



Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association

**THE VOICE OF THE KANSAS
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM INDUSTRY**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

**A CONSEQUENTIAL MOMENT IS
AT HAND**

Climate Activists Feed Off Fear

09

KIOGA Annual
Convention & Expo 2024 Recap

18

Opportunities Arise from
Addressing Critical Issues

37



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DANA WREATH
KIOGA CHAIR

ENERGY FUTURE AT CROSSROAD IN 2024 ELECTIONS

We have now completed another excellent annual convention, which was a great success—our 87th.

This year, there were nearly 750 attendees and 70 Trade Show exhibitors. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to President Ed Cross, Justin Yardley, Convention Chairman Dylan Klaus, and the rest of the the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA) staff and volunteers for all their hard work and long hours in making this a fun and successful convention. In addition, on behalf of KIOGA, I want to express our gratitude to all of the convention sponsors, trade show participants, and hospitality suite hosts for their major contribution to the success of this year's convention. Finally, thank you to all the attendees because your participation matters.

This year, we had very good attendance from Kansas political leaders. We had an excellent morning session with Sen. Roger Marshall and Reps. Ron Estes and Tracey Mann concerning federal policy matters. In addition, we had in attendance at this year's convention 16 Kansas state Senators, 46 Kansas House Representatives, and congress-

sional candidates Derek Schmidt and Prasanth Reddy. We appreciate their willingness to commit time and energy to attend the KIOGA annual convention.

As we are all very much aware, it is election season. Many times, we focus our attention on national races, which garner the big news stories. However, most of the time, it's the local and state elections that directly affect our businesses. Kansas House and Senate elections matter a great deal and will determine how the inevitable issues that arise in Topeka play out. Key policymakers in Topeka will have a number of important topics to consider this next legislative session affecting Kansas oil and gas, including costs and rights of way for electric transmission lines and transmission corridors, the continued growth of intermittent power generation from wind and solar farms, regulation of electric rates, and ensuring Kansas electric consumers are not paying for increased costs without benefit to those same consumers. Most years, there are proposals and/or even bills that would act to damage the oil and gas industry in Kansas, with resultant loss of jobs.

Kansas oil and gas production is critical to the economy of large parts of the state. Many of these rural areas are experiencing population loss and definitely need oil and gas jobs to maintain their communities. Our political leaders need to know who pays taxes

and provides the incomes that are spent in those same local communities. In 2023, the Kansas oil and gas industry paid \$137 million in ad valorem taxes to local, mostly rural, counties, which goes directly to fund local needs, like schools. Oil and gas jobs are also primary jobs that create wealth in the community, not just recirculating dollars that are already there. Some years ago, a local family in my hometown, Belleville, Kansas, decided to open a nice restaurant. Despite being a good restaurant, it was unable to stay open because there were not enough people and not enough money in the local community. That's an example of secondary jobs not being able to sustain without enough primary income in the community. You can't recirculate dollars that are not already there, which is why oil and gas jobs are so important to local communities and to the state of Kansas—and why state and local elections matter so much to ensure those jobs remain viable.

By the time you receive this newsletter, elections should be close at hand. We need to encourage everyone to please vote. It's easy to complain about the government, but if you don't vote, you are missing the opportunity to make your voice heard. ❧

Dana Wreath

KIOGA Chair

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EDWARD CROSS
KIOGA PRESIDENT

A CONSEQUENTIAL MOMENT IS **AT HAND**

A Message from your KIOGA President, Edward Cross

We stand at a critical juncture in the life of our nation and our state. We face what could be a very consequential election cycle.

Due to political agendas targeting oil and natural gas production, federal and state debates over taxes, regulatory issues, and energy policy often put the oil and gas industry in the crosshairs. In addition, activist groups across the nation continue to work to obstruct energy development under a false belief that oil and gas production and use are incompatible with environmental progress.

The most pressing issues facing the U.S. economy in the foreseeable future are not those arising from climate change or an energy transition. Rather, the fac-

tors to watch are inflation, rising energy costs, and national security threats. The Biden/Harris administration is too focused on climate change to anticipate or deter these significant real threats.

Increasing taxes and regulations results in fewer jobs because businesses spend their resources on tax burdens and regulatory compliance instead of job creation. When tax expenditures and regulatory costs increase more than the real economy, the results are destructive to economic growth. The wrong governmental policy framework generates the wrong policy, and this is what we are seeing with Biden/Harris energy policies.

That's not only bad politics; it's bad policy and an example of what happens when political orthodoxy drives energy policy.

As we think about energy policy this election season, we should listen to American voters on the direction of our nation's energy policy. Recent polling conducted by *Morning Consult* of voters in seven "battleground states" (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin) demonstrates widespread support for policies that encourage domestic oil and natural gas production and limit reliance on foreign sources. The poll shows nine out of 10 voters are concerned about inflation; eight out of 10 voters agree that producing more oil and natural gas here in the U.S. could help lower energy and utility costs for American consumers; and three out of four voters oppose government mandates that restrict consumer choice, including banning new gasoline, diesel, and hybrid vehicles.



While the U.S. continues to lead the world in energy production, it's clear the American people see that misguided policy choices today can sow the seeds of tomorrow's energy crisis. Whether it's partisan decisions to restrict American natural gas as a source of strength around the world and good-paying jobs here at home or regulatory plans to dictate the type of cars consumers can drive—voters on both sides of the aisle know we are on the wrong path on energy policy. With much at stake for our economy and national security, it's time for Washington to change course and forge a bipartisan path that embraces all reliable and affordable American energy.

The upcoming elections could be a very consequential moment for our future. In a political climate rife with hyperbolic



**“ AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY IS NOT
A REPUBLICAN ISSUE OR
A DEMOCRAT ISSUE. IT IS AN AMERICAN
PROSPERITY AND LEADERSHIP ISSUE.”**

rhetoric, unsubstantiated claims, and naïve pleas to keep oil and natural gas in the ground, calling oil the “fuel of the past,” the choices for the American people are becoming clear.

At a time when energy and the economy are two of the most important issues facing everyday citizens, Americans are beginning to realize that we need to build on America's energy progress—delivering affordable and reliable energy to all Americans while also leading the world in emission reductions. The way the American people decide to face our future energy challenges may be one of the most important events in the 21st century.

American energy policy is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It is an American prosperity and leadership issue. The American people want, expect, and deserve elected leaders who will place what's best for our state and nation's economy and energy future above partisan ideology and political posturing.

As we look ahead to November's elections and beyond, KIOGA will continue our forward-looking energy policy advocacy efforts to spur more pro-energy policies and work to keep energy policy discussions focused on facts and reality, not political ideology and hyperbole.

Every stakeholder in the U.S. economy should mobilize in defense of energy independence. How effectively we mobilize between now and the election will largely determine whether the U.S. and our allies are a beacon for energy independence and wealth or are relegated to energy dependence and poverty.

Future generations are looking to us to get our nation's energy policy right. They are counting on us to leave them a country that is second to none in energy production, security, and economic prosperity. ✎

Edward P. Cross

KIOGA President

An Energy Transition that ISN'T HAPPENING

Despite extravagant hype, the green-energy transition from fossil fuels isn't happening. Achieving a meaningful shift with current policies is too costly. We need to change policy direction entirely.

Globally, nearly \$2 trillion was spent in 2023 to try to force an energy transition. Over the past decade, solar and wind energy use has soared to record levels. But that hasn't reduced fossil-fuel use, which increased even more over the same period. Studies show that when countries add more

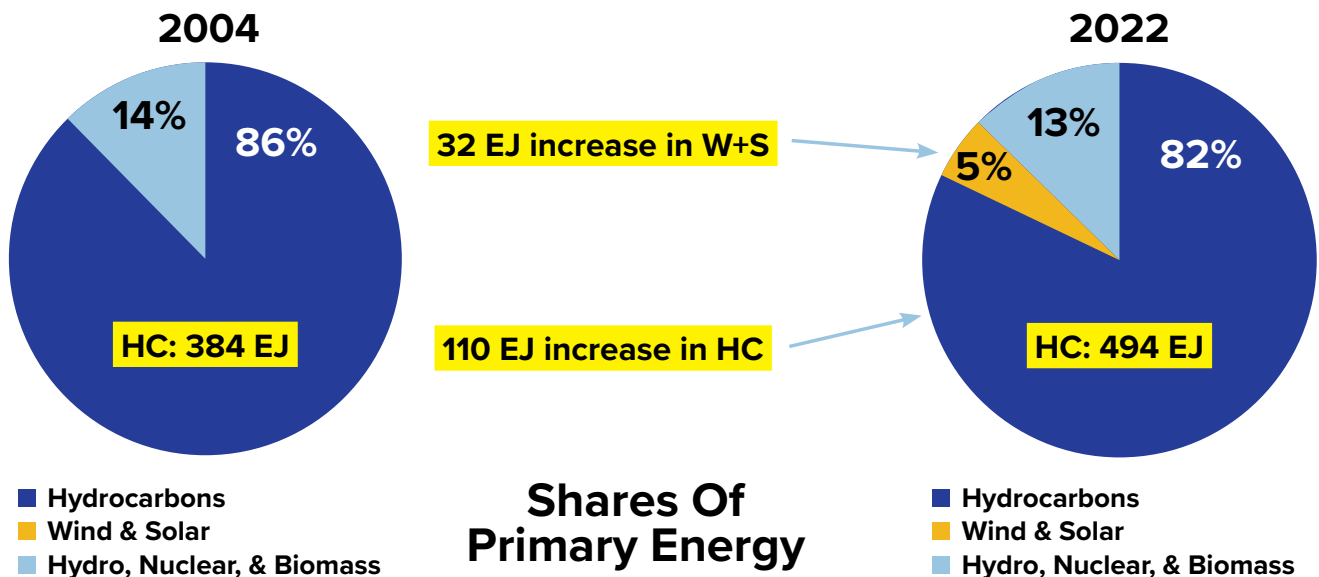
renewable energy, they do little to replace coal, gas, or oil. It simply adds to energy consumption. Recent research shows that for every six units of green energy, less than one unit displaces fossil-fuel energy.

