



CONGRESSMAN DOUG LAMALFA SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 1st DISTRICT

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America's Energy Independence

It's no secret that American oil and gas production is under attack by the Biden Administration and bureaucrats in Washington. This is evident from freezes on pending oil and gas leases, cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline, and regulatory assault on U.S. energy development. The result of these Democrat policies was inevitable and obvious. Higher energy prices have eaten into the budget of every American. As soon as the President was sworn in and the slew of executive orders began, 2+ years later we have seen no relief on that front. In their blind crusade to force the climate change agenda onto America, this Administration has artificially driven energy prices through the roof. Needlessly high fuel and electricity costs have cascade effects throughout the economy that cause price increases for goods and services across the board. Until the Administration reverses course and allows us to enact policies that increase the supply of energy, these lingering high prices will continue to burden Americans. We in rural America understand that energy production is the foundation for our way of life and provides for the economic and energy security of America. While I don't think that our nation moving towards 100% carbon-neutral energy is necessary, realistic, or feasible, I strongly believe that the only way to strengthen our energy independence and equip the rural energy industry is to embrace the multitude of energy sources available to us. Oil, natural gas, biomass, hydropower, solar, coal, and nuclear energy all have their purpose and their place in our nation and our economy. Pursuing "all of the above" at once will increase the supply of energy and help bring prices back into line.



American Conservation Coalition's 2023 Summit in
Salt Lake City, Utah

Last week I joined my colleagues in the Congressional Western Caucus in Salt Lake City, Utah, where we explored Utah's mineral potential. I participated in a panel discussion at the American Conservation Coalition's 2023 Summit to discuss conservation efforts in Congress as well as House

Republicans' legislative agenda on domestic energy production. Over 200 young Americans were in attendance to ask questions, and I spoke at length on the importance of expanding and modernizing nuclear energy. Despite producing half of our nation's carbon-free power generation – something Democrats say they love to strive for – nuclear isn't being promoted or supported as a serious alternative energy source. As this administration pushes us towards "green" energy and strict carbon and environmental regulations, just one nuclear reactor has started construction in the United States in the past three decades. California's sole nuclear power plant provides nearly 10% of California's entire energy portfolio, yet it's has faced years of threats of closure. Nuclear power is one of the lowest cost methods of power generation once it is up and running, at just 3-5 cents per kilowatt hour. Waste from nuclear powerplants, contrary to popular misconceptions, is also minimal and easy to store. Operating and generation costs are far lower than power plants that use other sources of energy. U.S. nuclear energy should not be judged in comparison to places like Chernobyl. Ultimately, we have the science, the innovation, and the drive to continue advancing this technology and always improving safety measures to further reduce risk.

Next, we toured the Kennecott Copper Mine, one of the largest man-made open pit mines in the world. The mine produces 1% of the world's copper supply, an essential element in today's infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology sector. As the world economy grows, the world demand for copper will grow with it. American demand for copper is expected to increase dramatically in the near future, but due to our outdated and overly complicated permitting process, we're relying on foreign suppliers such as China and South America for our copper needs. There is no reason why America should be dependent on

foreign strip mining and forced labor for its energy needs when we have plenty of sources of energy here at home. Especially with the government demands to force electric cars, trucks, stoves, etc. on consumers, the amount of new minerals needing to be sourced and mined will be exponential compared to current production. American jobs, American capital, and American ingenuity are perfectly capable of harnessing our abundant natural resources while already having the strictest environmental standards in the world. More projects like Kennecott will be necessary to strengthen America's position as a world mineral and energy powerhouse.

Sincerely,



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