

**Mike Sommers**  
2025 State of American Energy Address

Good morning, and thank you for being here.

**Delora Hesuse** is a member of the Navajo Nation. Her family land allotment has been passed down through generations, and it sits atop an oil field that provides for her family.

In 2019, Delora had to go before Congress to argue against a restrictive setback that threatened her livelihood. The setback ignored the economic realities for families who rely on America's natural resources for income and stability.

As a result, Delora has dedicated herself to raising awareness about oil and natural gas, saying: "I believe in giving back and preserving the values that sustain us."

Strong voices like Delora's help clarify the stakes of reversing restrictions on American resource access and embarking on the American Energy Opportunity.

We are honored to have Delora with us today.

I tell this story because energy isn't just about lights, gasoline and cars. It's about our national security, economic resilience and the prosperity of families like Delora's. Smart decisions Washington makes today will shape American families and businesses tomorrow.

At this moment, we stand at a crossroads. What *kind* of energy future do we want for the next generation? One where we lead, or one where we're left behind?

As this election made clear, energy was on the ballot—and American energy won.

From coast to coast, voters embraced a future where American energy thrives—prioritizing our own resources over foreign imports ... empowering consumers to make their own choices about what to drive and how to cook ... streamlining permitting to support big projects ... and ensuring our allies can rely on U.S. energy leadership instead of turning to our adversaries.

As we've seen and heard this morning, the stakes are high.

No opportunity lives forever. History has shown that the pendulum of American politics swings quickly, and we must not waste this moment.

So, America's energy future begins now.

As Winston Churchill urged during some of history's darkest hours – we must take “action this day.”

Let's win the American Energy Opportunity before us.

I am optimistic that a pro-energy Washington will get the job done, for a couple of reasons. First, because the American people demand and deserve nothing less.

That's why API expanded our Five-Point Policy Roadmap after this election to lay the groundwork about how to fully unlock American energy.

The second reason I am optimistic is because the incoming administration and new Congress are focused on capitalizing on America's full energy potential, creating jobs, and reinforcing our nation's leadership on the global stage.

They can do this by rolling back burdensome rules, reinstating pro-energy policies, and ensuring a clear framework that fosters growth and innovation.

We also need to assume agency actions have a short life span, even while we hope it's longer. *Durable* change happens through Congressional action—especially when it's bipartisan.

Leaders in Washington and the states have the chance to deliver on the energy reforms we need. With their support, we can cut through the red tape and chart a lasting path toward U.S. energy leadership.

Today, I look forward to sharing the highlights of API's Five-Point Policy Roadmap, which outlines the critical actions we need to take. Along the way, you'll hear stories from remarkable people—like Delora—who embody the stakes of this moment.

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### **First up, protecting consumer choice.**

In recent years, some in Washington have pushed to give a market advantage to electric vehicles. Instead, we want a future where Americans are free to choose the vehicles that work best for them—not for government.

We believe that we can achieve shared objectives in a way that respects freedom, affordability and practicality.

Mandates shouldn't limit options or strain budgets. Let's ensure consumers can choose the transportation that works for them. It's about ensuring that Americans are free to choose what works, while supporting innovation and energy security.

Take **Kevin Bolland**. He's a dirt track racer from New Brighton, Pennsylvania, with 100-plus wins and a spot in the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame. Kevin loves his work, his community and his machine shop that specializes in engine repair.

While he's not opposed to EVs, he values his ability to choose what fits his business, budget and lifestyle. Kevin has spent his life working with internal combustion engines—from two-strokes to V8s—and his expertise powers not only his racing success, but also the livelihoods of those who depend on his shop. For Kevin and millions of other small business owners, reliable energy and consumer freedom are essential ingredients for success.

Kevin's story reflects the views of millions of Americans who don't want the government telling them what to do. This year, they spoke loud and clear about protecting their right to pick the cars and trucks they love.

Kevin is here today with his brother, Keith. Thank you both for being with us.

Now, it's time for our leaders to act. We're asking the incoming administration to end the mandates that restrict consumer choice on the road.

Second on our policy roadmap: We need to **bolster America's geopolitical strength.**

During the first Trump administration, America achieved a historic milestone by becoming a net-energy exporter.

