment Subcommittee and serves as Co-chair of the Grid Innovation Caucus.



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A 3D rendering of a small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear power plant.

Predictable energy policy can help secure America's future



By U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va.

An unstable electric grid stands in the way of America's energy future. The growing list of early power plant retirements, which outpaces new power supply to the electric grid, threatens a disruption of reliable power.

The Trump administration is doing what it can to help some plants remain open and serve American communities, but these temporary actions can only brace our creaking electric grid for so long.

Further, plant shutdowns make us more vulnerable to the rising power demands coming our way. Rapid electrification, increased manufacturing and the rise of new technologies such as

artificial intelligence will require a new fleet of power sources to support the United States.

To make our power generation more reliable, we must make federal policy more predictable. By reforming the outdated, slow, and arbitrary federal permitting process, America can unleash new sources of power.

By reforming the outdated, slow, and arbitrary federal permitting process, America can unleash new sources of power.

This new fleet will be powered by promising technologies, including nuclear. Advances in nuclear energy, especially small modular reactors (SMRs), offer a game-changing source of reliable, carbonfree power. Former Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, understanding this reality, promoted the lofty goal of making Virginia the first state in the nation to build and run a commercial SMR. Thanks to Youngkin's leadership, the Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub, which consists of energy partners, research institutions and the state government, can collaborate on nuclear projects.

Such projects are contingent on obtaining a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This federal agency oversees and approves all nuclear power construction, including the buildup of microreactors and SMRs. With how critical these technologies

are for America's energy leadership, the NRC has received greater attention from lawmakers over the past few years and has led to bipartisan reforms.

Accordingly, Congressional action recently focused on my bill, the *Efficient Nuclear Licensing Hearings Act*. My bill will help reform an outdated procedural requirement at the NRC, making it less

costly for applicants and NRC staff to navigate the nuclear licensing process. Given the overwhelming support my legislation received in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, it is clear the positive excitement about nuclear energy is growing. Congress recognizes we must continue to improve the permitting process for all energy forms, including nuclear.

While advanced nuclear reactors remain in a nascent state, our energy maturity is tied to more familiar baseload energy sources: natural gas and coal.

Natural gas and coal remain an indispensable part of America's energy mix, providing dispatchable power that stabilizes the grid when renewable output fluctuates. Congress is considering reforms to strengthen federal coordination on natural gas pipeline reviews so projects can move forward without years of delay but assuring that

landowners are protected and pipeline routing makes sense. These reforms would reduce energy costs for families and ensure a dependable supply for the country for decades.

America is also home to beautiful, clean coal technologies. Thanks to innovations and technological progress, coal plants can continue to serve our electric grid while cutting back on emissions.

Baseload power is a critical piece to the equation, but leading in energy requires tapping into all available energy sources.

American leadership in clean power deployment — solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and battery storage — is worth federal policy focus. Small hydro, and pumped storage projects in particular, are an overlooked energy source for the country. Regardless of the type of power, the permitting delays that affect clean energy infrastructure must be addressed.

Faster licensing of energy projects could unlock billions in private investment, generate economic growth, particularly in rural areas, and help modernize our electric grid.

Should we fail, American communities will fall behind.

Through action on permitting reform, we can make our energy future bright, visible and prosperous.

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As the representative for Virginia's Ninth Congressional District, Rep. Morgan Griffith serves as chairman of the Subcommittee on Health for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Colorado families deserve energy freedom



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

Colorado's Eighth District has an energy advantage most states envy.

Weld County, in the northern part of my district, is the fourth-largest energy-producing county in the nation, producing 82% of Colorado's oil and 56% of its natural gas. We are also home to major wind, solar and emerging technologies. We have the resources and workforce to produce more American energy than ever before.

Yet Denver Democrats are determined to squander that advantage.

For years, one-party rule at the State Capitol has pursued an energy agenda designed to force Colorado away from oil and natural gas — regardless of what it costs consumers or means for the reliability of our grid.

Now, state regulators are pushing that agenda even further.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) ordered utilities to pursue a 41% reduction in emissions from natural gas by 2035.

Let's be clear about what costs Colorado families bear when state policies restrict access to natural gas.

A 2024 report from the Colorado Energy Office found that these decarbonization mandates mean the state is pursuing the most expensive energy mix possible — costing more than \$108 billion total, or \$6,400-\$9,200 per household.

This not only results in higher costs for the nearly 1.9 million households, businesses, farmers and manufacturers who rely on natural gas for affordable and reliable energy; it also diverts valuable resources away from infrastructure-hardening measures.

At a time when Coloradans are concerned about housing affordability and increased home insurance rates, mandates to fully electrify a new home in colder climates can add more than \$15,000 to construction costs.

Colorado families don't need another



An oil well in Platteville, Colorado, part of the state's energy-producing landscape.

government mandate making life even more expensive. Our state already ranks as the sixth-most regulated in the country, with more than 205,000 state-level regulatory restrictions.

The same companies that have brought thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue to our state over many decades are now being forced to leave thanks to the overregulation by Denver Democrats.

If electric appliances work best for your family, choose them. If natural gas makes more sense, you should have the freedom to choose that, too.

That decision belongs to Coloradans — not the government.

That's why I've made affordability, reliability and energy choice central to my work in Congress.

My *State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act* passed the House and requires state utility regulators to consider whether utilities have enough reliable generation to meet electricity needs over a 10-year planning period.

