



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

AN ENERGY PLAN FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

ISSUE

The demands of a growing population and a growing economy will require significant new sources of energy in the years to come. Estimates are that by the year 2030 we will need a staggering 30 percent more energy to meet the needs of our domestic economy.

A robust, diverse and innovative approach to energy development is essential to our economic security. This will require expanded domestic production, transmission, and distribution of all energy sources – including coal, natural gas, petroleum, nuclear, hydropower, renewables, and biomass – as well as a new effort to modernize the infrastructure for energy delivery.

Approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, linking oil sands production in Canada to refineries in Texas, together with an expanded effort to tap oil and gas resources from offshore and federal lands, will enhance access to these vital commodities from safe and reliable sources. Support for natural gas as an energy resource provides a unique opportunity for the livelihood of the country's economy, environment, and energy security. Natural gas provides a competitive advantage for American businesses and is 50% cleaner than other fossil fuels, contributing significantly to the reduction in CO2 emissions. Natural gas also provides the energy security our country has not seen in years. The United States will be able to rely on domestic U.S. energy resources from shale gas development instead of imports from the Middle East and throughout the world.

Any comprehensive energy plan must include renewable energy. After extending last year the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind for one year, Congress is facing the expiration of the PTC for wind, biomass, hydroelectric, and geothermal renewable sources at the end of this year. Continuation of PTCs encourages continued development and expansion of renewable energy sources, enhancing energy security while also creating hundreds of thousands of jobs among industries, including America's engineering industry, that serve this important sector. A failure to extend PTCs will lead to job loss and hurt the nation's competitiveness in the years to come.

KEY POINTS

- The nation's energy security requires an "all of the above" strategy that expands the domestic production of both fossil fuels and renewable energy.
- By offsetting the cost of developing and delivering wind, hydropower, geothermal, and other renewable energy, the production tax credit is critical to continuing the diversification of America's domestic energy supply.

ACTION REQUESTED

- Support H.R. 3 and S. 582 for the construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline, as well as expanded domestic production of all energy sources.
- Support forthcoming legislation to extend the production tax credit for renewable energy sources.