



Forum for American Leadership

Restoring U.S. Energy Security: Recommendations for the 118th Congress

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The Forum for American Leadership's [Energy](#) Working Group has prepared concrete recommendations for Congress to help right the ship in U.S. energy policy, drawing on its [Steps to Defend U.S. Critical Energy Infrastructure](#) and plan to [Create an Arsenal of Energy](#). The new Republican House majority in the 118th Congress has promised to pursue an ambitious energy policy agenda, and that agenda should include the following priorities:

- ***General Energy Recommendations:***
 - Until the enactment of a serious and sound national and international climate policy, suspend executive branch regulatory initiatives, including by independent federal agencies, pertaining to greenhouse gas emissions emanating from the exploration, production, transmission, refining, and trade in all forms of energy.
 - Abolish the requirement for a national interest permit for any cross-border energy infrastructure projects unless the President finds that it would gravely imperil the national security of the United States.
 - Remove executive branch restrictions/bans on U.S. government support, technical assistance (such as at the Departments of Energy, Commerce, Treasury, and State), and financing (U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and Export-Import Bank) for fossil fuel projects and related infrastructure to enable the U.S. Government's ability to support energy security and development of partners and allies.
 - Modernize and improve the leasing and management of the federal estate to ensure that taxpayers realize the full and complete benefit of the resource base of the United States.
 - Amend the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) to enforce timelines and provide expedited permitting for critical national security energy projects.
- ***Oil Recommendations:***
 - Repeal non-emergency drawdowns from the [Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) (SPR) and direct the Department of Energy to expand the SPR from its current 568 million barrels to one billion barrels and fill it.
 - Approve all necessary permits for the Keystone XL pipeline.
 - Reverse all Biden Administration policies restricting oil and gas development in Alaska, a critical region where Russia already excels, and establish a powerful U.S. Arctic presence founded on energy projects.
- ***Natural Gas and LNG Recommendations:***
 - Deem every LNG liquefaction project currently before the Department of Energy to be approved.
 - Congress should amend the [Natural Gas Act of 1938](#) to eliminate the public interest determination for LNG exports to [non-Free Trade Agreement countries](#).
 - Consider loan guarantees, co-funded with European countries, to expedite the construction of LNG liquefaction and regasification facilities.

- Require international lending institutions receiving federal government funding to prioritize natural gas infrastructure, including trade-related terminals, ships, and barges, decentralized production, processing facilities, and pipelines.
- Facilitate government and the unlock of private sector financing to enable USG's ability to support the energy security and development of allies.
- Remove/overturn executive branch restrictions/bans on U.S. government technical & financing assistance for fossil fuel projects (including at the Departments of Energy, Commerce, Treasury, and State).
- Create/reinstate programs financing tools and mechanisms to support fossil and infrastructure projects abroad (e.g., LNG regasification) via loan guarantees, risk insurance, and other financing supports (at the Department of State, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, and Export-Import Bank).
- ***Restore Deterrence and Bolster Defense of Critical Energy Infrastructure, Including:***
 - Toughen penalties and sanctions for foreign cyber attackers who target critical energy and other vital U.S. infrastructure.
 - Deter, preempt, and punish foreign cyber attackers targeting U.S. critical energy infrastructure as it would Al Qaeda, ISIS, or any other similar foreign-based terrorist planning or using WMD to inflict catastrophic harm to the homeland; provide additional clear authority, funding, and direction to the Executive Branch to do so.
 - Require the President to notify Congress of countries that support cyber attackers who have, are, or are likely to plan or execute cyberattacks against critical energy infrastructure.
 - Require the President to immediately formulate and implement a more robust and cyber defense and offense strategy; the President should be required to inform Congress of the Administration's implementation progress no later than six months after completion, and upon submission, Congress should allocate additional funds to ensure swift and safe implementation of the new strategy.
 - Declare it shall be the policy of the United States to regard any future attempts to disrupt or dismantle U.S. critical energy infrastructure by cyber attackers an act of aggression that shall warrant swift and commensurate retaliation against the attackers and any foreign governments deemed to sponsor them.
 - Spend more money on human capital and training for public-private cybersecurity programs, which will improve the government's capacity to help companies that are managing critical energy infrastructure assets.
 - Require critical energy infrastructure owner-operators to immediately inform the federal government of major cyber or any other type of attacks that could impact domestic supply.
 - Require the owner-operator of a critical energy infrastructure asset to consult and obtain the permission of the appropriate federal authority before taking any discretionary action that could threaten the economy or national security.

The Forum for American Leadership (FAL) is a non-profit organization that presents expert analysis and national security recommendations to policymakers in Congress and the Executive Branch.



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