That should be common sense.

I'm also a proud cosponsor of the *Energy Choice Act* to stop state and local governments from restricting access to an energy source simply because they don't like where that energy comes from.

We need to produce more energy. We need to build the infrastructure to move it. And we need a reliable grid capable of delivering it.

But protecting the energy we already have isn't enough. America needs to build.

Right now, too many energy and infrastructure projects get buried in years of federal red tape, delays and political uncertainty. That drives up costs and makes it harder to produce the energy our families and communities rely on.

That's why I helped lead the bipartisan *CERTAIN Act* to overhaul our broken federal permitting process and get American energy projects built. It establishes clearer timelines and accountability for federal reviews, improves coordination between agencies and provides greater certainty for lawfully issued permits.

Whether it's natural gas, oil, wind, solar, nuclear, transmission or other critical infrastructure, projects

shouldn't spend years trapped in government bureaucracy.

We need to produce more energy. We need to build the infrastructure to move it. And we need a reliable grid capable of delivering it.

That's what an all-of-the-above energy strategy actually looks like.

Denver Democrats have taken the opposite approach: regulate more, mandate more and leave Coloradans with fewer choices.

Some claim to be dedicated to an all-of-the-above approach, but then support policies to exclude natural gas — an important baseload power resource to ensure grid reliability.

Colorado has everything we need to lead America's energy future. We shouldn't be importing energy we can produce here, increasing utility bills for families, making housing more expensive or regulating reliable resources out of existence.

Colorado families deserve affordable, reliable energy.

And they must retain the freedom to choose it.

Rep. Gabe Evans is a proud Colorado native who has spent his life serving his state and nation through the military and law enforcement.

Keep EU regulations out of American energy policy



By U.S. Rep. Craig Goldman, R-Texas

American energy powers the world — but bureaucrats in Brussels' new regulatory regime threatens our ability to keep it that way.

The United States is the world's leading producer of crude oil and natural gas. In April of 2026 alone, we exported liquefied natural gas (LNG) to 35 countries, and 54.6% of it went to Europe. That trade supports American jobs, fuels the global economy and gives our allies a reliable alternative to energy supplies produced by Russia and other foreign countries.

Yet, a wave of the European Union's (EU) "sustainability mandates," dressed up as progressive environmental policy, threatens critical American industries like energy. The EU is using access to its market as leverage to dictate how American companies operate on American soil under American law.

To protect American businesses from this foreign overreach, I introduced the *Stop EU Overreach Act*, now backed by 11 cosponsors. The bill directs the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to investigate four EU regulations — the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) — and determine whether they impose unreasonable or discriminatory trade practices that burden or restrict U.S. commerce. If the USTR determines these mandates unfairly threaten American commerce, it would consider appropriate remedies under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and report its findings and proposed action to Congress.

It's the same trade-enforcement tool America has used before against unfair



A U.S. natural gas facility supporting LNG exports.

foreign practices, aimed at the exact threat these EU directives pose.

Of the EU's burdensome mandates, CS3D provides perhaps the clearest example of Brussels trying to export its regulatory agenda on American energy companies. If implemented, it would require the world's largest companies to conduct extensive administrative due diligence efforts across their value chains — pressuring American suppliers, contractors, and other business partners not practicing business in Europe to adhere to its progressive mandates. One recent analysis estimates compliance could cost American businesses more than \$1 trillion.

These ridiculous mandates force American companies that follow American law to still shoulder massive new expenses imposed by a bureaucrat thousands of miles away.

With roughly 217,000 Texans directly working in energy and extraction industries (more than any other state), Texas has a lot to lose if these regulations are enforced. Take, for instance, a Texas

LNG provider exporting natural gas across the Atlantic. To maintain access to the European market, the company must demand costly compliance guarantees from every contractor and vendor in its supply chain, even those that never deal directly with European buyers. Under the EU's mandates, that distinction is irrelevant and local vendors may have to shoulder massive administrative burdens and legal risks anyway.

American businesses aren't the only ones affected by the EU's sustainability mandates. Extra supply chain costs could trickle down to American consumers, raising prices for goods and energy.

What makes this even worse is that the EU has already acknowledged these problems and promised to fix them. In the same 2025 trade framework where Brussels committed to buying \$750 billion in American energy, European negotiators also pledged to "undertake efforts" to keep its sustainability directives from restricting transatlantic trade.

Over a year later, the EU's idea of relief is narrowing which companies must comply, while leaving the largest Texas exporters, job-creators and their supply chains just as exposed. Congress should not accept a partial promise as a substitute for real protection.

This isn't the first time we've seen the negative effects of a progressive regulatory agenda on the American energy industry. For four years, the Biden administration imposed new burdensome energy regulations while American families experienced higher energy costs. Over the last two years, my House Republican colleagues and I have successfully undone Biden-era energy production damage by repealing these burdensome energy rules, cutting red tape, and expanding LNG exports. We won't let a foreign government undo that hard work.

Texans who follow American law to drill, produce, transport, and export American energy should not have to satisfy a second set of rules written by regulators they never elected.

Texans who follow American law to drill, produce, transport, and export American energy should not have to satisfy a second set of rules written by regulators they never elected. If Brussels wants to regulate companies based in Europe, that is its prerogative. But the EU should not use its market access to impose regulatory requirements on activities that take place entirely on American soil.

