

Democrat Oil and Gas Tax Policies Harm American Families

Over the last several weeks, my Democratic colleagues in Congress have begun drafting their \$3.5 trillion spending spree that will inflict more crippling inflation and debt upon the American people. Thus far, the budget contains too many horrible proposals to list. Of particular importance to Southern New Mexico, the bill will nickel and dime the oil and gas industry, our districts' largest job creator, off of federal lands and out of most of New Mexico.

The bill increases taxes and fees against energy producers that operate on federal lands. In addition, the bill creates several new taxes and puts additional unnecessary limitations on producers. These proposals would be devastating to New Mexico, as over half of our oil and gas production occurs on federal lands. As a state we compete directly with Texas, whose wealth of private lands are outside the scope of the proposals in this legislation. Why would producers subject themselves to these onerous taxes and fees when they could go a few miles away and be free of them?

The facts are clear: global demand for natural gas is expected to rise by 40% by 2050 and we have the resources right here in New Mexico to rise to the occasion. American-produced energy is made in a cleaner, more efficient, and more environmentally conscious way than anywhere else in the world. It is because of the ingenuity and the innovation of American businesses that the United States has led the world in reducing our CO2 emissions this century.

Instead of allowing U.S. companies to create jobs and power the world on public lands in New Mexico, my Democratic colleagues seem to prefer that Russia, China, and OPEC control the global energy market. This would make

the U.S. less prosperous and less secure, while increasing energy costs for the average American.

This stands in stark contrast to the Trump Administration, when the United States started exporting more energy than it imported for the first time in over a half century and energy prices were at the lowest levels in years. Sadly, because of the policies of the Biden Administration and Democrats in Congress, that progress is being reversed daily.

Becoming reliant on other nations to meet our energy needs poses grave risks to our energy and national security, as well threatening to raise the price of goods and services for consumers. We already have a test case for these failed Democrat policies: California. California has adopted strict requirements on renewable energy usage, subsidized the use of electric vehicles, and virtually eliminated oil and gas production within their state. What has been the result?

The data paints a disturbing picture. California imports more energy than any other state and its residents pay nearly twice as much on their electric bills than the average of the other 49 states. California's citizens see virtually no environmental benefits, ranking 43rd in reducing CO2 emissions and consistently violating federal air quality standards, all while inflicting ever more frequent blackouts on residents.

As Ranking Member Bruce Westerman of the Natural Resources Committee asked when we debated these proposals, "where is the rationale?" The policies our Democratic colleagues seek to impose have a proven track record of harming American families and businesses without providing any environmental benefit. Instead of targeting domestic jobs, I hope my colleagues will choose to confront real adversaries, the true polluters of the world who wish harm upon our nation, not hard-working New Mexicans.