



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Praised the Recent Improvements Made to Energy Policy

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hello, everyone. Congressman Tom Emmer here. This week, I want to talk a little about energy. More specifically, about the great strides we've made in this country when it comes to energy recently. A good and strong energy policy is vital to the success of our nation and especially to our great state of Minnesota. In the harshest of winters, Minnesota families must be able to heat their homes and businesses and fuel their cars without breaking the bank. This is why we've long said that the best energy policy is an all-of-the-above energy policy. Unfortunately, the last administration didn't have the same stance. In fact, they seemed to do everything they possibly could to promote and implement policies to put up roadblocks on our path to energy independence, often with overwhelming consequences for families across America. Thankfully, President Trump has chosen a more pragmatic approach to energy, one that encompasses many different resources and strategies to meet our nation's energy needs. In fact, just this week, President Trump issued an executive order that will reduce unnecessary regulation enacted by the Obama administration and regulations that have hindered energy production and job creation. This executive order will reexamine the harmful Clean Power Plan, a plan that has benefited few, if any, while leaving the potential to crush entire economies and industries, all without sound environmental benefits. The president's executive order will also eradicate the restrictions on the production of oil, natural gas, coal and shale, and perhaps most importantly, it will return power back to where it belongs, the states. Additionally, last Friday, President Trump officially approved the permits for construction of the Keystone Pipeline, long overdue. This pipeline will bring jobs to our state and lower energy costs to everyday Minnesotans, in addition to advancing our efforts to become a more energy-independent nation. All of the progress made these past few weeks is great news for Minnesota because our state is an energy superpower. That's why growth and innovation in the energy field must be fostered, not stifled, and the time to do so is now. I'm happy to see that this much-needed progress is already underway in Minnesota. As many of you know, Minnesota's 6th District is currently home to the Sherco Coal Plant in Becker. Currently, this plant is set to retire two units in 2026 due to the Clean Power Plan and efforts to continue to reduce carbon emissions, an area Minnesota has already been successful in, with an overall reduction of 14 percent in less than 10 years. The central Minnesota community would have suffered large losses from the retirement of these units had it not been for the recent passing of a bill in the state legislature which will turn the coal plant into a natural gas operation. Not only will the Sherco conversion to natural gas bring jobs to our area, it will also provide our community with affordable and responsible energy options. While a lot has already been accomplished both in the state and nationwide, we still have a lot of work to do, and I'm looking forward to working with my fellow legislators in the Trump administration to continue pushing forward quality energy options. Thanks for listening, and have a great rest of your week.



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