American companies should be able to compete abroad without surrendering sovereignty at home.

Congress should pass the *Stop EU Overreach Act* before the lunacy of the EU's progressive mandates costs the global economy a crucial energy supplier.

Congressman Craig Goldman represents Texas' 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A fifth-generation Texan and fourth-generation Fort Worth native, he previously served for 12 years in the Texas House of Representatives, including as Chairman of the House Committee on Energy Resources and the House Republican Caucus. Before entering public office, Rep. Goldman worked in his family's Fort Worth business and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Keeping the lights on means defending — and powering — America's grid



By U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C.

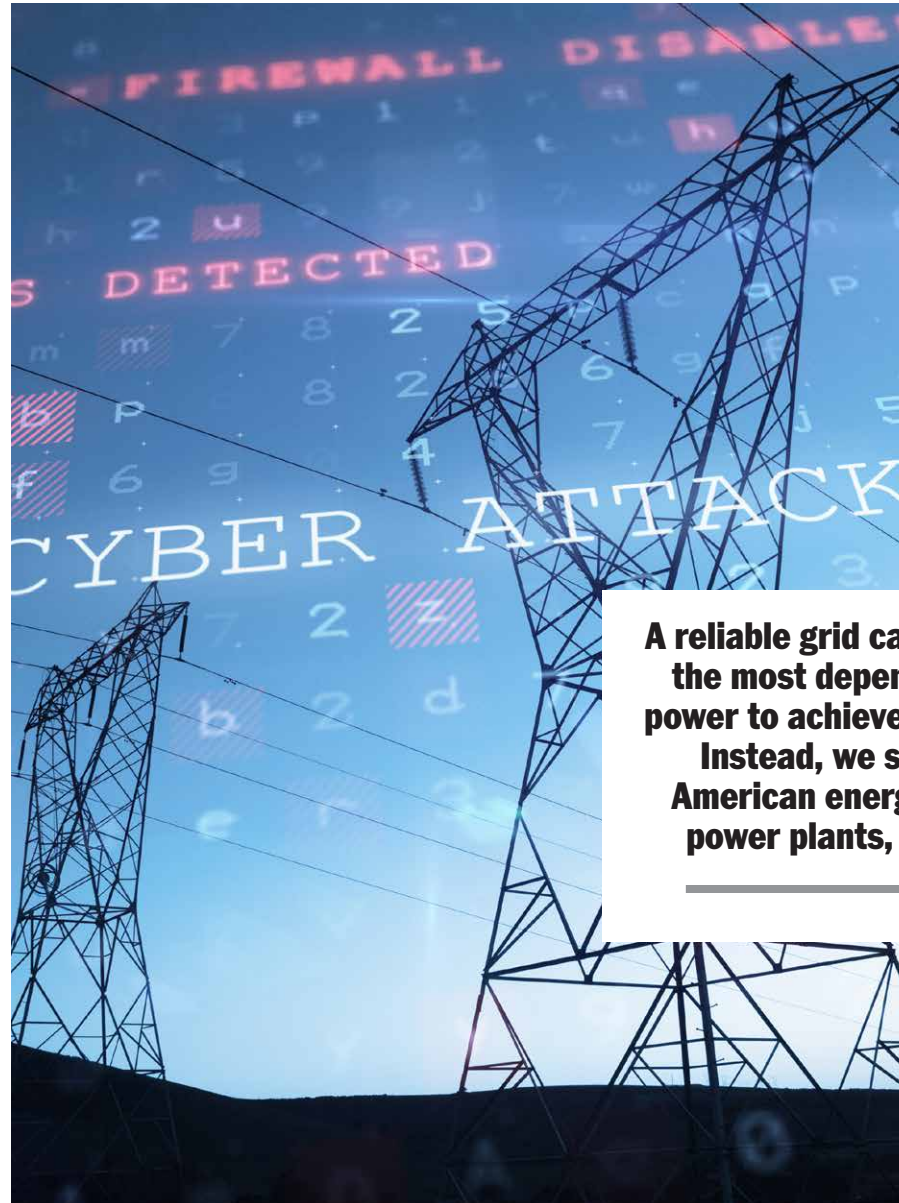
In early December 2022, two electrical substations in my home county of Moore County, N.C., were intentionally targeted and damaged by gunfire. More than 45,000 homes and businesses lost power. Families struggled to keep warm. Schools and businesses closed. The hospital ran on backup generators. Tragically, an 87-year-old woman died after the outage cut power to the oxygen machine she used at night.

Ever since this horrific attack, securing our electric grid has been one of my top priorities in Congress. I brought the Energy and Commerce Committee to Moore County for a field hearing, organized a classified FBI briefing for Members of Congress on threats to the grid, and have worked to pass bipartisan grid-security bills. Keeping the grid secure requires two things: stopping attacks before they happen, and making sure there's enough power to go around when we need it.

First, we must protect the grid from attacks. What happened in Moore County was physical, but the next attack is likely to be a cyberattack.

Foreign adversaries have already demonstrated what that could look like. In 2015, Russian hackers broke into the computer that controls Ukraine's grid and cut power to about 225,000 people. More recently, it was reported that Iran attempted cyberattacks against American infrastructure, including electrical grid. It has also been reported that U.S. officials are concerned Chinese hackers are trying to gain access to our critical infrastructure so they can disrupt it.