Studies show that while renewable energy sources worldwide will dramatically increase by 2050, that won't be enough even to begin replacing fossil fuels. Oil, natural gas, and coal will all keep increasing, too. In the past 50 years, oil and coal energy use has doubled, hydropower has tripled, and natural gas has

quadrupled. The use of nuclear, solar, and wind power has surged.

The current plan underpinning the green-energy transition mostly insists that pushing heavily subsidized renewables will magically make fossil fuels disappear. But such expectations are "misleading," as a 2019 academic study concluded. During past additions of a new energy source, the researchers found, it has been "entirely unprecedented for these additions to cause a sustained decline in the use of established energy sources." ❧

From 2004 to 2022, Global Spending On Wind+Solar Totaled \$4.1 Trillion, Yet Hydrocarbon Use Increased 3.4x Faster



Source: Statistical Review, BNEF

© Robert Bryce



Climate Activists FEED OFF FEAR



Governor Kelly Makes National Petroleum Day PROCLAMATION

In the wake of widespread fears of climate change, an entirely new field of psychotherapy has sprung up to treat what is being called “climate anxiety.” Climate-aware therapists are specialists who treat people whose anxiety about climate change interferes with their enjoyment of life. These specialists are now available in major cities across the U.S.

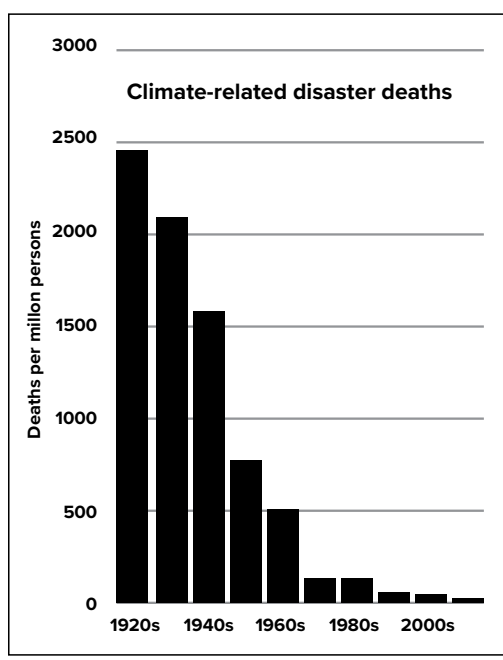
The degree to which climate change will pose risks to people in the future is far from certain, and the human race is, today, safer from climate than it was 100 years ago. The number of deaths

from climate-related natural disasters has fallen by 99% since 1920.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has five emissions scenarios with and without policies to mitigate them. Under every scenario, the human race is, to one degree or another, better off economically in 100 years than it is today.

Despite these facts, many people, especially young people, are experiencing serious anxiety over climate change. A 2021 Lancet survey of 10,000 people aged 16–25 years old, found that 59% were very or extremely worried and 84% were at least moderately worried.

National Petroleum Day took place on August 27. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness about industry issues and to recognize the importance and effect of petroleum resources in our lives. It is a day to honor this priceless natural resource and the great amount of good it has done for humanity, national wealth, and our lives in the 21st century.



Dr. Matt Wielicki, former assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Alabama and publisher of “*Irrational Fear*,” said that as a professor, he became concerned about the narrative on climate change when he saw the distress many of his students were experiencing over what they believed about global warming. “I think this is the first generation where they’ve been told their whole lives that the planet is on its way to ending at some point in their lifetime, civilization is going to collapse, and the food supply will be destroyed,” Wielicki said. ❧



KIOGA President Edward Cross asked Kansas Governor Laura Kelly to make a *National Petroleum Day* proclamation for the state of Kansas. Governor Kelly’s staff asked Cross to prepare language for a proclamation. Cross did and submitted it to the Governor for her consideration in July. Governor Kelly accepted the language and made the proclamation on August 17. ❧

KIOGA 2024 Annual Convention & Expo—Exceeding Expectations! Leading Oil & Gas Event in Kansas!



Nearly 710 participants from oil and gas exploration and production companies, service/supply companies, financial institutions, and government agencies converged on Wichita for the KIOGA 87th Annual Convention and Expo held August 18–20, 2024, at the **Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center**. The event drew 77 sponsors, six hospitality suites, and 71 booths that filled the exhibitor hall for a well-attended event.



The theme for the KIOGA 2024 Annual Convention & Expo was **Tune In to Energy Issues**. Many legislators, government officials, dignitaries, and business leaders from around the state and

nation joined in the convention, including members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation U.S. Sen. **Roger Marshall**, U.S. Rep. **Ron Estes**, U.S. Congressman **Tracey Mann**, and staff from the office of U.S. Sen. **Jerry Moran**. In addition, several Republican and Democrat leaders

of the Kansas Legislature attended, including Kansas Senate President **Ty Masterson**, Kansas Senate Majority Leader **Larry Alley**, Kansas Senate Assistant Majority Leader **Renee Erickson**, Kansas Senate Assistant Minority Leader **Oletha Faust-Goudeau**, Kansas Senate Minority Agenda Chair **Marci Francisco**, Kansas House Speaker **Dan Hawkins**, Kansas House Majority Leader **Chris Croft**, Kansas House Speaker Pro Tem **Blake Carpenter**, and Kansas House Ranking Minority Leader **John Carmichael**. The convention also saw several other dignitaries attend and engage, including Kansas State Treasurer **Steven Johnson**, KCC Commissioner **Dwight Keen**, KDHE Deputy Secretary of Environment **Leo Henning**, U.S. House District 2 candidate **Derek Schmidt**, and U.S. House District 3 candidate **Prasanth Reddy**. In addition, **16 Kansas State Senators**, **46 Kansas State Representatives**, 33 state agency officials, and other special guests joined in the convention.

Reviews and comments from the convention attendees were very positive, including:

- “In my 20-plus-year involvement with KIOGA, this was one of the best conventions I have attended. Well done!”
- “I just wanted to drop you a note letting you know how great I thought the convention was. Thank you! Great speakers, food, drinks, space ... everything. Thanks for all you and your team do to make this one of the best conventions I have attended.”

The Chairman’s welcome reception kicked off the convention, where the

group was entertained by the music of the **William Flynn Trio**. The KIOGA



Convention Committee, led by **Dylan Klaus**, once again developed an outstanding program offering excellent speakers, a wide variety of exhibitors, and entertainment. Convention Coordinator **Justin Yardley** did an outstanding job organizing the logistics. Yardley was also helped by **Lindsey Goodwin**, **Cynthia Clugston**, **Julie Allen**, **Kara Unruh**, **Makayla Luce**, and **Michele Cross**. A great deal of teamwork made this year’s convention run smoothly. Convention participants were able to share ideas, network with peers, participate in thought-provoking sessions, and hear updates on KIOGA’s association activities.


Keynote Speaker—Jason Isaac



Convention attendees heard a phenomenal keynote address from **Ja-**

son Isaac during the luncheon plenary session on August 19. Isaac (the Carbon King) is the Founder and CEO of the American Energy Institute and a Distinguished Fellow for Life: Powered at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. He has appeared live on Fox News, Fox Business, CNN, and other national news shows, and his commentaries have been published in Fox Business,

The Hill, The Washington Examiner, The Daily Caller, and more.

 The American Energy Institute represents energy producers across the U.S., all with one united goal: spreading the message of abundant, reliable, and affordable energy to help Americans live longer and better. The American Energy Institute exists to inform the national discussion about energy and the environment, as well as advocate for policies that promote economic freedom and advance the human condition.

Convention saw over **73 booths** participate in the trade show expo. We



want to extend a special thanks to our exhibitors who made the 2024 KIOGA Annual Convention trade show a resounding success!



Technical Sessions

The breakout technical presentations



made during the convention were well-attended. One of the morning technical sessions saw

nearly 200 folks listen to a forum with members of the Kansas Congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. **Dr. Roger Marshall**, Kansas Congressman Ron Estes, and Kansas Congressman **Tracey Mann**. The forum titled “**The Changing Face of Energy Policy**” was moderated by KIOGA President Edward Cross.



“Elections have consequences,” said Senator Marshall. U.S. Rep. Ron Estes and Tracey Mann agreed, saying, “This year’s elections also will have long-term implications.” The panelists spent about 1 ½ hours discussing energy policy

issues, providing insights, and answering questions from the audience.

A concurrent morning session examined



the new EPA oil and gas methane rule and what the coalition of oil and gas associations is doing going forward. The session titled **All Things Methane** was presented

by **James D. Elliott** of Spilman Thomas & Battle (a lead attorney representing 22 oil and gas associations, including KIOGA, in a legal challenge of the new EPA oil and gas rule). While Mr. Elliott ran into travel delays and was not able to deliver his presentation in person, we were able to arrange a Zoom presentation where he delivered the presentation live via Zoom.

The afternoon technical session saw



the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) present their new oil and

gas mapper scheduled to go live this fall. **Ken Nelson** (Associate Director for GIS & IT at the Kansas Geological Survey) and **Katy Bream** (Senior Data and Information Manager at the Kansas Geological Survey) provided a very insightful discussion of the reason behind the upgrade, explored new look and features available, and discussed the rollout plan/impacts to workflow in a presentation titled **Navigating the New KGS Oil and Gas Mapper**.

Entertainment

“**The Hunt for Oil Party!**” was the theme for the evening entertainment function. Convention

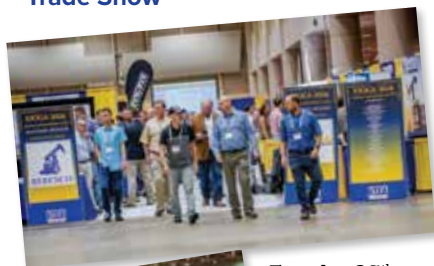


attendees enjoyed the food stations with abundant cuisine and music. Lots



Isaac provided a compelling presentation titled **Questioning Your High Carbon Lifestyle—Messaging Matters**. He separated the rhetoric from reality on energy, explaining that affordable and reliable energy is the driving force behind economic prosperity. Isaac explained how America is a world leader in environmental quality and is uniquely positioned to promote human flourishing and fight poverty in our communities and around the world.

