

American Exploration & Production Council's

August Energy Snapshot

Whether meeting with constituents at town halls or speaking with the media this August recess, it's important to remember that our nation is stronger, the world is safer, and the environment is cleaner when the United States is the global leader in energy production.

Here are a few concrete actions that should be addressed when Congress gavels back into session in September.

AXPC

AMERICAN
EXPLORATION
& PRODUCTION
COUNCIL

POLICY PRIORITIES

Unleash U.S. LNG as a Geopolitical Tool

The Biden-Harris administration should end its de facto “freeze” on new liquified natural gas (LNG) export approvals. Despite a recent court injunction against President Biden’s LNG export freeze, the administration has not approved much-needed LNG export projects.

Re-Open Federal Land for Energy Production

The Biden-Harris administration must increase leasing approvals for new areas for oil and natural gas production. Limiting domestic energy exploration through burdensome regulations and putting roadblocks in front of the development of taxpayer-owned energy resources only worsens Americans’ concerns about energy prices.

Protect Americans’ Wallets through Tax & Fiscal Policies

In the competitive global energy marketplace, American-made energy can out-compete anyone, we just need to encourage production, rather than enact self-imposed economic headwinds.

Fix Regulations, Especially on Methane

America leads the world in greenhouse gas emissions reduction, with nearly 60 percent of U.S. reductions occurring as a result of natural gas displacing higher emitting fuels within the power sector. In order to continue responsibly lowering emissions while producing the energy America and the world needs, we need smart, workable regulations, especially when it comes to methane. Burdensome regulations, like parts of the methane rule or the IRA’s methane tax, are damaging to our economy and must be repealed.

Modernize the Federal Permitting Process

From broadband to pipelines, roads, and bridges, the single biggest obstacle to building the infrastructure we need for the future is a broken permitting system. In order to have “all-the-above” energy solutions, Congress should work to create a modernized, predictable permitting system that reduces the ever-shifting goal lines and alleviates the constant threat of litigation.



Unleash U.S. LNG as a Geopolitical Tool

- **American Natural Gas Abundance:** The U.S. has a sufficient natural gas supply to keep domestic prices low while supplying our allies and meeting growing global demand.
- **U.S. LNG Provides Geopolitical Leverage:** According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global demand for natural gas will increase by 41% by 2050. That demand will be either met by the U.S. or our adversaries like Russia and Iran. We should use U.S. LNG as leverage on the world stage to help our allies and prevent our adversaries from extending their influence. If our allies can't rely on America for their energy needs, they'll be forced to turn to nations that do not share our values – and following the administration's LNG freeze, they've begun to do just that.
- **Environmental Benefit:** As we work towards reducing emissions, U.S. LNG is cleaner than foreign sources of natural gas or other higher-carbon fuels. If U.S. LNG is not expanding into international markets, higher-carbon fuels will be used.

Policy Fixes

- The Biden-Harris administration should re-start LNG export approvals.
- The Senate should pass Rep. August Pfluger's (TX-11) [Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act](#) (H.R. 7176) to de-politicize LNG export approvals.



Re-Open Federal Land for Energy Production

- **Record Low Leases:** Oil and gas development cannot happen without leases. Despite growing demand for oil and natural gas, the Biden-Harris Administration has issued significantly fewer federal oil and gas leases than were issued by past administrations of both parties, at times even deferring or cancelling lease sales in defiance of Congressional mandates in statute. In 2023, the administration announced leases of only 161,000 acres of federal land. For context:
 - The Obama administration averaged 1.35 million acres per year.
 - The Trump administration averaged 1.27 million acres per year.
- **It's Not Either/Or:** Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is supposed to support various productive uses for the economic benefit of the taxpayer who owns them. We can be leaders in energy production while also being good stewards of the environment and recreational land at the same time.
- **Avoiding Congressional Approval:** The American people deserve both responsible management of federal lands and energy production, but damaging rules like the BLM's so-called Conservation and Landscape Health Rule is nothing more than an attempt to avoid Congress and prioritize non-use of these lands, preventing responsible mineral development.