An American grid that is open to vulnerabilities allows our adversaries to inflict serious damage without a physical attack. If our nation's power is shut off, attackers could potentially disrupt



A reliable grid can't be built by shutting down the most dependable sources of baseload power to achieve a radical political objective. Instead, we should be producing more American energy, approving pipelines and power plants, and keeping the lights on.

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medical care, intelligence and defense communications, and military operations. A small-town power company shouldn't be expected to defend itself against an adversary alone. Federal agencies can see warning signs across the country and alert providers before hackers get into their systems.

Congress has addressed these problems with two bills that passed the House this summer. The *Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act* would continue grants and hands-on help to rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities, giving smaller power providers the resources to train employees, bring in experts, and strengthen their systems.

Additionally, the *Energy Threat Analysis Center Act* would help power companies, Energy Department experts, and intelligence officials share information, so a threat discovered in one part of the country doesn't catch everyone

else by surprise. Together, these bills would give our grid better defenses against cyberattacks.

But protecting the grid from attacks is only half the job. Even a secure grid can't function if there isn't enough electricity to meet demand. California learned that the hard way in August 2020. During a historic heat wave, demand surged past the power available, forcing the state's grid operator to order rolling blackouts on two consecutive days. Those outages weren't caused by an attack or storm; there simply wasn't enough electricity available.

America should never put itself in that position. I am in favor of an all-of-the-above approach to American energy, which means removing the barriers facing our energy producers, keeping power plants running, and building out our industrial capacity — especially when it comes to nuclear power.

Renewables play an important role

in our all-of-the-above approach, but grid sustainability can't be achieved by overleveraging our production into energy sources that aren't reliable when you need them.

Unfortunately, for four years, the Biden administration took America in the wrong direction. They imposed new rules on coal and natural gas plants and pursued green energy mandates that put radical climate activism ahead of affordable, abundant, and dependable power.

A reliable grid can't be built by shutting down the most dependable sources of baseload power to achieve a radical political objective. Instead, we should be producing more American energy, approving pipelines and power plants, and keeping the lights on.

In Congress, I have made great progress. I secured \$1.3 billion for the Energy Department's work on small modular reactors, which can bring safe, cheap, and dependable nuclear power onto the grid. My bill, the *Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act*, also passed the House last year. It would streamline unnecessary bureaucratic delays in the permitting process for interstate natural gas products — critical to ensuring Americans across the country have access to affordable and reliable energy.

My approach to energy is about real people like you: the farmer who needs electricity for his chicken houses, the educators teaching our children, the doctor treating cancer patients and the soldiers at Fort Bragg whose mission doesn't stop when the power goes out.

While we can't choose when the next energy emergency happens, and whether that threat comes from gunfire, a cyberattack, a hurricane or bitter cold, we can choose to be ready. I will keep working in Congress to protect our grid, unleash American energy and keep the lights on for you.

Rep. Richard Hudson represents North Carolina's 9th Congressional District and serves as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.



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It's time to ditch the switch and lock the clock



By U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla.

For years, Americans have asked Congress to end an outdated ritual that disrupts our lives twice every year: changing our clocks. Earlier this year, the House of Representatives finally answered that call. I was proud to manage debate on the House Floor for H.R. 139, the *Sunshine Protection Act*, and help secure its passage with overwhelming bipartisan support. The House voted 308 to 117 to make Daylight Saving Time permanent nationwide, while preserving the ability of states that choose not to observe Daylight Saving Time to remain on permanent standard time. Now, it is time for the Senate to act.

Floridians have been leading the charge on this issue for years. In 2018, Florida became the first state in the nation to enact legislation supporting permanent Daylight Saving Time, contingent upon congressional approval. Since then, the movement has spread across the country. Today, 19 states

Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, we examined the real-world consequences of the twice-yearly time change. We heard testimony about the potential health and safety benefits of ending these disruptions. Research has associated the clock change, particu-

Research has associated the clock change, particularly the loss of an hour of sleep when we spring forward, with increases in heart attacks, traffic accidents, sleep disruption and other negative health consequences. Ending the constant disruption would provide greater consistency for our bodies, our families and our communities.

have enacted legislation to provide for year-round Daylight Saving Time — if Congress allows it. The message from the states is clear: Americans are ready to ditch the switch.

Public opinion tells the same story. Recent polling shows that only 12% of Americans support continuing our current system of changing the clocks twice each year. A majority prefer permanent Daylight Saving Time, and Americans across the political spectrum agree that it is time to stop changing the clocks. This is more than a matter of inconvenience. During a hearing I helped lead earlier this Congress as Chairman of the House

Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, we examined the real-world consequences of the twice-yearly time change. We heard testimony about the potential health and safety benefits of ending these disruptions. Research has associated the clock change, particu-

larly the loss of an hour of sleep when we spring forward, with increases in heart attacks, traffic accidents, sleep disruption and other negative health consequences. Ending the constant disruption would provide greater consistency for our bodies, our families and our communities.

to run errands. And our local restaurants, retailers and small businesses benefit when people have additional daylight to shop, dine and participate in their communities.

In Florida, we understand the value of sunshine better than most. Yet this issue extends far beyond the Sunshine State. It is about improving quality of life, reducing unnecessary disruption and finally resolving an issue that Americans have been asking Washington to fix for years. The House has done its job. We came together, Republicans and Democrats, and overwhelmingly passed a commonsense solution.