Trade Show



For the 25th year, we were excited to host our two-day trade show. The 2024 KIOGA



of activities kept convention attendees entertained with archery, a cork gun gallery, a hunting lodge, a campsite, blinds, and more.

**Golf - Sporting Clays -
Bingo - Spouse Auxiliary Events**

The Annual KIOGA Golf Tournament hosted 114 golfers and was held at Crestview Country Club using both the North and South Courses. Thanks goes to the golf committee, which did an outstanding job organizing the golf event. The golf committee includes **Taylor Salome, Taylor Hess, Bobby Patton, Mike Massaglia, and Rusty Mourning.**

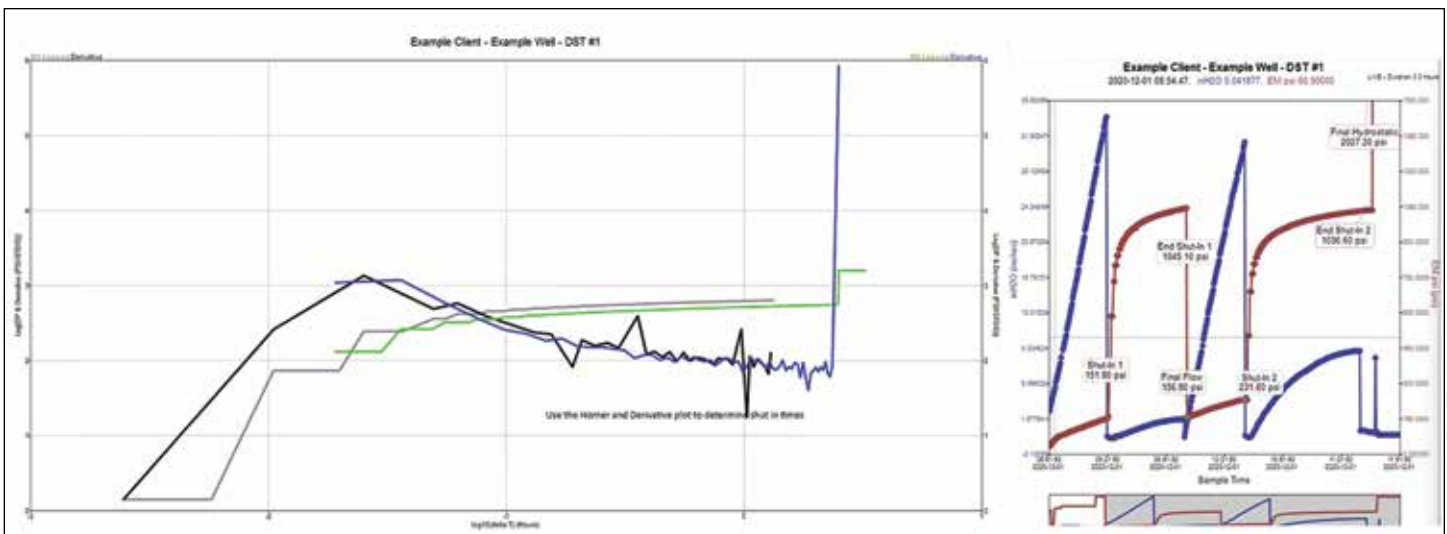
The KIOGA Sporting Clays Tournament saw 49 shooters participate in a well-attended event. Thanks goes to the Sporting Clays Tournament Committee—**Doug Louis** and **Preston Doll**—who did an outstanding job organizing the sporting clays event.

Finally, Bingo saw 23 participants enjoy a Bingo event. Thanks to **Lindsey Goodwin** for organizing the Bingo event.

The Spouse Auxiliary Event saw participants showcase small local businesses in Wichita. The group toured the *Hyatt Regency* and the *Historical Museum*, enjoyed a lunch at the *Ninth Floor*, and

toured *Simply Sangria* and the *Cheesecake Factory*. Participants also received gift bags. A special thanks to **Lona Ratliff**, who organized an outstanding Spouse Auxiliary Event Agenda.

Special thanks also go to our members, sponsors, contributors, supporters, and exhibitors for making the KIOGA 87th Annual Convention and Expo Meeting a very informative and enjoyable event. With this year’s convention behind us, we can begin planning for more value-added features to make next year’s convention even better! ✂



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THE MEMBERSHIP THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Most of you probably have a membership to Amazon or Sam's to buy things for the house or groceries. Many of you may have a membership to an airline club for travel or one of the online programs that are out there. You might even have a membership to a gym or workout facility to help you stay in shape. If you like to play golf or tennis, you may have a membership to a club of some kind.

But do you have a membership to an organization that is looking out for your business, your taxes, and your livelihood?

That is what we do at the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA)!

KIOGA represents the interests of the oil and gas industry at the local, state, and federal levels of government. KIOGA is committed to ensuring that tomorrow's economic climate will be one in which our members can grow and prosper. Our active presence before the Kansas Legislature, U.S. Congress, and state and federal regulatory agencies means that the concerns of independents like you are foremost in the minds of legislators and government officials. Our cooperative partnerships and networking with other state associations, the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA), the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC), National Stripper Well Association (NSWA), Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), Council for a Secure

America (CSA), and Energy Education Partnership, Inc. (EEPI) means the concerns of Kansas Independent oil and gas producers are heard in Topeka as well as Washington.

When addressing the benefits of KIOGA membership, we can begin with our motto: "KIOGA—Voice of the Kansas Independent Petroleum Industry." KIOGA is an everyday, frontline representative of the Kansas independent oil and natural gas industry.

Membership in KIOGA gives you: A United Voice in Topeka and Washington

- Few independent businesses have the budget, time, and expertise to individually tackle issues at the federal, state, and local levels of government as well as regulatory issues.

The Power of Unity

- KIOGA achieves results through a strong coalition of independent businesses with a common purpose and goal, optimizing our effectiveness on critical issues.

Access to Legislative and Business Information

- Whether you need to know how to comply with the latest laws and regulations or need legislative updates on pending issues, KIOGA provides you with timely information that can affect your company's profit and growth opportunities.
- KIOGA magazine, published six times a year, covers government relations issues and other industry topics important to you.

“ BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION.”

- KIOGA website at www.kioga.org for industry information and online communication capabilities.
- KIOGA Express is an email information service that keeps members abreast of ongoing and breaking news about the oil and natural gas industry.
- *The American Oil & Gas Reporter*, a fast-paced monthly magazine that covers the industry from A to Z.
- KIOGA President Reports and KIOGA Federal and State legislative Reports keep members current with federal and state legislative, regulatory, and policy issues.

A Way to Build Public Understanding

- Today, public perception continues to be a major challenge facing the domestic oil and gas industry. Join our efforts to fight the negative public image that has made voters and policymakers unsympathetic to major problems confronting independent oil and gas producers.

If you are not a member of KIOGA, we encourage you to join. Through KIOGA, you can play a significant role in our efforts to win the political battles in Topeka and Washington and the public relations battle in the court of public opinion. Be a part of the solution. Join us today! Your membership does make a difference! ✂

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Lesli has a bachelor's degree in Business and is a 3rd generation operator in Eastern Kansas.



Victoria has an MBA from Park University and 16 years in Law Firm Administration.

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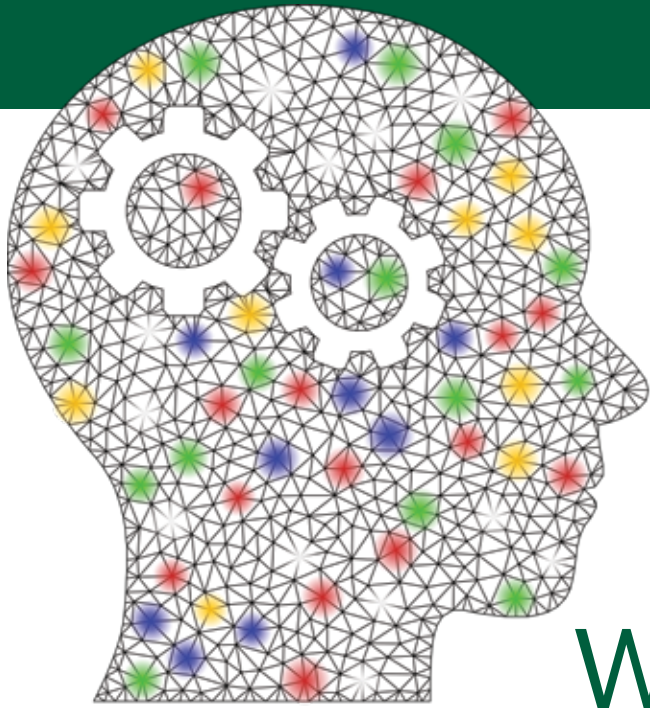
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WOKE ACTIVIST OPENS UP ABOUT PROTESTS

Lucy Biggers, a former left-wing environmental activist now working for The Free Press, recently reflected on her time covering the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) protests for the progressive social media company *NowThis News*. Biggers expressed regret over her role in promoting a one-sided narrative that fueled intense emotions around the DAPL protests in a story by *Liberty Unlocked*.

Biggers wrote about her experiences and the regret she feels for creating and promoting manipulative, single-sided videos. “I called myself a journalist, but really, I was an early social media influencer, pushing a very specific point of view,” she admitted. She now sees that her work contributed to an underdeveloped, leftist view of the issue going viral.

