

national security. The 2019 Index of U.S. Energy Security Risk, a report funded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, found that U.S. energy security risk fell by 2 percent to their lowest level since 1995.<sup>37</sup> Energy security risk is mitigated by our access to affordable and abundant natural resources for the energy consumption vital to our national security and position in the global marketplace. The more energy self-sufficient our country is, the less we must rely on foreign countries for energy, jobs and other economic factors.

## FUELS OUR FUTURE

Renewable energy such as wind, solar and hydro will play a crucial role in powering our future; however, these sources have a long way to go before they can provide enough energy to sustain our needs due to their unreliable nature. As noted above, solar and wind power currently depend on the sun shining and the wind blowing. Due to their flexibility, reliability and affordability, fossil fuels are vital in providing adequate fuel whenever needed and in any weather. Renewable energy sources must currently be supported by fuel such as clean-burning natural gas to ensure our energy supply remains reliable.

With the advances in technology and the ongoing efforts to produce abundant, affordable, domestic and environmentally sensitive fuel, the future of fossil fuels' role in the energy industry is promising. In contrast, imagine our civilization without fossil fuels: daily life would be much more burdensome and far less enjoyable, as most of the modern-day necessities and luxuries we take advantage of would not exist – or would be out of reach for the vast majority of our citizens. The bulk of our leisure time would be spent fulfilling basic household duties like producing sufficient heat, light and food. Thankfully, this is not our reality, nor will it be our future as long as discoveries and improvements in the industry continue. We are fortunate indeed that coal, oil and natural gas fueled our history, continue to fuel our present and will fuel our future for many years to come.

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<sup>37</sup> [https://www.globalenergyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/023819\\_gei\\_us-esri-2019.pdf](https://www.globalenergyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/023819_gei_us-esri-2019.pdf)