

TRAVIS SCOTT FISHER

EXPERIENCE

The Cato Institute, Washington, DC

August 2023-Present: Director of Energy and Environmental Policy Studies

- Research and write on the economics and reliability of electricity, the role of free markets in improving the availability and affordability of energy and natural resources, and environmental regulations that impact energy
- Advance Cato’s mission “to originate, disseminate, and advance solutions based on the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace” within the context of energy and environmental policy
- File comments before federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Provide testimony on energy and environmental issues to federal and state policymakers
- Engage with print, radio, and television media on issues of the day

The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC

February 2023-August 2023: Senior Research Fellow

- Researched and wrote policy papers on the reliability and affordability of energy
- Filed formal comments before the EPA and the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council

Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON), Washington, DC

April 2020-January 2023: President and Chief Executive Officer

- Led ELCON—the national association representing large industrial consumers of electricity—through a transformative era for the organization and for the electricity sector
- Advocated on behalf of ELCON members before federal policymakers, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the Department of Energy, and Congress
 - Represented consumers on NERC’s Member Representatives Committee, Reliability Issues Steering Committee, and Reliability and Security Technical Committee

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Washington, DC

December 2018-March 2020: Economic Advisor to Commissioner Bernard L. McNamee

- Advised Commissioner McNamee on wholesale electricity policy reforms, including:
 - Market-specific tariff changes, with a focus on the Mid-Atlantic region (PJM Interconnection) and New England (ISO-New England)
 - Nationwide issues, including grid resilience, the evolution of electricity market economics, and reforming Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) regulations
- Negotiated Commission policy among the Chairman, Commissioners, and advisors
- Served as liaison between the Commissioner and trade associations, utilities, and the media

April-December 2018: Advisor to Chairman McIntyre and the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation

- Advanced Chairman McIntyre’s policy initiatives on a range of issues including infrastructure permitting, PURPA, and grid resilience
- Presented on FERC policy at the Harvard Kennedy School

Department of Energy, Washington, DC

April 2017-March 2018: Senior Advisor, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

- Led an enterprise-wide effort to produce the August 2017 *Staff Report to the Secretary on Electricity Markets and Reliability*, a 187-page technical report to the Secretary of Energy
 - Selected personnel and organized the work of over three dozen policy experts across seven National Labs, six DOE program offices, and FERC
 - Provided editorial direction and navigated final report through Executive Branch review
 - Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Assistant Secretary in recognition of “outstanding contributions to enhancing the reliability and security of the Nation’s electric power system”

January-April 2017: Transition Team Coordinator and Senior Advisor to the Loan Programs Office

- Integrated the beachhead team on January 20th with members of the landing team
- Briefed leadership weekly on changes impacting the applied energy offices and the loan programs office

Institute for Energy Research, Washington, DC

September 2016-January 2017: Presidential Transition Team Member (DOE and FERC)

- Before the election, provided agency action plans to transition leadership
- After the election, joined the landing teams at DOE and FERC
 - Led efforts with DOE staff to close leadership gaps and prioritize major reforms

June 2013-September 2016: Economist

- Researched and wrote original reports and educational materials
 - Developed “The Story of Electricity” video, website, and power grid encyclopedia
 - Wrote white papers, including “Estimating the State-Level Impact of Federal Wind Energy Subsidies” and “Assessing Emerging Policy Threats to the U.S. Power Grid”
- Presented “FERC 101” to the Senate Republican Policy Committee
- Testified before the Ohio Senate on renewable portfolio standards

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC

June 2006-May 2013: Economist, Office of Energy Market Regulation

- Developed policy recommendations and defended them before senior staff
- Published articles in the journal of the U.S. Association for Energy Economics (USAEE)
 - Presented findings at the USAEE North American Conference in 2012
- Managed teams of attorneys, engineers, economists, and accountants
- Led an office-wide evaluation of knowledge management practices