In late 2016, just weeks before the presidential election, Biggers edited a video of actress Shailene Woodley speaking passionately about the protests. The video, set to “heartfelt” and “somber” music, collected millions of views, bringing increased attention to the North Dakota protest site known as Standing Rock. Woodley, flanked by Standing Rock Sioux Tribe members, urged people to show up at the protest site, saying, “Don’t just tweet about it. Don’t just feed off of me being arrested. Go to Standing Rock.”

As the video went viral, Biggers began to feel uneasy. She realized the issue might not be as black and white as she had presented it. At the time, she believed her side was driven by moral conviction, while the opposing side was motivated by corporate greed. “Thinking back on it, I can see now that the story played on the sense of ‘white guilt’ that I had developed while working in such a left-leaning news environment,” Biggers wrote.

In December 2016, outgoing President Barack Obama ordered the construction of the DAPL to be stopped, which the protesters saw as a victory. However, once Donald Trump took office, he ordered the pipeline construction to resume. By then, the protesters had abandoned their camp, leaving behind 48 million pounds of garbage, which cost North Dakota taxpayers \$1 million to clean up. Biggers chose not to highlight the cleanup effort because she didn’t want to “crush the illusion” of the protest that had “inspired the world.”

After leaving *NowThis News* and consuming a broader range of news outlets and books about climate change, Biggers came to realize that “the environmental causes I had so breathlessly championed were much more complicated than good versus evil.” She acknowledged the significant benefits the Dakota Access Pipeline has provided, transporting over half a million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota to an oil tank farm in Illinois.

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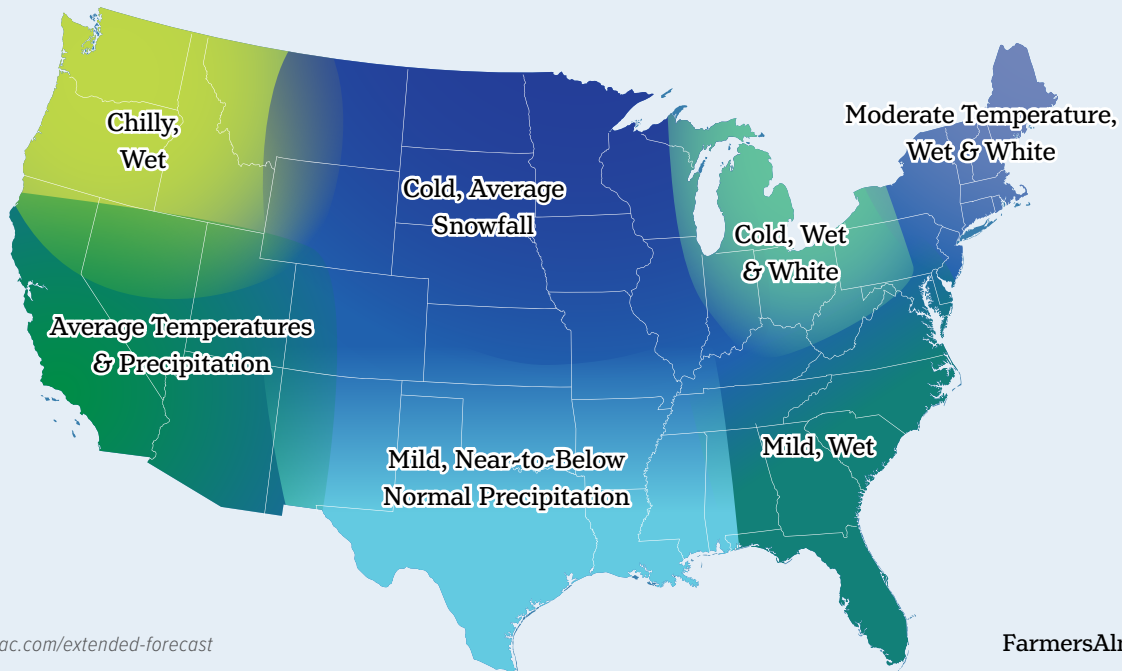


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2024-2025 WINTER OUTLOOK

Wet, Winter, Whirlwind



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GREEN HYDROGEN

APPLICATIONS GET MORE PRACTICAL AND SMALLER



Over the past five years, fans of hydrogen have argued that it can replace fossil fuel in everything, from industrial processes to heating homes to transport. Yet costs and science make many of its applications unlikely.

The European Union recently called the bloc's target of producing 10 million tons of green hydrogen and importing as much again by 2030 "overly optimistic" and lacking "robust analyses." In July 2024, the European Union published a report saying that it is unlikely to meet its "overly ambitious" goals of producing 10 million tons of green hydrogen and importing a further 10 million tons by 2030.

High energy costs were blamed for the pullback from hydrogen extracted from water using renewable energy (green hydrogen). That's just one of many factors, though. The scale of power needed is daunting: Using green hydrogen in all steelmaking, aviation, and shipping would require almost five times the solar and wind capacity installed globally in 2022. The storage and shipping capacity required is also higher than for conventional hydrogen made from fossil fuels.

In all, producing green hydrogen, for most companies, would currently cost at least four times the expense of generating hydrogen from natural gas. The International Energy Agency reports that just 1% of some 1,600 green hydrogen projects have progressed much beyond the exploratory stage.

And as a fuel, green hydrogen is incredibly wasteful. At least 70% of the energy is lost to making and moving it by the time it lands in a hydrogen-powered or electric powered car.

The concept could have some uses. It could replace the natural gas that currently creates around 100 million tons a year of hydrogen for manufacturing fertilizer, petrochemicals, and other products. It could replace coal in some steelmaking. It could play a small role in other applications, say as an emergency long-term backup in some electricity grids.

However, electric batteries, heat pumps, and biogas are usually better alternatives to green hydrogen for power, heating, and transport—from cars to jet fuel. Trying to compete with them will just burn money. ❧





KANSAS OIL & GAS INDUSTRY LEADERS HONORED

Dwight Keen and Jeff Bloomer Recognized for Their Leadership

Several oil and gas industry leaders were recognized for their dedication, participation, and commitment to the Kansas oil and natural gas industry during the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA) Board Meeting on August 18 at the 2024 KIOGA Annual Convention. **Dwight Keen** received the 2024 KIOGA President’s Leadership Award. In addition, **Jeff Bloomer** received the 2024 KIOGA Outstanding Service Award.

KIOGA President’s Leadership Award—A special award to recognize an individual who has made unique contributions to the success of KIOGA’s state and/or federal advocacy efforts. The recipient of the 2024 KIOGA President’s Leadership Award was former KIOGA Chairman and current KCC Commissioner **Dwight Keen**. Keen has provided leadership at the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) that has made the KCC one of the

premier state oil and gas regulatory agencies in the nation. Keen has served in many leadership roles through the years, including serving as chair of the KIOGA Board of Directors from 2011–2013. Every organization he has led has benefitted from his leadership. Honoring Keen with the *KIOGA President’s Leadership Award* is a small way we can say thank you for his extraordinary efforts.

KIOGA Outstanding Service Award—A special award to recognize an individual who has made unique contributions to the guidance of KIOGA operations and the KIOGA Board of Directors. The winners of this award have often subordinated their personal gain to help the industry as a whole with their tireless efforts and contributions. The recipient of the 2024 KIOGA Outstanding Service Award was **Jeff Bloomer**, President of Sunrise Oilfield Supply LLC. Bloomer’s outstanding efforts and contributions helping keep KIOGA operations running smoothly



Jeff Bloomer accepting the KIOGA Outstanding Service Award from KIOGA President Edward Cross
Photo Courtesy of American Oil & Gas Reporter.

in 2024, and his phenomenal work as KIOGA Treasurer has been a great benefit to the association and the entire Kansas oil and gas industry. ⚡



Dwight Keen receiving the KIOGA President’s Leadership Award from KIOGA President Edward Cross Photo Courtesy of American Oil & Gas Reporter.

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KIOGA ELECTS BOARD DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING A SUCCESS!

The Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA) Board of Directors & General Membership met on Sunday, August 18, 2024, for the annual Board of Directors & General Membership Meeting. The meeting was held during the 87th KIOGA Annual Convention in Wichita.

Meeting attendees heard reports about the latest advocacy, public relations, and business development efforts KIOGA has engaged in to build and promote the oil and gas industry.

Board members and general membership heard reports from KIOGA Board Chairman **Dana Wreath**, KIOGA Investment Committee Chair **John Francis**, and KIOGA Treasurer **Jeff Bloomer**. **Ken White** gave an update on Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) issues, and KIOGA President **Edward Cross** reported to the membership on KIOGA's federal and state legislative and regulatory activities and advocacy strategy and summarized the progress of KIOGA's public information efforts. **Warren Martin** gave a *Kansas Strong* update, and **Andrea Krauss** provided the Nominating Committee report.

Two individuals (**Dwight Keen** and **Jeff Bloomer**) were recognized for their leadership during the board meeting. See the article in this magazine for more information.

One Director was elected to replace a resigned board member whose term ends in August 2025

- Adam Petz, Apex Land Services, Wichita, KS

One Director was elected to replace a resigned board member whose term ends in August 2027

- Nicole Koelsch, Adams Brown, Great Bend, KS



Twelve Directors were elected for a term ending in August 2028, including:

- Mike Campbell, Sunrise Supply Oilfield Supply LLC., Wichita, KS
- John O. Farmer IV, John O. Farmer, Inc., Russell, KS
- Nick Hess, Cobalt Energy LLC, Wichita, KS
- Richard Koll, Wichita, KS
- Chase Lybbert, Mai Oil Operations Inc., Dallas, TX
- Colin Marsh, Murfin Drilling Company Inc., Wichita, KS
- Bob McGrath, Stelbar Corporation Inc., Wichita, KS
- Jennifer Mull, Mull Drilling Company, Inc., Wichita, KS
- Mike Pisciotte, Mull Drilling Company, Inc., Wichita, KS
- Leon Rodak, Murfin Drilling Company Inc., Wichita, KS
- Aaron Young, Pickrell Drilling Company, Inc., Wichita, KS
- Chris McGown, Hurricane Services Inc., Wichita, KS

The Directors unanimously elected the following officers:

- Chairman-Elect, Jennifer Mull, Mull Drilling Company, Wichita, KS
- KIOGA Northwest Vice Chair, Raul Brito, Brito Oil Company, Inc., Wichita, KS
- KIOGA East Vice Chair, Chris McGown, Hurricane Services, Inc., Wichita, KS

KIOGA Trustees unanimously elected to serve on the Kansas Oil & Gas Resources Board (Kansas Strong) through 2027:

- Jason Alm, Discovery Drilling Company, Inc., Hays, KS
- Alan Banta, Trans Pacific Oil Corporation, Wichita, KS
- Tony Leiding, Central Crude Corp., Wichita, KS ✕



POLLS SHOW SWING STATE VOTERS SUPPORT POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

A recent poll conducted by Morning Consult demonstrates widespread support for policies that encourage domestic oil and natural gas production and limit reliance on foreign sources. The poll shows inflation remains a top concern for voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and an overwhelming majority oppose vehicle mandates.