Yet in the middle of multiple wars in energy-critical regions, and record high global gas demand, one of the most promising opportunities for U.S. leadership was put on hold. The current administration's decision to halt permitting for liquefied natural gas exports created doubt about America's commitment to supporting allies and its global reputation as a reliable trade partner.

American LNG exports have driven job creation, economic growth and environmental benefits. Pausing new projects puts those advantages at risk—not just for the U.S., but for the world.

The LNG pause sets up the incoming Trump administration for one of the easiest policy layups ever—walk in on Day One and hit the “play” button on American LNG again. End the pause, put people to work, and increase our competitive edge against China and Russia.

When it comes to bolstering our geopolitical strength, American trade policy should reflect the importance of maintaining global energy flows, which includes U.S. exports as well as imports. Restoring American competitiveness is a worthy goal. The best way to do it is creating the conditions that enable us to produce energy freely.

The third point on our roadmap is to **leverage our natural resources**.

Last year, the U.S. did not have an offshore lease sale for the first time since 1966. And now, in its final days, the current administration has moved to ban new oil and natural gas development across 625 million acres of federal waters. This unilateral action reverses and ignores decades of bipartisan agreement to leverage our natural resources safely and responsibly.

API urges policymakers to use every tool at their disposal to reverse this politically motivated decision and restore a pro-American energy approach to federal leasing.

We also look forward to a refreshed offshore leasing program that is robust enough to secure America's energy future.



Similarly, we need to resume strong production onshore.

Congress should also repeal EPA's natural gas tax, which imposes costs on consumers and undermines our competitiveness.

The fourth stop on the roadmap is one of the most pressing. Let's work with both parties to **reform our permitting system** once and for all.

Since 2000, the time to move an energy infrastructure project to go from permit to operation has more than doubled.

Many projects take a decade or more to approve—or never happen at all. We tallied the costs from 10 pipelines and other major projects that were canceled because of permitting delays in the past few years, and found \$34 billion in capital expenditures. That's money that could have been channeled into innovation and job creation.

Permitting reform underpins every aspect of our roadmap – it's the foundation of progress. We can have the best-laid plans, the resources and the resolve, yet it means nothing if we can't move from blueprint to construction to operation.

That's why we support reform, which must include judicial reform, as well as changes to the National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act.

It's time to move from rhetoric to action, working with Congress to pass meaningful, bipartisan permitting reform that benefits all Americans.

Finally, our roadmap includes **advancing sensible tax policy**.

In the first Trump administration, the president and Congress worked to pass pro-growth tax reform. They delivered policies like bonus depreciation, which acted as a proven economic booster, creating opportunities to lay thousands of miles of pipeline.

Our industry took it from there—new investment, new innovation, new output and helping America lower its emissions more than any other nation in a generation.

Extending key provisions like bonus depreciation will yield even greater results this time, because they'll be paired with the other policies on our roadmap.

They'll ensure energy investments happen here; not in China.

And they'll ensure that we don't merely *maintain* the 11 million jobs our industry currently supports, but that we add to them for decades to come. API proudly works with partners like North America's Building Trades Unions to ensure these good-paying jobs support American families.

Speaking of family, **Alta Baker** is a small business owner from Louisiana. She builds blast-resistant structures for a range of entities—from providing shelter for the military to protecting Americans overseas. She also partners with the oil and natural gas industry. She credits pro-growth policies with giving her business the stability it needs to thrive.

In fact, Alta told me that API's resources, including more than 800 industry standards and supplier workshops, have strengthened her company's safety training programs and equipped her with valuable tools to compete and win. Today, Alta is preparing to pass her business on to her daughter, Vicki, ensuring that a legacy of hard work and dedication flows to the next generation.

Alta and Vicki are here with us today. Let's give them a round of applause for all they have accomplished and the legacy they are building.

Let's work together to create a tax environment that fosters innovation and secures our energy future for decades to come.

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As we look ahead to Inauguration Day, Alta, Vicki, Kevin and Delora remind us what's at stake. As we take "action this day," let's keep their stories in mind.

Let's protect Kevin's right to choose what car to drive. Let's honor Delora's dedication to preserving the values that sustain her family and her community. Let's maintain a pro-growth tax framework that enables small businesses like Alta and Vicki's to thrive.

And most importantly, let's seize the American Energy Opportunity to deliver the bold leadership our nation demands and deserves.

America's energy future begins now. Together, we have the opportunity to lead it. Thank you.