

**Testimony of American Petroleum Institute (API)  
Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer  
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**House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Energy**

***“Powering America’s Future: Unleashing American Energy”  
February 5, 2025***

**Introduction**

Good morning, Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Castor, and members of the subcommittee. My name is Amanda Eversole, and I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy Officer at the American Petroleum Institute (API).

I am honored to be invited by the Committee to discuss the profound opportunity we have, by working together, to build a better energy future for the 340 million Americans across the country.

As many of you know, API is a national trade association representing all segments of America’s oil and natural gas industry. From large integrated companies to small independent operators, 11 million hardworking men and women across all 50 states provide and support the energy that powers every district in this nation.<sup>1</sup>

As an association, we are proud to have developed more than 800 standards that enhance operational safety, environmental protection, and sustainability across 140 countries. In fact, promoting technological, environmental, and regulatory innovations is a driving force for API and our industry to achieve what is most important to all of us – ensuring we have the reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy that tens of millions of hardworking families and businesses need to survive and thrive – now and in the decades ahead.

Or, as API’s “Lights On” energy literacy campaign<sup>2</sup> reminds all of us, oil and gas fuel our economy, secure our future, and keep America moving.

**The Changing Energy Landscape**

Whether it is heating our homes, fueling our cars, powering our small businesses, growing our manufacturing base, or meeting the massive energy demands of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and our military, this dynamic industry is vital to America’s future and is an essential driver of economic growth, national security, and environmental stewardship.

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<sup>1</sup> PwC for API, *“Impacts of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry on the US Economy in 2021,”* available at: <https://www.api.org/-/media/Files/Policy/American-Energy/PwC/2023/API-PWC-Economic-Impact-Report-2023.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://lightsonenergy.org/>

Most importantly, for your constituents and all those whose hard work makes America great, we can all agree that the importance of energy to their lives and livelihoods cannot be overstated.

As we saw in the last election, the American people made their energy priorities clear: they voted for energy that is more affordable, more reliable, and more secure.

They voted for the freedom to make choices about what to drive and how to cook.

They voted for energy policy that keeps costs down and bolsters the economic strength and security of our nation. This energy vision America voted for is one we should all proudly embrace regardless of party or politics.

Now, as we look to the future, this committee and Congress have an incredible opportunity to solidify America's energy leadership for generations to come.

Working together, we can embrace smart regulations and commonsense policies that support energy growth, while continuing our shared commitment to environmental performance and innovation.

We can educate and train the next generation of the energy workforce and build on the millions of workers whose incredible efforts make American energy leadership a reality.<sup>3</sup>

We can build upon the \$2 trillion dollar impact the industry has on the U.S. economy, an amount larger than the GDP of 95% of the countries in the world.<sup>4</sup>

Nationally, the demand for energy is growing exponentially. Globally, with the population expected to reach 10 billion people by 2050, the demand for energy will continue to surge around the world.<sup>5</sup>

We must ensure America remains the world's energy powerhouse. Today we account for 17% of global crude oil production or nearly 13.5 million barrels per day,<sup>6</sup> up from 8% in 2010 – a sea change that has delivered numerous economic and national security benefits.<sup>7</sup>

Yet despite the incredible strength of our industry and people, America's continuing energy leadership is far from guaranteed.

Extreme and inconsistent regulations have threatened everything from home appliances to power generation and exports.

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<sup>3</sup> [API | New Analysis: America's Abundant Natural Gas and Oil Resources Deliver Americans Nearly \\$2 Trillion in Economic, Trade & Job Benefits](#)

<sup>4</sup> [API | New Analysis: America's Abundant Natural Gas and Oil Resources Deliver Americans Nearly \\$2 Trillion in Economic, Trade & Job Benefits](#); <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD>

<sup>5</sup> <https://population.un.org/dataportal/home?df=3c13047c-25cb-4801-ac65-16329227fa1d> (Accessed January 31, 2025)

<sup>6</sup> EIA Crude Oil Production. [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_crd\\_crpdn\\_adc\\_mbbbl\\_m.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_crd_crpdn_adc_mbbbl_m.htm)

<sup>7</sup> EIA STEO <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/> (Accessed January 20, 2025)

Ineffective policies from the last Administration put investment at risk and ignored the reality that hundreds of billions of dollars in capital are required every year just to sustain U.S. production at current levels.