With days until Election Day, KIOGA is working with our allies and friends to urge policymakers on both sides of the aisle to support commonsense energy policies to unleash America’s energy security and help reduce inflation.

“The U.S. continues to be a global leader in energy production, but the American people recognize that our leaders in Washington must advance an agenda to grow our nation’s energy advantage for decades to come,” said Edward Cross, KIOGA President.

“With geopolitical tensions rising and inflation remaining a top concern, we need policies that reinforce the role of American energy on the world stage and support access to the affordable, reliable energy consumers need.”

The poll conducted by Morning Consult found:

- More than nine in 10 voters are concerned about inflation. (AZ: 94%, GA: 93%, MI: 94%, NV: 94%, NC: 92%, PA: 91%, WI: 91%)
- Eight in 10 voters agree that producing more oil and natural gas here in the U.S. could help lower energy and utility costs for American consumers. (AZ: 83%, GA: 88%, MI: 84%, NV: 86%, NC: 85%, PA: 83%, WI: 80%)
- A majority of voters oppose government mandates that restrict consumer choice, including banning new gasoline, diesel,

and hybrid vehicles. (AZ: 69%, GA: 76%, MI: 80%, NV: 75%, NC: 75%, PA: 77%, WI: 78%)

- More than eight in 10 voters agree producing oil and natural gas here in America helps make our country more secure against foreign adversaries. (AZ: 89%, GA: 91%, MI: 87%, NV: 85%, NC: 88%, PA: 86%, WI: 87%)
- More than eight in 10 voters support leveraging America’s domestic resources rather than relying on other regions of the world. (AZ: 85%, GA: 89%, MI: 86%, NV: 82%, NC: 82%, PA: 86%, WI: 84%)
- Nearly eight in 10 voters support advancing a sensible federal tax policy that encourages American energy production and strengthens the country’s economic and energy security. (AZ: 82%, GA: 85%, MI: 80%, NV: 76%, NC: 80%, PA: 78%, WI: 76%)

SEVEN SPECIAL COMMITTEES APPROVED FOR KANSAS LEGISLATIVE INTERIM

The Kansas Legislative Coordinating Council approved seven special committees to meet for 12 days during the Kansas Legislative interim period between now and the end of 2024. The seven special committees include:

- Available and Affordable Housing (two days)
- Centralized Pooled Collateral and PMIB Modernization (two days)
- Foreign Trade and Regulatory Sandboxes (two days)
- Medical Marijuana (two days)
- Sedation Dentistry (one day)
- State Employee Compensation (two days)
- Targeted Case Management (one day)

Leadership from both parties will appoint legislators to the committees. The meeting dates have not been determined as of this writing. KIOGA will be monitoring and participating as needed to protect the interests of the Kansas oil and natural gas industry. One such interim committee in which KIOGA will be engaged is the Special Committee on Foreign Trade and Regulatory Sandboxes.

What is a regulatory sandbox? A regulatory sandbox is a classification where participating companies won't be subject to onerous regulations for a limited period. In a nutshell, businesses can "play in the sandbox" to discover what works and what doesn't. It would provide a safe space

in which businesses can test innovative products, services, business models, and delivery mechanisms without immediately incurring all the normal regulatory consequences of engaging in the activity in question. During the limited period, specific regulations are suspended. Once the trial is over, lawmakers evaluate the sandbox's effectiveness and determine the proper regulations for a successful product or service launch.

Foreign Trade: The 2024 Kansas Legislative Session saw several foreign trade bills introduced. The measures would prevent all non-U.S. citizens from purchasing land in Kansas. The ban would also apply to any company "owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign government." One measure included oil and gas leases, which would grandfather in land currently owned by foreign people or companies and would create a "state land council" with the authority to grant exceptions. The Legislature saw many objections to the



measures, and an alternative measure was introduced that specifically limited the focus to adversarial nations—namely China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela. The measure passed the Kansas House of Representatives but failed to pass the Kansas Senate. The interim committee will give concerned parties the opportunity to voice concerns and work toward a solution. ✍

Congress Returns to Washington Ahead of Election

KIOGA Engages in Several Critical Energy Issues



Congress returned to Washington on September 9 to begin the session. Policymakers face a list of unfinished business and looming deadlines. The Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA) continues to engage in addressing energy policy challenges.

KIOGA has provided key federal policymakers input on critical oil and gas tax provisions and crude oil market dynamics, addressing flaws in the “Green New Deal,” facts about oil and gas industry emissions, and more. In addition to the Kansas Congressional Delegation, KIOGA has communicated with over 30 federal policymakers (both Democrat and Republican) this year.

“We stand at a crossroads for the nation’s energy future, and the choices policymakers make in 2024 and beyond will determine whether we build on America’s energy progress or shift to foreign energy sources with lower environmental standards,” said KIOGA President Edward Cross. “You can’t address the risks of climate change without America’s oil and natural gas

industry, which continues to lead the world in emissions reductions while delivering affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy to all of America.”

KIOGA Makes Request to U.S. House Appropriations Committee to Defund EPA Oil & Gas Methane Regulatory Effort

In late summer, KIOGA joined a coalition of 30 organizations in making a request to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee to include language to “defund” the EPA’s regulatory effort on oil and gas methane emissions in the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Appropriations Bill. The defunding language we seek would prohibit the EPA from spending any appropriated dollars to implement oil and gas methane emission regulations.

Marginal oil and gas wells, despite their relatively low individual production levels, play a significant role in the U.S. energy landscape. Here are some key contributions they make:

- 1. Energy Security:** Marginal wells contribute to the diversification and stability of the domestic energy supply. By producing oil and gas locally, they help reduce dependence on foreign energy sources and enhance national energy security.
- 2. Economic Impact:** These wells support local economies, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. They provide jobs and revenue for small businesses, landowners, and communities through royalties and taxes.
- 3. Production Volume:** Collectively, marginal wells produce a substantial amount of oil and natural gas.

While each well may produce less than 15 bopd or less than 90 Mcf of gas per day, their combined output is significant, contributing to the overall energy supply.

- 4. Resource Maximization:** Marginal wells help maximize the extraction of resources from existing fields. They can prolong the productive life of oil and gas fields by recovering reserves that might otherwise be uneconomical to produce with larger operations.
- 5. Environmental Management:** Marginal well operators often have a vested interest in maintaining good environmental practices, as their livelihoods depend on the sustainability of their operations. Properly managed marginal wells can minimize environmental impacts and contribute to responsible resource extraction.
- 6. Technological Innovation:** The challenges faced by marginal well operators often drive technological innovations and efficiencies in drilling, production, and well management. These advancements can benefit the broader industry by improving overall resource recovery and reducing costs.
- 7. Energy Independence:** Marginal wells contribute to the goal of energy independence by increasing domestic production. This aligns with national policy objectives to reduce reliance on imported energy and improve the resilience of the U.S. energy system.

The letter will serve to highlight the impact of methane regulations on marginal well operators and provide a basis for our work with individual offices in this effort.

Court Denies Oil & Gas Request for Stay on EPA Methane Rules

The U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. denied requests from KIOGA and 21 other oil and gas groups from across the nation, as well as several states, to stay the new EPA rules on oil and gas methane emissions while they fight the new regulations in court.

KIOGA regrets that the Court failed to recognize the potential burdens of allowing the regulations to proceed. It is the first time that extensive regulations are required for low-production wells.

With the stay denied, states will now have to undertake a major rulemaking process even though the results of the underlying litigation could create very different requirements. States now have the option to appeal the Court's action, but there have been no indications yet of whether states will pursue this path.

KIOGA and Other Oil & Gas Groups File Petition for Review of EPA Oil & Gas Methane Rules

KIOGA, along with 21 other oil and gas groups from across the nation, filed a "protective" petition for review of the EPA Oil & Gas Methane Rules with the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The producer associations will show that the final EPA oil and gas methane rule exceeds the Agency's statutory authority and otherwise is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law. The Producer Associations thus ask the Court to declare unlawful and vacate the EPA Administrator's final action.

KIOGA Engaged in Addressing Federal Energy Policy Challenges

KIOGA continues to spearhead many oil and gas industry efforts to address many challenges, including energy policy, emissions, lesser prairie chicken, tax policy, and more.

KIOGA Sends Energy Policy Letter to Key Congressional Policymakers

KIOGA continues to work with key members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives during the 118th Congress. KIOGA President Edward Cross sent a letter to key members of Congress expressing independent oil and gas producers' concerns with several key energy issues.

The letter reviews several energy policy issues that KIOGA believes are key to helping the U.S. remain at the forefront of energy development in the coming years. As we have seen over the past few years, the choices our nation makes regarding energy policy will have a huge impact on America's economy and our international position. If America does not pursue a thoughtful energy policy, the nation will suffer economically. Efforts by the Biden/Harris administration to suppress U.S. oil and natural gas production are counterproductive and do not serve the best interests of our nation. Energy is a geopolitical issue, and it not only benefits the U.S. but the entire world when America is an energy superpower.

