

DO IT ALL – DO IT IN NEW MEXICO

Harry Teague's Plan for American Jobs and Energy Independence

America must utilize a 'Do It All, Do It in America' approach to energy. By producing our energy at home, we create American jobs that you can't ship overseas, we cut our dependence on foreign oil, and we reduce pollution.

With New Mexico's diverse and robust energy resource base, our state will necessarily benefit from an American commitment to produce our energy at home – instead of importing it from unfriendly nations abroad. At my recent Re-Energize America conference, experts from around the country talked about the exciting potential of New Mexico. Our state is ready to capitalize on our energy resources and lead the nation in do-it-all energy production.

Biofuels. A promising newcomer to New Mexico's biofuels future is algae. A vast supply of brackish water, acres of non-arable open land and year-round sunshine make the southern part of the state particularly suitable for the commercial cultivation of algae that can be refined into gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. Algal fuels are "drop-in" replacement fuels; fuels derived from plants that can immediately replace the imported fuels we use today. My work to start the Sapphire Energy biorefinery outside of Las Cruces, to aid the CEHMM facility in Eddy County, to give algal fuels the same tax benefits as other biofuels, and with other biofuels leaders across New Mexico are an important part of replacing imported oil with homegrown biofuel.

Natural Gas. The biggest energy story of the past decade has been the emergence of the American natural gas resource, previously thought close to tapped out. Now, new technology lets us extract natural gas from shale formations, meaning the U.S. has hundreds of years of domestic natural gas supply. We should start by using natural gas instead of diesel to fuel heavy trucks. By replacing oil with natural gas, we replace mostly imported oil with domestic natural gas - creating countless American jobs, making our country less reliant and more secure, and reducing pollution. Natural gas can also be used to generate more electricity, including as a base-load compliment to renewable resources, and directly power many more household appliances.

Nuclear. New Mexico was where America's experience with the atom began. With our state's natural resources and human expertise, we can play a large part in a national plan to build a new generation of safe, efficient nuclear power plants and other facilities. I helped create thousands of jobs in Lea County by bringing in the uranium enrichment facility, and in Carlsbad hundreds of workers earn a good pay to safely dispose of nuclear waste half a mile beneath the earth's surface in the country's most stable geological formation.

Domestic Oil and Gas. While most of our oil is shipped here from overseas, the American oil and gas industry still provides employment for nine million Americans. America should use the oil it has, instead of importing it from the Middle East, Russia, Nigeria, Venezuela and other places. That's why it is critical to retain the tax provisions that the oil and gas industry needs to continue investing in production and creating jobs, and avoid harmful and unneeded regulations.

Solar. New Mexico has so many high-quality solar energy production sites that if those sites were all developed, they would produce enough electricity to power the entire United States. Solar energy is more coincident with peak energy demand than wind power, and with solar thermal technologies, energy storage can be utilized to extend electrical energy availability into the post-sunset evening hours.

Wind. New Mexico has wind resources consistent with utility-scale production. The largest resources are in central New Mexico, near the Guadalupe Mountains in southern New Mexico, near Tucumcari, and in the northeastern part of the state near the Colorado and Oklahoma borders. New turbine and blade technology consistently makes wind a more efficient choice for power generation. For both wind and solar, ensuring the necessary credit exists in the market to fund new projects and providing for longterm market certainty with a long-term extension of the renewable production tax credit are essential to the industries continuing to grow.

Energy Manufacturing. Too often we hear the news that China has made further advances in alternative energy manufacturing - meaning that the Americans installing wind turbines or solar panels will be doing so with imported Chinese equipment. Let's not swap one kind of energy dependence for another. We need a national plan to ensure that America has a manufacturing base to support all of our energy producing industries.