

# THE Energy Council Quarterly

SPRING

2021

## The Energy Council Marks 45th Anniversary in Alabama



*Alabama Governor Kay Ivey welcomed participants to the Energy Council's 2020 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference, which was held in Point Clear, Alabama in December.*

The Energy Council's 2020 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference was held in Point Clear, Alabama on December 3-6.

Presiding over the conference was the Chairman of the Energy Council, Alabama Senator Cam Ward, and Colorado Senator Chris Hansen, Chairman of the Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research (CLEER).

The Friday morning, December 4, Opening Address was given by Alabama Governor, Kay Ivey. "The energy industry in our state has an economic impact of \$13.22 billion. There is no doubt of its priority in my administration and with our elected officials," Governor Ivey said. The governor noted that within Alabama's energy sector, there are more than 100,000 employees.

The governor highlighted Alabama's national rankings related to the energy sector: Mobile, Alabama is the third-largest seaport for exporting U.S. coal; Alabama ranked number five in electricity generation from biomass; ranked eighth in electricity generation from renewal resources, including hydroelectric power; and ranked sixteen in total

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## Allen to Serve as The Energy Council Chairman

On Wednesday, January 27 during an Executive Committee meeting, Alabama Senator Gerald Allen was selected to serve as Chairman of The Energy Council for the remainder of the year.

Senator Allen served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1994 – 2010 and Senate since 2010. He serves as Chair of the Transportation & Energy Committee; Vice-Chair of Finance & Taxation, General Fund. He also serves as Member of the Confirmations Committee and the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy.

Chairman Allen and his wife Sheila make their home in Tuscaloosa.



**Gerald Allen**  
Alabama Senator



The Energy Council Quarterly is the official publication of the Energy Council, a legislative organization comprised of 14 states and two international affiliates, drawn from the major energy producing regions of the United States and Canada. The Energy Council provides a forum for discussing government policies regarding energy and the environment.

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## OFFICERS

*Senator Gerald Allen*  
Alabama  
Chairman

*Representative Richard "Rick" Beck*  
Arkansas  
Vice-Chairman

*Tara Shaw*  
Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director

## STAFF

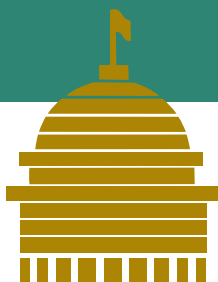
*Evya Richards, CMP*  
Manager - Meeting Planning/Publications

*Jane Taylor*  
Manager - Financial/IT

*Isela Vera*  
Manager - Administrative

## *Tell us what you think!*

We welcome your suggestions and feedback. Please email [erichards@theenergycouncil.org](mailto:erichards@theenergycouncil.org)



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energy production and seventeen in the number of producing natural gas wells. Before the governor closed her remarks, she highlighted Alabama as the third largest exporter of vehicles in the country, producing more than 1.6 million engines and providing more than 40,000 jobs in the auto sector. On average, over the last eight years, Alabama has seen a more than 40 percent growth year over year in the number of registered electric vehicles, or EV's.

"Alabama is well known as a top tier automotive manufacturing state, as we continue toward a twenty-first century transportation system and economy, we must work to expand Alabama's economy and infrastructure to support the growing electric vehicle industry," Governor Ivey said. "In doing so, we will increase investment from manufactures, produce more jobs and further the overall automotive economic impact, and cement Alabama's reputation as a forward-leaning automotive leader."



*Cam Ward, then Chairman of the Energy Council, addressed conference participants in Point Clear, Alabama. Mr. Ward left the Energy Council when he was appointed Director of the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles.*

Following the breakfast, the General Session first featured a panel of speakers who addressed "The Energy Impacts of COVID-19." Ms. Joy Ditto, President and CEO, American Public Power Association (APPA), started the discussion and stated that throughout the history of public power, there have been many challenges and public power has weathered the "storm." "We have made it through world wars, the Great Depression, multiple recessions, Y2K, September 11, hurricanes and other natural disasters, and now, COVID-19," Ms. Ditto said. "After each one, we have learned lessons and adapted and continued to improve how we as public power, continue to service our communities."

According to Ms. Ditto, APPA quickly adapted to the COVID-19 operational response by conducting webinars; starting weekly mutual-aid coordination calls; and establishing broad sharing

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*Ms. Joy Ditto, President and CEO of the American Public Power Association was one of the featured panelists on the topic of "The Energy Impacts of COVID-19."*

of information and coordination among multiple federal entities. In her conclusion, Ms. Ditto stated that the lights stayed on by defining the APPAs essential workers, developing relationships with non-traditional agencies, and applying lessons-learned.

