



ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Message from the

President



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*Illinois Chamber of
Commerce*

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Nothing is more fundamental to a healthy economy than the availability of reliable energy. Energy is needed in every home, every business, every school, and every hospital. It puts food on the table for 135 million families in the US; satellites in orbit to help you navigate home; and delivers vital medical relief to developing countries. The availability of affordable energy permeates every aspect of our economy and our lives.

Satisfying our growing energy demands will take a diversity of production sources - from oil and natural gas to wind and solar - and require an expansion of energy infrastructure. As our needs grow, so must our ability to move energy from where it is produced to where it is needed. That means more transmission lines to deliver energy from all generation sources and more pipelines to deliver oil and natural gas. We depend on plentiful and affordable energy. For now, that means a broad mix of sources and a variety of distribution methods to get it there.

Despite this, there is a growing opposition to energy infrastructure and sources. Even renewables like wind turbines have their detractors. Rogue activists who believe physically attacking key energy

infrastructure benefits their cause fail to realize their activities often make things much worse. Arson and equipment tampering isn't making a statement, it's violence in the name of the environment - and it's potentially life-threatening to the communities, ecosystem, and larger economy that relies on the safe transportation of energy. These "solutions" are irrational and counterproductive. Instead, they value the use of extreme and dangerous means to make a political point, which simultaneously posing great harm to the environment, the public, and our economy.

Traditional energy sources aren't going away anytime soon, and they can't. Unless a major technological shift happens overnight, we are going to be using all types of energy for a very long period of time. We are lowering our carbon footprint, and new technologies help us do that. But they need to be deployed in a way that doesn't disrupt our ability to live longer, healthier lives. Simply put, the more access we have to affordable energy, the more opportunities we as a society have to advance ourselves, grow our economy and care for our planet.

The pipeline industry in particular has garnered a lot of negative attention lately. What opponents don't realize, or refuse to accept, is that we need to move forward for our country's energy security. Pipelines and the broader fossil fuel community have provided our country with reliable and low-cost energy for decades, and we still need them. And throughout its history, it's become progressively safer and more environmentally responsible. That's accomplished from a dedication by many in the industry to move forward and

continue producing energy responsibly, while also contributing significant economic impacts to our communities.

Let's not diminish the technological advances that have made our economy more energy efficient, but let's also not be naïve that these technologies are capable of supporting our existing energy needs in the same way as a broad energy mix that includes renewables, fossil fuels and nuclear do today. If we want our economy and society to hum along, we need to come to grips with the fact that energy doesn't just magically appear. It has to travel on transmission lines, pipelines, boats, trains and trucks. And efforts to stop every energy infrastructure project aren't good policy - they're just plain unrealistic.

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