The Sunshine Protection Act now sits before the United States Senate. My message to my Senate colleagues is simple: Listen to the American people. Listen to the 19 states that have already acted. Build on the overwhelming bipartisan vote in the House and send this bill to the President's desk. Americans are tired of springing forward and falling back. It is time to ditch the switch, lock the clock and let the sunshine in.

Rep. Gus Bilirakis serves Florida's 12th Congressional District. He serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he chairs the Innovation, Data and Commerce Subcommittee and is also a senior member of the Health Subcommittee and the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. He also chairs the Congressional Rare Disease Caucus.

American energy dominance means a more affordable, prosperous nation



By U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood, R-Ill.

Affordable and reliable energy is fundamental to a strong economy, a secure nation and the everyday lives of American families.

For families across Central and Northern Illinois, the cost of energy affects nearly every part of the household budget. For our farmers, manufacturers, and small businesses, affordable and reliable power is essential to staying competitive, investing in our communities and creating jobs.

That is why America needs an energy policy built around producing more energy here at home and putting American workers, resources, and families first. President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are working to advance that approach and restore American energy dominance.

The United States is blessed with the resources, workers, technology and innovation necessary to be the global leader in energy production. We should be taking advantage of those strengths instead of placing unnecessary barriers in the way of American energy producers and relying on adversarial countries to power our nation.

We need an all-of-the-above energy strategy that embraces American oil and natural gas, nuclear power, biofuels and emerging technologies. Each has a role to play in building a stronger, more reliable and more affordable energy system.

Illinois is uniquely positioned to help lead this effort. We are home to the nation's largest nuclear power fleet, a robust agricultural economy that supports ethanol and other biofuels and a diverse mix of traditional and renewable resources, including wind and solar power.

Increasing domestic production is also a matter of national security.



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Responsible environmental review is important, but projects that strengthen our grid, expand domestic production and create American jobs should not be held hostage by endless and unnecessary red tape.

it was recently approved in the House of Representatives. This bipartisan legislation makes a commonsense change requiring large data centers to cover the additional grid costs necessary to serve their energy demands rather than shifting those costs onto families and local businesses. While winning the AI race is critical to our national security, we cannot saddle Americans with a higher electricity bill each month.

We also need to reform a permitting system that causes major energy and infrastructure projects to become trapped in years of delays. Responsible environmental review is important, but projects that strengthen our grid, expand domestic production and create American jobs should not be held hostage by endless and unnecessary red tape.

Ultimately, energy policy must keep the American people and their interests at the forefront. Families should not have to choose between heating their homes and paying for groceries. Farmers should not see their operating costs driven higher because of unnecessary energy constraints. Manufacturers should not be forced to reconsider investments in American communities because reliable electricity is too expensive or unavailable.

America has the resources to meet these challenges. By unleashing domestic energy production, strengthening our infrastructure, continuing to cut unnecessary regulatory barriers and embracing an all-of-the-above approach, we can lower costs, create good-paying American jobs, strengthen our national security and ensure the United States remains the best place in the world to invest and build.

Energy dominance is how we deliver affordable energy for families today and a more affordable America for generations to come, and it can be achieved by American workers, American innovation and American resources.

Rep. Darin LaHood has represented Illinois since 2015. He serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, where he chairs the subcommittee on Work and Welfare.

America cannot allow China, Russia, or any other adversarial nation to control the resources and supply chains that power our economy. China's dominance in the processing of many critical minerals and key components used throughout the energy sector should serve as a warning. We must strengthen domestic production and processing of critical minerals, rebuild American supply chains and work with trusted allies when resources cannot be sourced here at home. This is imperative to securing our country and reducing the leverage hostile governments can hold over the United States.

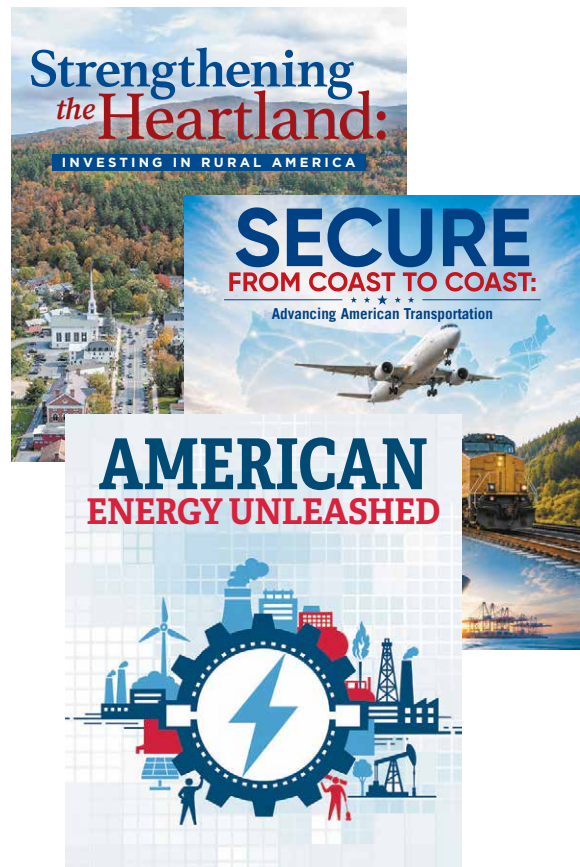
Energy independence requires more than simply producing energy

domestically; we also need modernized infrastructure capable of delivering it. That means upgrading our electric grid, building pipelines, and developing other critical infrastructure to ensure that power generation can keep pace with growing demand. If America wants to lead the world in manufacturing and technological innovation, we must have the energy capacity to power that growth.