Additionally, natural gas production and use have created the cleanest air quality the nation has seen in two decades. The U.S. is the envy of nations around the globe for our dedication to reliable, affordable, and responsible energy production. The continued growth of America's oil and natural gas industry is essential. KIOGA and the thousands of men and women who work in the Kansas oil and gas industry stand ready to help you ensure that America has a strong and vibrant energy economy for years to come.

We believe there are several issues that are key to helping the U.S. remain at the forefront of energy development in the coming years. We look forward to

working with the 118th Congress. The letter goes on to detail KIOGA's stance on:

- Tax policy
- Methane
- Energy infrastructure
- Crude oil releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- Endangered and Threatened Species
- Access to capital markets

America's independent oil and natural gas producers stand at the forefront of energy use and development. We look forward to working with the 118th Congress to develop innovative solutions to address America's energy challenges in the coming years.

KIOGA Takes Concerns Directly to Congress

KIOGA continues to engage in addressing energy policy challenges. KIOGA provided input for key federal policymakers on President Biden's FY 2025 budget, national energy policy, energy tax issues, EPA oil and gas methane emission issues, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) lesser prairie chicken concerns, and more. In addition to the Kansas Congressional Delegation, KIOGA has communicated with over 30 key federal policymakers in 2024.

KIOGA Meets with Key Federal Policymakers

KIOGA President Edward Cross recently met with the U.S. Republican Study Committee, the U.S. Republican Policy Committee, the U.S. House Energy Action Team (HEAT), members of the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee, members of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, and more. Overall, KIOGA met with over 15 key members of Congress (both Republican and Democrat).

KIOGA discussed the need to retain critical oil and gas tax provisions (percentage depletion and IDCs), methane tax

and methane regulatory issues, electric grid issues, including electric rates, the EPA proposals on fossil fuel-fired power plants, EPA proposal on tailpipe emissions, and lesser prairie chicken delisting resolutions. The meetings were very productive. A vast majority of the senators and representatives said that they will not support tax increases. That means that the elimination of key oil and gas tax provisions like percentage depletion and IDCs will not likely pass Congress this year.

KIOGA Federal Advocacy Strategy

KIOGA is fully engaged in federal advocacy in Washington, D.C. We take our case directly to congressional policymakers. We have met with over 150 federal policymakers over the last two years, as well as key agency decision-makers, and have developed credible relationships with several key Democrat and Republican members of Congress. We are assisting several U.S. Senate and



House members with credible information to defend against efforts to eliminate critical oil and gas tax provisions, Endangered Species Act abuses, impose emissions regulations, and more.

As Americans continue to face a fragile economy, it is important to pull back the curtain on the ideological-driven processes the Biden/Harris administration is using to justify an avalanche of costly rules. KIOGA is vigilant in staying on top of these issues and reporting to the membership. KIOGA works with our allies at DEPA, IPAA, Liaison Committee of Cooperating Oil & Gas Associations, NSWA, USGLC, and others to engage not only in advocacy but also in legal challenges. Please check our website at www.kioga.org for all the latest information on KIOGA's efforts on behalf of the Kansas independent oil and gas industry.

KIOGA will continue to work with key congressional members. The relationships KIOGA has built over the last 10-plus years with several key Democrat and Republican federal policymakers (over 350) puts us in a unique position to educate federal policymakers about the importance of prioritizing critical oil and gas energy policies. We will diligently work throughout 2024 to consolidate relationships built over the last

10-plus years to address federal legislative challenges and regulatory reform.

KIOGA is prepared and is fully engaged in advocacy in Washington, D.C. We take our concerns directly to congressional policymakers. Frequent contact and meetings are crucial to keep our interests protected. We assist several U.S. Senate and House members with credible information to defend the small businesses that make up the Kansas oil and gas industry against efforts to eliminate critical oil and gas tax provisions, impose hydraulic fracturing oversight, address Endangered Species Act abuses, impose emissions regulations, and more.

Going forward, we will be working hard with Republicans and Democrats to maintain our relationships. KIOGA has updated many of our fact sheets and reference material. We provide discussion and copies of the reference material to all policymakers and/or their staff.

KIOGA is recognized and plays a vital role in providing credible information to key Democrat and Republican policymakers and regulatory officials. KIOGA has established a forward-looking presence with key federal Republican and Democrat policymakers and regulatory officials, and we will remain focused. ❧



Vote in This Election—It is Essential!

We stand at a critical juncture in the life of our nation and our state. We face what could be a very consequential election cycle, which could have profound impact on our industry. The nation's energy future is at a crossroad in the 2024 elections.

In the U.S. Senate, 33 seats are up for election which includes 10 seats held by Republicans and 23 held by Democrats. Democrats control 50 seats and Republicans hold 49. In the U.S. House, all 435 seats are up for election. Democrats currently hold 211 seats and Republicans hold 220 seats—218 seats are needed for a majority. The election is expected to be highly competitive. Election analysts project less than a five-seat difference between the two parties. No party has lost House control after a single congressional term since 1954.

Democrat and Republican Parties Position Themselves in Advance of General Election

Both parties (Democrat and Republican) have been positioning themselves as we head into the general election. While Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans are doubling down on U.S. energy independence, Congressional Democrats and Kamala Harris are going all-in on the anti-fossil fuel—Green New Deal agenda. Keep in mind that if Harris wins the White House, Democrats only need to net seven Republican seats to take effective control of the House.

Given that Democrat Leader Schumer is signaling openness to eliminating the filibuster for ordinary legislation, if Democrats run the table, we should anticipate they will jam through the



progressive agenda in the same way they did in the first two years of the Obama administration when Democrats controlled the White House and Congress. That means the Green New Deal would most likely become a reality. This is the stated and demonstrated position of Democrat leadership. Harris has signed off on a joint policy platform that commits to Green New Deal objectives.

This doesn't have to be reality. Every stakeholder in the U.S. economy must mobilize in defense of energy, technology, and manufacturing independence. American energy makes it all possible. How effectively we mobilize between now and the election will largely determine whether the U.S. and our allies are a beacon for energy independence and wealth or are relegated to energy dependence and poverty.

Democrat and Republican Energy Platforms

Democrat Party Energy Platform—The Democrat Party Energy Platform calls for an end to fossil fuel production and use.

These attacks on the oil and gas industry are not only impractical, but also reckless. It appears the Democrat party is out of touch with working people and the economy. Many scientists, policymakers from both parties, and common-sensed individuals have discredited the ideas proposed by the candidates.

The Democrat party's energy policy baseline includes reorienting federal taxes and spending toward renewable energy and away from fossil fuels.

Democrats have several proposals that represent the common ground among liberals on fighting climate change. The Democratic ideas for fighting climate change include:

- **Stay Committed to the Paris Climate Accord**—The Paris Climate Agreement is a nonbinding resolution signed by 195 countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Trump withdrew from the accord in 2017. Biden rejoined the accord in 2021. Democratic candidates have

Energy Policy	Democratic Platform	Republican Platform
1. Climate Change & Energy Sources	Clean Energy Only (No Fossil Fuels)	All of the Above (Let the Market Decide)
2. Carbon Taxes	Yes	No
3. Energy Subsidies	Clean Energy Subsidies	No Subsidies
4. Hydraulic Fracturing	More Federal Regulation	Let States Regulate

universally agreed that the U.S. should stay committed to the Paris climate deal.

- **End Fossil Fuel Tax Provisions**—Federal government tax provisions for fossil-fuel exploration and production (like percentage depletion and intangible drilling costs) are estimated to be worth about \$4.6 billion. While these provisions are cost-recovery mechanisms used mostly by small businesses, Democratic candidates largely support scrapping the fossil fuel tax provisions.
- **Halt New Drilling on Federal Land**—Most Democratic candidates support halting new drilling on federal land.
- **Set a Goal of Net-Zero Emissions by 2050**—Several Democratic contenders have proposed setting a far-reaching goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 or earlier.
- **Boost Spending on Clean Energy Research**—Trump recognized the importance of energy policy as a driver of the American economy and national security during his first term as President. The Trump administration’s forward-looking energy policies were market-based and refrained from picking winners

and losers in the nation’s future energy profile. Several Democratic candidates want to dramatically expand renewable energy subsidies and mandates.

What Would a Harris Presidency Mean for U.S. Energy Policy?



Harris brings a record that has pleased most climate activists, though her vision gets more praise than her accomplishments. She is a far-left

extremist whom Democrats are trying to redefine as a moderate. In the Senate, Harris was an original cosponsor of the Green New Deal. She introduced environmental justice legislation. Harris vowed to ban fracking, spend \$10 trillion on climate programs, reach carbon neutrality for electricity by 2030, and eliminate transportation emissions by 2035, all positions to Biden’s left.

Vice President Kamala Harris has never really been involved in formulating and enacting energy policy, but her utterances on the topic through her years in public office in California and Washington, D.C., make it clear that she holds views that run to the left of even Joe Biden. As California attorney general,

Harris brought lawsuits against fossil fuel companies and investigated Exxon Mobil for misleading the public about climate change.

A potential Harris presidency is seen as being more aggressive than Biden in confronting oil companies. Harris would likely be a fierce oil industry antagonist if she were to win the White House in November.

Recent polling indicates 65% of voters say the country is on the wrong track. Biden’s top approval rating came early in his term, at 57%, and his lowest, 36%, came in July 2024, according to Gallup. Harris was a major part of many Biden administration decisions, meaning all those failures are her burden too.

Analysts and environmental advocates say Harris’ approach toward fossil fuel development puts her to the left of Biden. In the past, Harris called for a ban on hydraulic fracturing. She also proposed a “climate pollution fee” for greenhouse gas emissions “as far upstream as possible.”

Harris has recently flip-flopped on some of her positions. The only way to know what she believes is to find which audience is before her. She is for or against everything so long as the answer leads to votes.