John Locke Foundation, Raleigh, NC

January 2005-May 2006: Research Intern

EDUCATION

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

May 2006: Master of Economics

- First student to complete the Accelerated Bachelor-Master program
- Created an Independent Study Course in Austrian Economics with Professor Roy Cordato

May 2005: Bachelor of Science, Economics; Magna Cum Laude

- President, NCSU Society for Politics, Economics, and the Law
- Special Achievement Award in Economics, Outstanding Senior Award Nominee (College of Management), Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Testimony to the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, United States House of Representatives Re: The Power Struggle: Examining the Reliability and Security of America's Electrical Grid. Cato Institute, 2024. Written testimony on the impacts of unwise energy policies on the cost and reliability of electricity in the United States. <https://www.cato.org/testimony/power-struggle-examining-reliability-security-americas-electrical-grid>

Comments to EPA Re: New Source Performance Standards for GHG Emissions from New and Reconstructed EGUs. Cato Institute, 2023. Formal comments to EPA requesting a new Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking focused on the cost of its proposal and the impacts on electricity prices. <https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/2024-01/travis-fisher-epa-12-20-23.pdf>

Comments to EPA Re: Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicle. Heritage Foundation, 2023. Formal comments urging the EPA to account for the cost and reliability impacts of its regulations. https://static.heritage.org/2023/Regulatory_Comments/Fisher_EPA_Tailpipe.pdf

Comments to FERC Re: Modernizing Wholesale Electricity Market Design. ELCON, 2022. Formal comments urging FERC to embrace market competition in the electricity sector and to hold intermittent resources accountable for the reliability-related costs they impose on the electricity system. <https://elcon.org/comments-of-the-electricity-consumers-resource-council-elcon-docket-no-ad21-10-000-modernizing-wholesale-electricity-market-design/>

Can Competition Remake the Electricity Industry? Real Clear Energy, 2022. An op-ed applying Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter's concept of creative destruction to the electricity industry. https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2022/06/16/can_competition_remake_the_electricity_industry_837808.html

Comments to FERC Re: Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Natural Gas Infrastructure Project Reviews. ELCON, 2022. Formal comments pressing FERC to continue to approve natural gas infrastructure projects to support affordable and reliable electricity. <https://elcon.org/comments-of-the-electricity-consumers-resource-council-elcon-docket-no-pl18-1-000-certification-of-new-interstate-natural-gas-facilities-and-docket-no-pl21-3-000-consideration-of-greenhouse-ga/>

Staff Report to the Secretary on Electricity Markets and Reliability. Department of Energy, 2017. A 187-page comprehensive analysis and series of recommendations from the Department of Energy staff meant to inform and guide policymakers, regulators, and the general public in future conversations about the challenges America faces. <https://www.energy.gov/downloads/download-staff-report-secretary-electricity-markets-and-reliability>

Assessing Emerging Policy Threats to the U.S. Power Grid. Institute for Energy Research, 2015. A report for IER evaluating emerging threats to electric reliability, including policies such as EPA regulations and state and federal subsidies for intermittent resources. <https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Threats-to-U.S.-Power-Grid.compressed.pdf>

The Case Against the Wind Production Tax Credit. Institute for Energy Research, 2014. A detailed report elaborating on eight categories of arguments against the wind production tax credit.
<https://instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/The-Case-Against-the-PTC-Nov-2014.pdf>

The Divestment Delusion. National Review, 2013. An op-ed applauding abundant energy and exposing President Obama's misguided support for fossil fuel divestment.
<https://www.nationalreview.com/2013/07/divestment-delusion-travis-fisher/>

Bootleggers, Baptists, and Utility MACT. Master Resource, 2012. An article applying Bruce Yandle's "Bootleggers and Baptists" theory of regulation to EPA's Utility MACT rule. The article was originally written for the U.S. Association for Energy Economics, whose "Dialogue" publication is now defunct, but a condensed version was posted on the Master Resource blog.
<https://www.masterresource.org/bootleggers-and-baptists/bootleggers-baptists-utility-mact/>