As we look to lead the world in technological advancements in sectors like AI and the buildout of data centers, it is critical that we are mindful of the impact they could have on electricity costs. That's why I was proud to support H.R. 9340, the Ratepayer Protection Act, when

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Unlocking America's geothermal potential



By U.S. Rep. Nick Begich, R-Alaska

America is blessed with an abundance of energy resources. The question is whether we have the will to develop them. Under previous administrations, our nation has accepted an energy policy that leaves American families vulnerable to higher costs and our economy exposed to decisions made overseas. True energy security means producing more of what we need here at home, using American workers, American technology and American resources.

Alaskans understand this better than most.

My home state of Alaska possesses extraordinary reserves of oil and natural gas. Alaska continues to produce more than 400,000 barrels of crude oil each day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Those resources support American jobs, strengthen our economy and reduce our reliance on foreign energy.

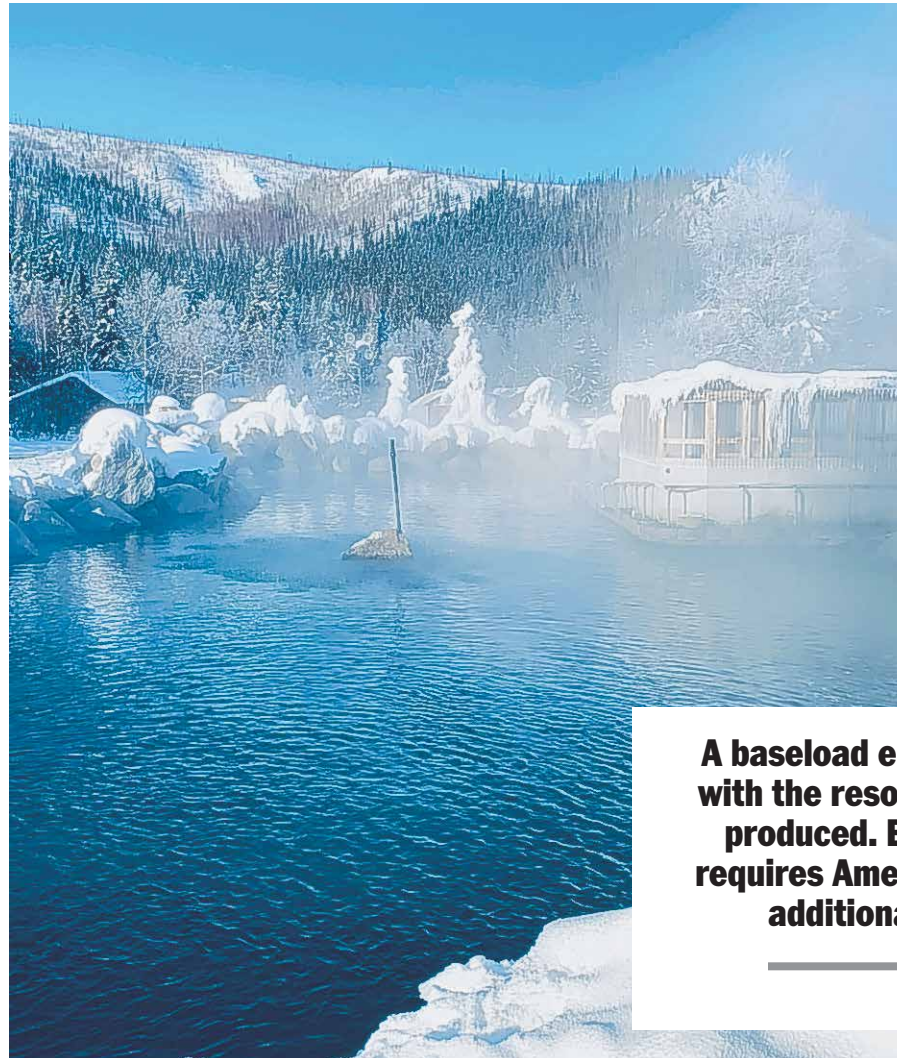
We should develop these resources responsibly, but unapologetically.

Alaska's North Slope, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and the Coastal Plain represent enormous opportunities to strengthen domestic production for decades. At a time of increased global supply constraint, voluntarily leaving American energy in the ground only increases our dependence on countries that do not share our interests.

A baseload energy strategy cannot stop with the resources we have traditionally produced. Energy independence also requires America to innovate and unlock additional domestic resources.

One of the most promising sits right beneath our feet: *geothermal energy*.

Geothermal is not a replacement for oil and gas. It is another American resource that can complement and strengthen our domestic energy portfolio. Unlike weather-dependent sources, geothermal can provide reliable power



Chena Hot Springs in Alaska demonstrates the potential of geothermal energy, using naturally heated water from beneath the earth to generate electricity.

A baseload energy strategy cannot stop with the resources we have traditionally produced. Energy independence also requires America to innovate and unlock additional domestic resources.

around the clock. Advances in drilling and subsurface technologies are also creating the potential to develop geothermal resources in places once considered impractical.

That is an American competitive advantage we should use.

Geothermal also provides something increasingly valuable to our electric grid: dependable power. DOE reports that geothermal plants typically have capacity factors of 90% or higher, meaning they produce electricity around the clock regardless of weather conditions.