Policy Fixes

- Call on the administration to uphold statutory requirements to lease more federal acreage for energy development.
- The Senate should pass Rep. John Curtis' (UT-3) [WEST Act](#), which would ensure that the Bureau cannot implement the so-called Conservation and Landscape Health Rule.



Protect Americans' Wallets through Tax & Fiscal Policies

- **Protect Americans from Energy Tax Hikes:** In an era of persistent inflation, we should make it easier, not harder, to produce energy here at home. If greater taxes, fees, tariffs, or other irresponsible fiscal policies are put on the American energy industry, it could threaten production levels. That, in turn, could hurt American families with higher costs.

Policy Fixes

- Support Rep. August Pfluger's (TX-11) [Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act](#) (H.R. 1141).
- Support Rep. Mike Carey (OH-14) and Rep. Vicente Gonzalez's (TX-34) [Promoting Domestic Energy Production Act](#) (H.R. 5073) and Sen. James Lankford's (R-OK) companion bill ([S.3381](#)).
 - These bills would allow U.S. energy producers to immediately deduct their IDCs when subject to the CAMT – other industries already have this deduction.



Fix Regulations, Especially on Methane

- **American Technological Ingenuity:** The federal government should enact pragmatic regulations that support American ingenuity and encourage innovation and flexibility. Technology is our greatest asset, and we need to incentivize technologies to monitor and mitigate methane emissions. Instead, command-and-control regulations are restricting innovation and hindering the goal of reducing methane emissions.
- **Cost Requirements:** Regulations should not be enacted if the cost to comply outweighs the real world, tangible (not modeled) benefits. And policies should be fair, not punitive to one industry or one part of an industry.
- **Federal-State Alignment:** We must work to avoid creating duplicative and overlapping regulatory regimes at both federal and state levels.



Policy Fix

- Repeal the IRA's methane tax or require modifications to EPA's implementation to encourage innovation and facilitate meaningful exemption pathways directed by Congress.



Modernize the Federal Permitting Process

- **Nebulous, Bloated Environmental Review Process:** Before any infrastructure project is approved in the U.S., it must go through nebulous environmental review processes with ever-shifting goal lines and a constant threat of litigation. In order to have "all-of-the-above" energy solutions, America needs a modernized, predictable permitting system.
- **Frivolous NEPA Lawsuits Delay Projects:** According to the DOJ, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the most frequently litigated environmental statute. Today's NEPA regulations, recently modified by the Biden-Harris administration, only made NEPA reviews more obscure and subjective and thus more vulnerable to litigation. At the same time, the lack of a clear, reasonable standard for judicial review makes it more difficult for agencies to defend even good-faith actions. Delays caused by this litigation can stretch for years, adding significant uncertainty and chilling investment for these critically needed projects.



Policy Fixes

- Support Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Joe Manchin's (I-WV) [Energy Permitting Reform Act](#), a bipartisan bill that would establish a 150-day statute of limitations from the date of the final agency action on a project, require courts to expedite review of legal challenges, and set a 180-day deadline for federal agencies to act on remanded authorizations.
- Congress should also modernize the NEPA review process to streamline agency decision-making.
 - Establish a clear, reasonable legal standard for the judicial review of NEPA decisions so agencies can better defend their decisions
 - Limit delays caused by activist litigation to challenge agency actions
 - Increase predictability to inspire needed investment in such projects and efficient allocation of resources within agencies

Social Media Toolkit

Below is suggested language that your Member could use as a starting point for posts on social media channels. We have also included resources below for additional data that supports our positions.

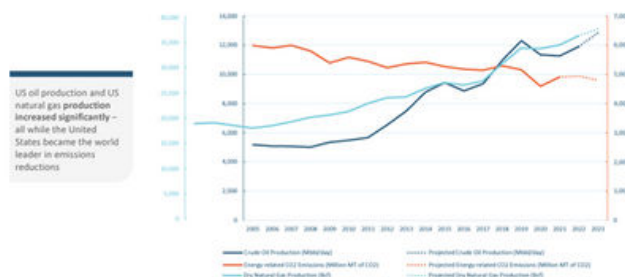
Oil and natural gas production and climate progress are NOT mutually exclusive.