Environmental advocates said that Harris would be unflinching against fossil fuel companies. Harris emphasized her California fights against oil companies when she campaigned for president in 2019. Harris outlined plans to step up federal environmental enforcement, “prioritize public health,” and “hold polluters accountable,” including by directing the Justice Department “to address both cumulative and legacy pollution.” That scope could mean policing companies for historic emissions of planet-warming carbon dioxide tied to the combustion of oil and gas.

While we have yet to see the first case where a fossil fuel company is held liable for damages from climate change, the prospect of a DOJ-led lawsuit would increase the chances of finding liability, with an increase in the potential for damages, litigation costs and reputational risk.

As California’s attorney general, Harris policed environmental infractions and joined other states in defending Obama-era climate policies. Her office also was part of a multistate investigation into whether Exxon misled the public about climate change.

Harris’ intense focus on making polluters pay and environmental justice created a distinction from Biden during the 2020 race. Like Biden, Harris has been unequivocal in calling the climate crisis an emergency, saying last year it is “one of the most urgent matters of our time.”

Harris has always been squarely in the camp of the fringe green left of the Democratic Party. If she were to win, she would likely double down on the disastrous Green New Deal. She is also expected to direct her Department of Justice to go after oil and natural gas companies for “climate crimes.”

While Republican nominee Trump could use an array of powers to reverse Biden-era climate policies, Harris could lock those changes in. We would expect that priority number one for a Harris presidency would be to defend the Biden legacy.

Americans should think about what their lives would be like if they no longer had ample and affordable power or natural gas to use to cook their meals. Because make no mistake about it, that is what Harris is really proposing.

What a Second Trump Presidency Could Mean for U.S. Energy Policy



What would a second Trump presidency look like for U.S. energy policy?

Former U.S. President Don-

ald Trump would seek to undo much of the Biden administration’s work to fight climate change if he returns to office after November’s election and launch new efforts to expand fossil fuel production.

President Biden’s signature climate law is nearly two years old, and its future remains uncertain. The Biden/Harris administration is facing election-year pressure from progressives to move more quickly to phase out fossil fuels at a time when the U.S. has become an oil and natural gas superpower. At the same time, conservatives and former President Trump are threatening to gut the law and its hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy spending if they take back power in Washington. Trump has repeatedly attacked the Biden/Harris green initiatives, especially the spending on wind power and electric cars. In a recent campaign appearance, he vowed to “impose an immediate

moratorium on all new spending, grants and giveaways” contained in “socialist bills like the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.”

What would a second Trump presidency mean for U.S. energy policy? Here are some of the likely moves:

Methane Fee—A Trump White House would likely attempt to scrap an incoming rule from the Environmental Protection Agency to charge the oil and gas industry a \$900–\$1,500-per-ton fee for methane emissions. The measure was adopted as a way to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases but faces stiff resistance from drillers and pipeline companies.

More Drilling—A second Trump administration would likely redo the U.S. Interior Department’s five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program to expand the size and scope of drilling auctions. Biden’s administration drew up the existing plan with a record low number of auctions as part of its broader efforts to usher in a transition to cleaner energy sources. If Republicans control Congress after November’s elections, a second Trump administration may also move to sell off more federal land to states that want to boost mineral, oil and gas extraction.

Withdraw from Paris Deal—Trump’s campaign has promised to once again pull the U.S. out of a disastrous international pact to combat climate change. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Deal during his first term, but Biden quickly reversed the move after he was elected and has attempted since to establish U.S. leadership in global climate efforts.

Electric Vehicle Mandates—A new Trump presidency would likely direct the Environmental Protection Agency

to revisit vehicle efficiency standards that are designed to push automakers to transition more quickly to producing battery-powered cars and trucks this decade. In June, Trump told assembled lawmakers in Washington that “the whole mandate toward battery and electric is crazy.” Trump said that if he takes the White House in November, he plans to entirely reverse Biden’s EV policies.

Inflation Reduction Act Climate Tax Breaks—Trump would also likely look for ways to scrap the tax breaks in Biden’s roughly \$400 billion climate legislation, the IRA, so the money could be used for other purposes like funding extensions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which is set to expire in 2025. Getting this done will depend on whether Republicans control both the House and Senate after November’s elections.

Environmental Agencies Cuts—A new Trump presidency would likely make significant cuts to environmental agencies. When talking about wasteful government programs he would slash Trump said in June that “environmental agencies” were on the chopping block. “There are so many things you can do,” said Trump. “One of the things that is so bad for us is the environmental agencies. They make it impossible to do anything.”

Voters Support Oil and Natural Gas

A new poll released in late August 2024 demonstrates widespread support for policies that encourage domestic oil and natural gas production and limit reliance on foreign sources. The poll shows inflation remains a top concern for voters and an overwhelming majority oppose vehicle mandates.

The poll released by the American Petroleum Institute and conducted by Morning Consult, a nonpartisan survey firm—found that eight in 10 voters agree that producing more oil and natural gas here in the U.S. could help lower energy and utility costs for American consumers. A majority of voters oppose government mandates that restrict consumer choice, and more than eight in 10 voters agree producing oil and natural gas here in America helps make our country more secure against foreign adversaries.

This strong support for oil and natural gas is the big takeaway heading into November as the poll surveyed voters in seven different swing states, including Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Those states will help decide whether Donald Trump or Kamala Harris wins the White House

and if Republicans or Democrats take control of Congress.

Nation’s Energy Future at Crossroads

As we look ahead to November’s elections and beyond, we need an energy policy focused on facts and reality, not political ideology and hyperbole. We need a national energy policy based on science, the free market, and entrepreneurial spirit. Those who act on our behalf at all levels of government should use those principles as the foundation for energy policy decisions. We must make it clear to our elected leaders that energy policy should not be a partisan talking point because it is too important and fundamental to our way of life.

“We stand at a crossroads for the nation’s energy future, and the choices policymakers make in 2024 and beyond will determine whether we build on America’s energy progress or shift to foreign energy sources with lower environmental standards,” said KIOGA President Edward Cross. “You can’t address the risks of climate change without America’s oil and natural gas industry, which continues to lead the world in emissions reductions while delivering affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy to all Americans.” ⚡

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Opportunities **ARISE** from Addressing **CRITICAL** Issues

For years, the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA) has served as a primary source of information for policymakers, media, and the general public on issues ranging from oil and gas taxation to environmental issues, the economic impact of the oil and gas industry, and more.

Today, we are under one of the most difficult and intense assaults our industry has ever faced. Promoting our goals and protecting our interests has become more challenging both in Washington, D.C., and Topeka. We are faced with the task of focusing the harsh light of reality onto the fantasy world in which too many have taken refuge. Many people live in a make-believe world that allows them to speak with sincerity about an economy and society that can thrive without oil and natural gas. Somehow, in some minds, the concept that an industry can exercise its traditional goals while meeting its responsibility to protect the environment is seen as being against the best interest of the nation.

Energy Paradox

While we all have our heads down trying to figure out how to operate our projects effectively, the energy sector is being transformed by a decarbonization agenda that is defining the future of global energy.

The oil and gas industry has done such a good job of creating abundant, affordable, always available energy that the world takes it for granted. Around the world, billions of people are expecting a middle-class quality of life and its requisite—available, affordable, reliable energy. None of this demand will go away soon. Because energy is so reliable and available, the public believes they no longer require it.

We all encounter this paradox anytime we engage in a conversation about energy and the environment. Many times, the public works under the assumption that we don't need fossil fuels anymore. A stark example is anyone who wants to end oil and gas production while still benefiting from oil- and gas-based materials and fuels.

The problem is that all that takes at least three paragraphs and 45–60 minutes to explain. In the meantime, the Biden/Harris administration and environmental activist groups integrate decarbonization into every component of its work.

KIOGA's Communication Strategy

As the debate around oil and natural gas production continues to resonate around the country, KIOGA continues to provide science-based information and inform policymakers and the public about the economic and environmental benefits of safe and responsible oil and natural gas development. KIOGA has taken the oil and natural gas industry in Kansas to a new and unprecedented level of communication and public engagement. Through aggressive outreach campaigns, speaking engagements, editorials, and media interviews, KIOGA has placed a much greater emphasis on science-based information.

KIOGA's communication strategy is designed to move the oil and natural gas industry from merely having a dialogue with the opposition to the forefront of a multidimensional public information campaign. We have achieved significant media coverage, including over 50 media inquiries in 2024, multiple mentions in mainstream media articles, editorials in publications across Kansas and the nation, and speaking engagements at 12 public forums across Kansas and elsewhere this year.

KIOGA's communication efforts highlight the important role the independent oil and gas industry plays in our quality of life. Media kits have been distributed to media across Kansas, providing fact sheets and reference materials describing how our industry can create more



jobs, reduce the deficit, and enhance our nation's energy security. Our efforts are bringing a wealth of information on energy to the forefront, separating fact from fiction, reality from myth, and proven practices from hyperbole. We focus on informing policymakers, the media, and the public of the key advantages available to our nation through increased domestic oil and natural gas production.

Public Angst

Those who oppose American energy development manufacture debate and offer ideas about these issues that are often contradictory or otherwise separated from reality. They will often communicate information that confuses the public by making assertions that are often out of context and need more information to promote a more complete and informed discussion. They try to mislead the public into thinking there is a widespread problem by using anecdotal information linking unrelated incidents in an innuendo-filled collection of unfounded allegations. Their arguments are not based on reality but on a perception that assumes there is a problem—a problem they try to create by using fear.

How is it that we can see mass opposition from people who do not appear informed? Or when presented with the facts, don't care to hear them?

Industry Response

A common industry approach to public angst and societal concerns is to respond to visceral concerns with technical answers. These answers are often accurate, fact-based, and supported by historical and empirical evidence. People's perceptions are created from a number of sources where they may see repeated information that may or may not be accurate. Social media, mainstream media, and other real-time

communication entrench these perceptions. These perceptions become their realities, whether those perceptions are right or wrong. People who have visceral concerns view the industry as treating corporate social responsibility as an add-on to their business as opposed to a driver when the industry responds with technical answers alone.