Last year, while participating in a geothermal field hearing with my colleagues on the House Natural Resources Committee, I had the opportunity to engage with leaders working on next-generation geothermal development and hear directly from people working in the field about the technological advances, obstacles and opportunities facing this emerging American industry.

Policymakers should spend more time listening to the people who *produce* America's energy. What I have heard reinforces a basic point: America has

tremendous geothermal potential, but barriers remain between technological promise and commercial-scale power generation.

That is why I introduced the bipartisan *Geo POWER Act*.

The *Geo POWER Act* would establish a milestone-based demonstration program at the Department of Energy to accelerate next-generation geothermal projects in regions with limited existing geothermal generation. Importantly, the bill requires projects to be distributed across at least three states and three different project sponsors, helping ensure that next-generation geothermal technologies are tested in different regions and geologies rather than concentrated where geothermal is already established.

For Alaska, that creates an opportunity to compete as a proving ground for the next generation of geothermal technology. A successful demonstration in Alaska could do more than produce electricity from a single project. It could generate the geological, drilling and performance data needed to determine where these technologies

can work elsewhere in the nation.

Alaska has long been one of America's great energy proving grounds. We have the resources, the workforce and generations of expertise operating in some of the most challenging conditions anywhere in the world. As new geothermal technologies mature, we should ensure Alaska can leverage that experience to develop an even greater portion of this abundant energy resource.

Notably, geothermal is particularly suited for bipartisan cooperation.

That is one reason I am proud to serve as a founding co-chair of the newly formed Congressional Geothermal Caucus. We are bringing together members of Congress from across the country and across the political spectrum who recognize the opportunity geothermal presents and are committed to elevating geothermal in the national energy conversation.

Energy should not be reduced to a choice between traditional resources and emerging technologies. America needs both.

We need Alaska oil and natural gas. We need nuclear and hydropower. We need coal. We need next-generation technologies. And we should unlock the geothermal resources beneath American soil. Our competitors are not waiting for us to resolve ideological debates about which energy sources deserve to exist. They are securing resources, building infrastructure and planning for decades of growing demand.

America must do the same.

Reliable domestic energy, robust supply chains and a strong manufacturing base are all parts of the same national security imperative: *America must retain the ability to produce what America needs.*

The resources are here. Technology is advancing. Now Congress must create the conditions for American energy producers and innovators to put those resources and technology to work.

Rep. Nick Begich was sworn into Congress on Jan. 3, 2025. Nick's goal in Congress is to make sure Alaskans succeed. He is a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, where he serves as vice chair of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee.

Permitting reform keeps stalling. The *POWER* Act can help



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

Over the past half-decade, Americans have seen rising energy prices, often forcing them to make tough decisions about what other goods and services they can afford. This should not be the norm. Hard-working families deserve access to abundant and reliable energy, giving them flexibility to invest their hard-earned savings in whatever they deem most important.

That goal is achievable, but not through unworkable electricity rate caps, green energy mandates, or data center moratoriums like we've seen proposed by blue-state governors.

In order to lower prices while securing our grid, I've released the *POWER* Act, draft legislation to provide the commonsense permitting reforms needed to bring baseload energy onto our grid while promoting innovation.

Right now, America's permitting system is broken. Slow, burdensome and unpredictable review processes have produced an unreliable grid and higher costs for hard-working families. Our nation's manufacturers have been forced to contend with longer construction timelines and higher project costs that put the United States at a competitive disadvantage.

In Democrat-run states, Renewable Portfolio Standards, which are effectively green energy mandates, undermine the reliability of the grid and raise costs for consumers. Meanwhile, federal and state regulations are forcing reliable power to shut down before replacements are ready, creating a reliability crisis. Layering on top of these challenges, supply chain constraints and equipment backlogs are also slowing the building of industrial projects America needs to compete.

The *POWER* Act addresses these



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

issues by combining the commonsense permitting reforms that America needs into a single piece of legislation that cuts through red tape speeds up the construction of pipelines, power generation, and electric transmission.

This legislation contains three main pillars: producing energy, moving energy, and powering industry to build and grow.

FERC to keep reliable power plants running for up to five years when retiring them would threaten the grid.

As we work to build our grid and meet America's growing power demand, driven in part by the need to support data centers, the *POWER* Act includes the text of the *Ratepayer Protection Act*. This section builds on the White

Hardworking families deserve access to abundant and reliable energy, giving them flexibility to invest their hard-earned savings in whatever they deem most important.

Producing energy domestically is key to securing American energy dominance. From the outset of this Congress, our committee has focused on finding ways to generate the reliable and affordable power our communities need, through related hearings and legislation.

Last winter, we saw the consequences of relying on intermittent sources like wind and solar, when New England states were forced to burn trash to keep the lights on when other renewable sources failed to provide enough electricity.

The *Power Plant Reliability Act* would help to address this issue by empowering

House's Ratepayer Protection Pledge, under which Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI, Oracle, and xAI committed to covering their own data center energy costs, along with an additional group of signers such as utilities, regulators, and data center developers.

While developing the legislation, Committee members held hearings and meetings with numerous stakeholders, including the data center industry and Big Tech, state regulators, utilities, and community members. Through that work, it has become clear that across the entire industry there is one entity

uniquely positioned to stand up for families, who are the ones paying electricity bills — and that is Congress.