To address these challenges, API released its *Five Point Policy Roadmap to Secure American Energy Leadership*.<sup>8</sup>

### **API's Five Point Roadmap: Securing American Energy Leadership**

API's comprehensive energy plan, released this fall, outlines **five key principles** and more than 20 specific policy recommendations to enhance and empower American energy leadership:

1. **Protecting Consumer Choice:** Our roadmap prioritizes policies that enable market-driven solutions, foster innovation, and ensure a stable and efficient energy supply chain. We must avoid policies that restrict energy sources or impose unnecessary mandates that threaten to raise costs for families and businesses.
2. **Bolstering our Geopolitical Strength:** Energy security is national security. We can leverage our energy resources to strengthen our position on the global stage, support our allies, and reduce dependence on foreign adversaries. Lifting the LNG export pause was a major step in reaffirming the United States as a reliable trading partner and cornerstone of global energy security. It also helps to stabilize global markets and curb reliance on higher-emitting alternatives.
3. **Leveraging our Natural Resources:** Ensuring access to America's vast energy resources is critical to maintaining energy security, affordability, and economic growth. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the U.S. possesses over 48 billion barrels of crude oil reserves and more than 690 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves,<sup>9</sup> yet unnecessary restrictions on federal lands and waters and punitive policies like the Biden Administration's methane fee limit our ability to fully harness these vast reserves. A fair regulatory environment and predictable and transparent leasing is essential to encouraging long-term investment in domestic energy production.
4. **Reforming our Permitting System:** An outdated and cumbersome permitting process hinders investment in meeting the needs of consumers. On average, it takes longer to permit an energy infrastructure project than it does to obtain a college degree. It does not have to be this way. API advocates for comprehensive permitting reform that improves predictability, reduces delays, and allows for the rapid deployment of energy infrastructure. A more efficient permitting system will help unlock billions in private investment, create jobs, and ensure that the U.S. has the pipeline capacity needed to meet growing demand for energy and allow us to win the critical AI race. Specifically, we need Congress to act to prevent statutes like NEPA and the Clean Water Act from being weaponized in the courts by opponents of U.S. energy development.
5. **Advancing Sensible Tax Policy:** A stable and globally competitive tax environment is essential for sustained investment in energy production, infrastructure, and technological advancements. Unnecessary tax burdens on the industry stifle growth, discourage new projects, and ultimately harm consumers. API supports policies that foster economic growth, encourage reinvestment in energy development, and ensure that tax structures align with long-term energy security and

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<sup>8</sup> <https://lightsonenergy.org/roadmap/>

<sup>9</sup> EIA U.S. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Proved Reserves, Year-end 2022. <https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/crudeoilreserves/>

environmental sustainability goals. This includes smart, commonsense legislation like the recently reintroduced Promoting Domestic Energy Production Act and ALIGN Act.

On behalf of our 11 million workers, we thank President Trump for his day one executive orders aimed at achieving American energy dominance – including *lifting the LNG pause, rescinding misguided vehicle mandates, restoring access to federal waters for oil and gas development that were hastily and improperly blocked by the previous administration* – that tackle many of the issues in our roadmap.

To remain on the path for long-term American energy leadership, API's 5-Point Policy Roadmap provides a detailed plan that Congress and the executive branch should consider in order to secure our nation's energy future.

### **America's Model: Energy Leadership**

This roadmap is not only a pragmatic and proven vision – it is also complemented by a continuing commitment to safety, as well as environmental and technological innovation.

As an industry, we remain focused on cutting emissions responsibly from our own operations through improved practices and technology. This responsible focus has paid dividends – since 2015, the methane intensity of U.S. oil and gas production has plummeted 60%, even as production increased 50%.<sup>10</sup>

We also continue to expand the role of U.S. natural gas in displacing higher-emitting fuels, both at home and abroad. The switch from coal to natural gas has been the largest contributor to U.S. carbon emissions falling to generational lows, and our LNG industry allows us to export that environmental success story. With global coal demand at record highs, this winning recipe can deliver rapid emissions reductions.

Whether it is overcoming the challenges we face, executing on America's energy leadership roadmap, building upon the progress our industry has already achieved, or ensuring a stable policy environment that encourages investment rather than one that needlessly restricts access to resources or imposes unnecessary burdens, it is essential we embrace the opportunity for smart, predictable, and commonsense energy policies.

### **Conclusion**

The era ahead is filled with great opportunity – if we seize it. America must rise to meet the energy challenges of the future with boldness and conviction. It has never been more vital that the U.S. control our energy future, and oil and gas are the bedrock of the strong and resilient economy that the American people expect and deserve. This committee and this Congress have an incredible opportunity to pass meaningful legislation that will move our country forward and secure our energy future.

We look forward to working with Congress, the Administration, industry partners, stakeholders, and communities to build upon President Trump's executive orders and turn this energy opportunity into reality –

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<sup>10</sup> EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

a reality that ensures that American-produced energy continues to meet the needs of our country and the world – reliably, affordably, and responsibly.

For the benefit of all Americans, let's seize this profound opportunity to secure a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous energy future.

Mr. Chairman, Madam Ranking Member and distinguished members of the Committee, this concludes my prepared statement. Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.