Responsibility is Integral

Recent consumer research offers some clues. The research indicates the public mindset has changed over the last decade. A key finding was that consumer choices were becoming more deliberate and value-driven. The consumer definition of wealth broadened to include views on what constituted responsibility, leadership, quality, and corporate kindness and empathy. People are willing to support organizations, industries, and companies based on that broader set of criteria. Knowing these trends provides an opportunity for the oil and natural gas industry.

Some would say that the purpose of business is to make money and deliver investor value, and in order to balance what was taken out of society in the form of profits, we should pursue a program of good works and philanthropy that is distinct from the business we actually are doing—a program of “public relations.” However, a majority of oil and natural exploration and production companies see responsibility not as something to be added as an afterthought or as a public relations gloss. These companies understand that responsibility comes through what we do and the way we do it, not by adding some extra activity. Those in the oil and natural gas industry fulfill their responsibility by supplying goods and services at prices people can afford and in manners that make the activity sustainable.

The way we work is crucial. Our responsibility lies in our activity and the manner in which we pursue that activity. Responsibility is not additional; it is absolutely integral.

Where do We Go from Here?

People want to know that the oil and natural gas industry cares. KIOGA continues to address public concerns about important economic and environmental issues with accurate, fact-based information. Also, since 2017, KIOGA has been augmenting our public information efforts by including messages that relay how oil and natural gas enrich life experiences and enhance our quality of life. We work hard to communicate and illustrate how responsibility is an integral part of the industry's considerations and decisions. Technical answers alone are lost on the public and come across to many as out of touch. Combining technical answers with communication about the integral role of responsibility in the industry's actions, like transparency, empathy for people's concerns, and leadership in addressing concerns, all help to secure public trust, loyalty, commitment, and support.

Providing Signal Through the Noise—

KIOGA's public information efforts highlight the many different and important ways oil and gas benefit people's lives. This campaign not only addresses concerns about the economic and environmental issues with accurate, fact-based, scientific information that separates fact from fiction, reality



from myth, and proven practices from hyperbole but also includes information about how the oil and gas industry and companies care about people's needs and concerns. KIOGA's public information efforts bring important information and messages about the reach and magnitude of oil and gas, the products made from oil and natural gas, and oil and natural gas contributions to everyday lives.



Getting the Message Out

KIOGA continues its vigorous campaign, speaking at public forums across Kansas and elsewhere. The presentations summarize America's energy picture today, the challenges faced by the small businesses that make up the Kansas independent oil and gas industry, and what the industry is doing to address those challenges. KIOGA presentations bring to light the facts and science about important energy issues and topics, from injection wells and earthquakes to hydraulic fracturing and energy policy. We also include facts and information in every presentation on how the oil and gas industry greatly enhances the quality of life for all. Fossil fuels are needed throughout the world to lift people up, which is different than a philosophy of embracing a zero-emissions world. KIOGA President Edward Cross has spoken at 12 venues

in the first six months of 2024, including two keynote addresses titled *War, Climate, and the Oil & Natural Gas Industry* and *What is Our Energy Future?* Both presentations were well-received.



KIOGA President Edward Cross Keynotes the Economic Club of Las Vegas—KIOGA President Edward Cross was invited by the Economic Club of Las Vegas to keynote their meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, earlier this year. The presentation was titled *War, Climate, and the Oil & Natural Gas Industry*. A description of the presentation as it appeared in the Economic Club of Las Vegas program was as follows:



Over the last several years, global use of fossil fuels reached new highs. By their energy choices, the eight billion people

on the planet gave governments and the World Economic Forum a massive vote of no confidence in their plan to eliminate fossil fuels. The Ukraine war and the Israel/Hamas conflict have dramatically underscored the folly of restricting U.S. production in the near term. Edward Cross will convey a message about how the American oil and natural gas industry can deliver to fight global poverty, limit global warming, and provide the products the free nations of the world need.

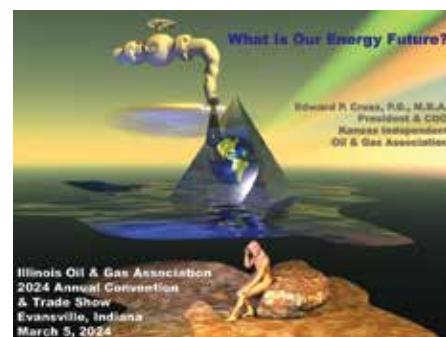


KIOGA President Edward Cross Keynotes Illinois Oil & Gas Association 2024 Annual Convention—KIOGA



President Edward Cross was invited by the Illinois Oil & Gas Association (IOGA) to keynote the closing banquet at the IOGA 2024 Annual Conven-

tion in Evansville, Indiana, earlier this year. Cross' keynote address was titled *What is Our Energy Future?* The presentation was well-received.



Cross received several comments from convention attendees. These comments include:

"Your presentation was outstanding and right on point. You are an excellent spokesperson for the entire industry."

"You are my main resource for keeping track of federal legislation/regulation and the manner in which you service your members."

"I have learned so much from your efforts, articles, and demeanor over the years. I hope you know that you have been a mentor to many indirectly—just like me."

"Your competence, integrity, loyalty, and abilities are outstanding. Your work not only benefits KIOGA but also every other oil and gas association. The entire industry

is fortunate to have you as a spokesman advocating for all its members.”

KIOGA Editorials Receive Big Response—KIOGA currently uses editorials, white papers, webinars, and Zoom opportunities to get our message out. KIOGA President Edward Cross has published several editorials/articles in media across Kansas and elsewhere in 2024, including:

- *Policymakers Should Seek Pro-Growth Energy Policies*
- *Policy Signals Prevent Energy Leadership*
- *Hydrogen and Other Green Energy Unicorns will likely Cost Businesses and Consumers*
- *The Cost of Global Cooling*
- *The Opposite of Helping—Biden Energy Policies Miss the Mark*
- *Climate Activists Spread Fear and Misery to the Youth*
- *KIOGA in the Mix on Host of Issues*
- *Pro-Freedom Policy for CO₂ Emissions*
- *An Energy Transition that isn't Happening*



- *Protecting Our Independence*
- *Climate Activists Feed Off Fear*

KIOGA editorials have appeared in more than 20 newspapers and magazines across Kansas and elsewhere in 2024, including:

- *World Oil Magazine*
- *American Oil & Gas Reporter*
- *Butler County Times-Gazette*
- *Hays Daily News*
- *Hutchinson News*
- *McPherson Sentinel*
- *The Kansan (Newton)*
- *Ottawa Herald*
- *Salina Journal*
- *Wellington Daily News*
- *Dodge City Globe*
- *Garden City Telegram*
- *Kiowa County Signal*
- *Pratt Tribune*
- *St. John News*
- *Leavenworth Times*
- *Topeka Capital-Journal*
- *Gyp Hill Premier (Medicine Lodge)*
- *McLeansboro Gazette*
- *Franklin County Gazette*
- *Coffeyville Journal*
- *Wichita Business Journal*
- *Kansas City Star*

Moving Forward

As issues affecting oil and natural gas production continue to dominate media focus, KIOGA continues to raise our profile as a source for the media. We continue our aggressive campaign to educate not only policymakers but also the public on policy issues.

KIOGA's public information efforts were developed to respond to public misconceptions about important energy, economic, and environmental issues. We are positioning ourselves to be better able to not only react to events but also anticipate events so we can prepare effective preventive strategies.

With targeted messaging and expanded outreach, KIOGA's influence increases year by year. By focusing on the issues, KIOGA continues to broadcast our messages to policymakers and the public that the independent oil and gas industry is an essential and critical part of any plan to revitalize the U.S. economy.

Going forward, KIOGA is scheduled to make several public forum presentations during the remainder of this year and early 2025. KIOGA President Edward Cross will be speaking at several venues on a variety of topics, including:

- *War, Climate & the Oil & Gas Industry*
- *Dynamic Challenges Facing Marginal Well Producers*
- *What's the Value of a State Oil & Gas Association*
- *Role & Value of Lobbying*
- *KIOGA's Important Role in Shaping Energy Policy*
- *State of the Kansas Oil & Gas Industry*

Events in Topeka and Washington determine the direction of KIOGA's public information efforts. With continued public misconceptions about important oil and gas economic and environmental issues, KIOGA will continue to provide credible information and education to lawmakers, the media, and the general public. We will continue to advance messages and materials that redefine the energy debate and inspire outside groups and everyday Americans to stand up and act on our behalf. ✎



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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KIOGA CALENDAR

Event Name	Date	Location
Kansas State Fair	September 6–15, 2024	Hutchinson, KS
EKOGA Annual Meeting	October 9–10, 2024	Mayetta, KS
Kansas Economic Outlook Conference	October 10, 2024	Wichita, KS
Oklahoma Oil & Gas Expo	October 10, 2024	Oklahoma City, OK
IOGCC 2024 Annual Conference	October 28–30, 2024	Colorado Springs, CO
IPAA Annual Meeting	October 28–29, 2024	Boca Raton, FL
Governor's Water Conference	November 13–14, 2024	Manhattan, KS
KIOGA Board & General Membership Meeting	December 4, 2024	Wichita, KS
Supplier's Christmas Party	December 4, 2024	Wichita, KS

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KIOGA

New Members

We welcome the following members to the KIOGA family. Thank you for your continued support!

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David Hodges

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The Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA) believes in seeking common ground, through common sense solutions, to the challenges facing the Kansas oil and gas industry. Our bipartisan approach provides a uniquely powerful voice for our members at the state and national level. **Our work is critical. Your support is vital.**

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- **We currently work with some of the largest producers in Kansas.** Because of our experience lending to businesses in the industry, we know that with the right financing, your operation could thrive.
- **We are uniquely connected to the industry,** largely due to our background. We operate a small oil and gas company, and WSB President Tyler Whitham is a petroleum engineer.

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