Modernizing our nation's infrastructure and building the pipelines needed to carry the oil and natural gas that provide baseload power are critical to lowering prices. That's why this legislation includes the *GRID Power Act*, which would ensure that grid operators have the tools they need to secure the reliability of the electricity grid in the event there is a capacity shortfall by allowing them to prioritize what energy projects are being connected to the electric grid, allowing the best power sources to be used effectively.

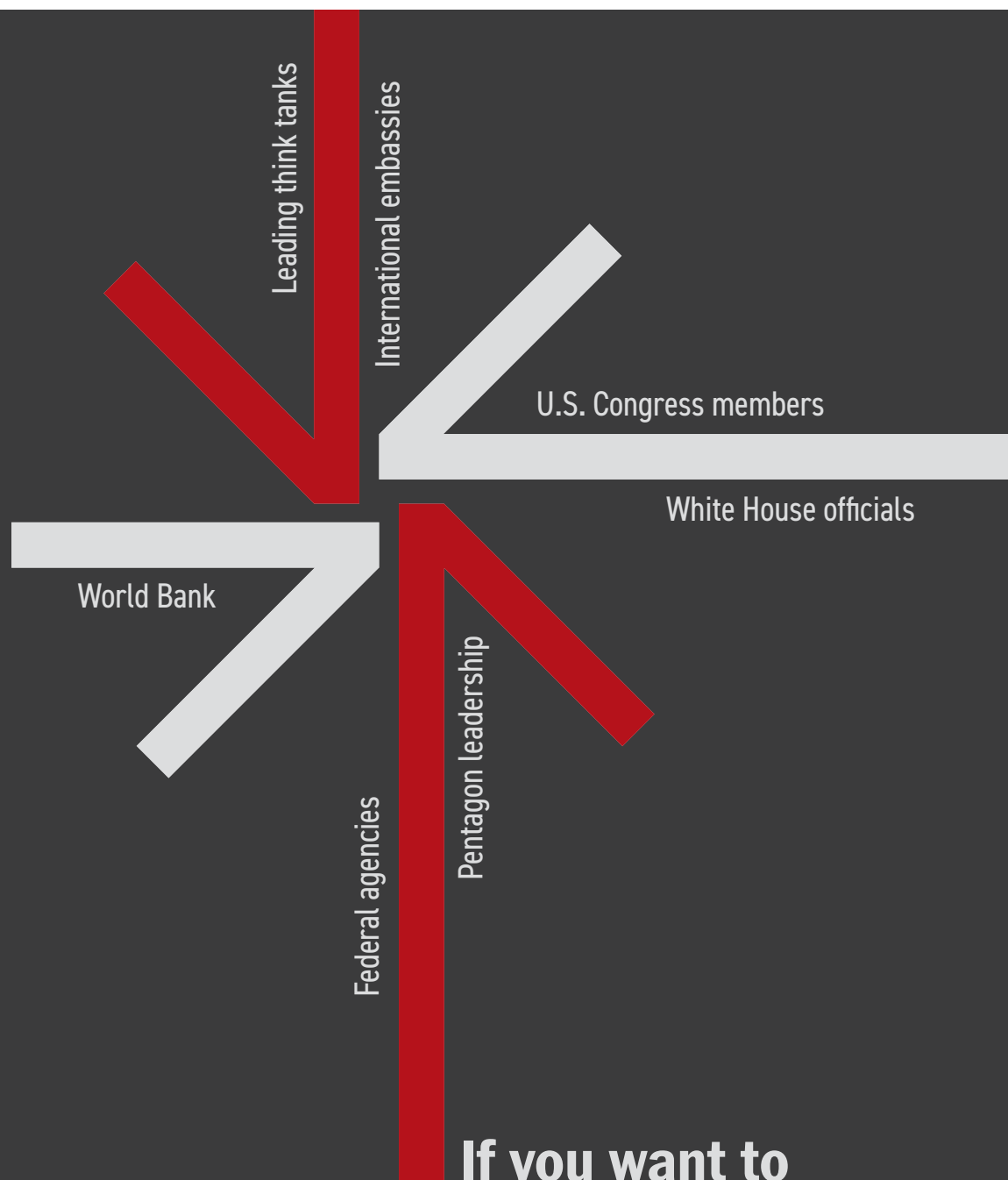
Likewise, the *Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act* streamlines permitting for interstate natural gas pipelines at FERC, supporting the development of dispatchable natural gas to communities across the country.

The access to affordable and reliable power will be key as we work to increase domestic manufacturing and power innovative new technologies. For too long, burdensome regulations have stood in the way of projects that would help to deliver the energy we need.

That's why the *POWER* Act includes steps to speed up the permitting process safely and effectively. The bill does this, in part, by streamlining the New Source Review permitting process for companies to upgrade facilities and install modern pollution controls without delays that lead to higher costs. Far too often, duplicative reviews slow down development while providing no tangible benefits to families. The *RED Tape Act* ends double reviews of projects by the Environmental Protection Agency if already vetted under the *National Environmental Policy Act*.

Together, these individual measures provide the basis for the permitting reform required to provide dispatchable, baseload power to American families. Permits that take years to acquire slow down development and raise prices on families and businesses. The *POWER* Act cuts through that red tape, helping to deliver the energy we need today.

Rep. Brett Guthrie represents Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District. Following his military service in the Army, Guthrie joined a Bowling Green-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.



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