Suggested Language:

Our nation is blessed with both vast natural resources and cutting-edge technology – and that’s evident in [district/state]. We don’t have to choose between more oil/natural gas production and lowering carbon emissions.

I’m calling on the Biden-Harris administration to repeal burdensome regulations like the pause on LNG exports and the EPA’s Waste Emissions Charge so America can continue to lead the world in production AND emissions reductions.

US is the World Leader in Both Production and Emissions Reductions Emissions Reductions/Oil and Natural Gas Production are Not Mutually Exclusive



Or Repost AXPC on X [HERE](#)

Americans Need Affordable Energy

Suggested Language:

Energy costs drive inflation and affordable energy is foundational to a strong economy. So when the Biden-Harris Administration shuts down pipelines and buries American energy industry in unnecessary red tape, it’s no wonder we are seeing higher food and fuel prices that stifle economic prosperity.

We need to unleash American energy again to relieve the mounting pressure of energy costs and help save billions of dollars for families across the country.

Learn more here: <https://axpc.org/>

US Shale Revolution Provides Americans with Affordable Energy

Compared to 2008, as a percentage of household costs, energy has decreased by 10.9%

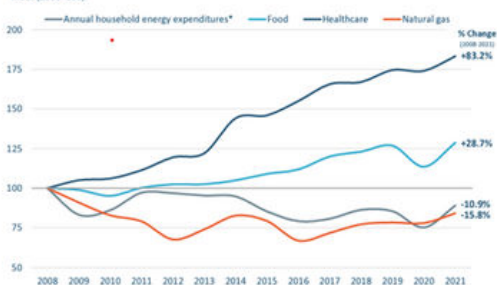
Percentage of household costs on natural gas decreased by 15.8%

Housing, transportation and energy typically make up more than half of typical US household spending

American oil and gas production provides a reliable domestic source of energy that helps save Americans an estimated \$203 billion annually (or \$2,500 for a family of four)

Household Expenditures by Category

Index (2008=100)



* Household energy expenditures include motor fuels, electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil
source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

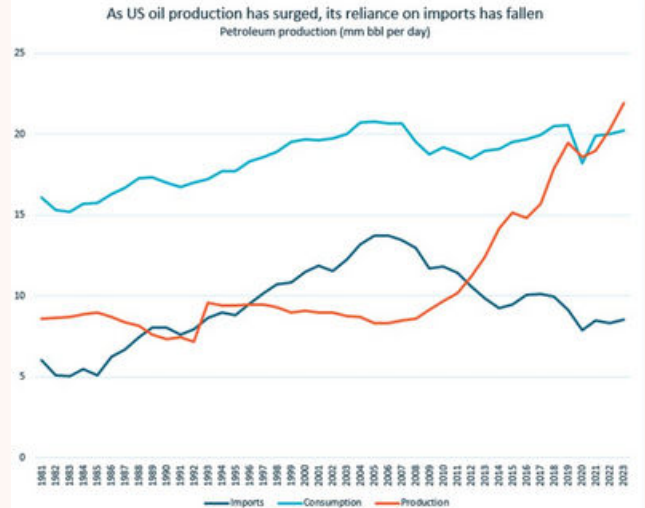
No Longer Beholden to Foreign Powers for Energy

Suggested Language:

Our nation's reliance on countries like Russia for energy is a threat to our national and economic security. Now, thanks to the expansion of shale energy, our energy security risk is lower than any generation since the World War II-era.

When America leads the world in producing and exporting energy, our nation is stronger and the world is safer.

Or Repost AXPC on X [HERE](#)



Historically Low Federal Land Leases

Suggested Language:

American energy development cannot happen without leases. Despite growing demand for oil and natural gas, the Biden-Harris Administration has issued significantly fewer oil and gas leases than were issued by past administrations of both parties.

And where do all of those missed opportunities for production go? Most likely to foreign nations without the rigorous environmental protections on BLM-managed lands.

Read more here: <https://axpc.org/2024/06/12/a-breakdown-of-permits-vs-leases-and-how-they-impact-energy-development/>

