
Cleaner Forms of Energy Are Needed, Here and Now

America must invest in cleaner energy that is made in America. Cleaner energy made in America is better for our economy, our security, our health, and our environment.

In measuring how “clean” energy is, we must consider all phases of its development – the mining and manufacturing of energy generation components are too often overlooked.

Nuclear power and natural gas relying on environmentally responsible extraction are cleaner energy sources – and America should invest in their development, including R&D, to insure reliable, affordable, cleaner energy.

Renewable energy products relying on environmentally responsible mining and manufacturing are cleaner energy sources and should be supported through R&D, direct investments, and tax credits.

The Conundrum of Coal – Right Price, Wrong Pollution

There is no simple solution to the coal question – it is a conundrum shot through with compromises. We must find cleaner ways to burn it, for our own fleet and the global fleet now being built; we must find safer and less environmentally damaging ways to mine it; and we must continue to invest in research aimed at reducing and capturing coal’s emissions.

Coal accounts for nearly half of our country’s electricity, we have a huge fleet of coal-fired plants that are in use and have been paid for by American ratepayers, our electric transmission system is routed through and reliant upon coal-fired plants. There is no “shutting down” coal without massive systemic shock to America’s economy, meanwhile the developing world continues to build new coal plants... So we must continue investing in emissions controls to make our fleet of coal plants cleaner and we must insist on environmentally responsible coal production methods.

Simply arguing to “shut down coal” ignores the massive impact such a move would have on our electric system and our economy. Furthermore, since the developing world is now building hundreds of new coal plants, the United States should develop the clean technology that will minimize pollution from those plants – that means more American jobs *and* a cleaner, healthier environment for America and the world.

We Insist on Cleaner Energy Made in America

America’s renewable energy industry has been undermined by mercantilist Chinese policies that undersell U.S. competitors and have resulted in three U.S.-based solar manufacturers closing. China’s supply chain, including its rare earth mines, is not environmentally responsible. U.S. taxpayer dollars should not support foreign-sourced energy products that are developed through anti-competitive policies and from environmentally irresponsible supply chains. Taxpayer dollars should support renewable energy made in America and employing American workers. And the U.S. should

ensure that its renewable energy purchases are based on economics, not political connections – billions of dollars will be flowing through state-level renewable energy standards, those dollars should go to the most efficient provider with the technology that provides the most power for the money.

Nuclear, Natural Gas and Renewable Energy: Made in America

There are good reasons to diversify our energy economy.

Cleaner energy made in America is better for our health. Burning coal and oil results in unhealthy emissions of mercury, arsenic, particulate matter, and ozone precursors that have been linked to respiratory, cardiac, and other diseases. Public health alone is reason enough to invest in cleaner energy and to use energy as efficiently as possible.

Cleaner energy made in America is better for our national security. By developing our own domestically available, cleaner energy sources, like natural gas, nuclear, and renewable energy, we will be less dependent on OPEC and other unfriendly oil exporting regimes.

Cleaner energy made in America is better for our economy. The world is increasingly globalized, and more people are economically competing for scarce energy resources. The country that develops the cleanest, most economical, most independent sources of energy will have a permanent competitive advantage – it will have less pollution, more affordable energy, and more independence. America should be that country.

Cleaner. Here. Now.

We must continue investing in renewable energy that is made in America with American workers and developed from clean supply chains that rely on environmentally responsible mining and manufacturing. We cannot allow China to become the Saudi Arabia of renewable energy. We must stop using scarce taxpayer dollars to support Chinese renewable energy products that rely on irresponsible supply chains and mercantilist, anti-competitive Chinese government policies that breach trade agreements and destroy American jobs.

We know how to build the safest nuclear plants. We must revitalize our nuclear industry and advance nuclear technologies through R&D.

We are blessed with abundant natural gas resources. We must invest in and develop those resources to their fullest extent. Fracking must continue – with best practices, sound regulation, and responsible companies, America has the ability to produce vast amounts of natural gas for our electric generation, manufacturing, home heating, and transportation needs.