Mr. Brook Simmons, President, The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma, spoke next. The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma was formed in 2018 by the merger of the Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association and the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association. The Alliance is comprised of 1,300-member companies and their tens of thousands of employees across upstream, midstream and downstream sectors.

Its mission is to work at all times for the improvement of the oil and gas industry; present the viewpoint of its members to elected and appointed government officials and the courts; increase understanding among the people of Oklahoma of the industry's importance; foster more favorable industry conditions and provide education and services to The Alliance's member network, Mr. Simmons said.

Mr. Simmons said that Energy Council states and provinces depend heavily on oil and gas activity to fund public priorities. As political and financial winds shift globally, he asked how will shale economies adjust? What choices face policymakers now and, in the years to come?"

Ms. Blake Hardwich, Executive Director, Alabama Energy Institute gave an update on the Alabama Energy Institute. Established in 2016, the mission of the Institute is to promote reliable, affordable and clean energy to help grow the state's economy, create high-paying jobs, and build support for Alabama's energy industry.



*Mr. Brook Simmons, President of the Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma was also a presenter on the topic and provided an Oklahoma perspective on the matter.*

The organization is dedicated to promoting energy's importance to the state and protecting all segments of the industry in the public policy arena. It has active members, associates and affiliates from across the state that represents all facets of the energy industry, including electricity, natural gas, petroleum, coal, alternative energy, industry vendors and suppliers, academic institutions and business associations that support the industry.

"Energy Export Opportunities" was the subject presented by Mr. John Driscoll, Director and CEO, Alabama State Port Authority. Mr. Driscoll stated that the Alabama State Port Authority owns and operates the State of Alabama's deep-water port facilities at the Port of Mobile, currently the eleventh largest U.S. Seaport by total trade, and generates approximately \$25.4 billion in economic value statewide. The Port Authority's container, general cargo and bulk facilities have immediate access to two interstate systems, five Class 1 railroads, nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterways and air cargo connections.

Mr. Driscoll emphasized that the seaport has an excellent transportation infrastructure and is a full-service seaport that ships more than 58 million tons annually, port wide. He said that the seaport, as an employer, employs over 161,000 Alabamans, which contributes to the state's total economic value.

"A Cybersecurity Update" was given by Mr. Ray Hadley, Special Counsel, Adams and Reese. "The energy sector is dynamic and complex, whether it's wind, solar, shale, oil and gas or nuclear. Cybersecurity is also complex," he said.

Cybersecurity relates whether you are in the business of energy production or distribution, he noted. As legislators in energy-producing states or with a big industry in energy, cybersecurity is going to be important to Energy Council legislators because it's going to be important to constituents and to the businesses that drive economies. Mr. Hadley stressed that there are

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many complex systems related to the energy sector, such as transmission facilities, pipelines, and distribution to the end-user customers.

From a regulatory perspective, the federal government has placed substantial focus on cybersecurity, particularly within the election arena. Mr. Hadley explained that the energy sector is currently the industry most attacked, mainly at the state levels. Therefore, it is incumbent on states to put the proper mechanisms and protections in place to safeguard and protect systems.



From the Alabama Energy Institute, Ms. Blake Hardwich, Executive Director, gave attendees an update on the organization.

Mr. Gary Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, covered the “North American Energy Outlook.” According to Mr. Smith, the coverage of decarbonization movements, governmental shifts, electric vehicle growth, renewable mandates and other social issues with an economy dampened by a global health pandemic will soon put increasing pressure on utilities, utility regulations and legislators - both federal and state. How social issues are balanced with the necessity of cheap energy

resources will dictate the success of the country for decades, he said.

Saturday morning’s “Breakfast Presentation: Federal Energy Outlook” was addressed by Mr. Rick Dearborn, Partner at Mindset, Senior Policy Advisor at Adams and Reese.

According to Mr. Dearborn, the Senate, the House, and the Biden administration will focus on the energy sector in 2021. Priorities for the Congress range from modernizing or hardening the electric grid to advancing renewable energy and carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies to passing a bipartisan, bicameral infrastructure package.

Addressing “Global Energy Demand” was Mr. Nathan Schmidt, Managing Director, Techstars Alabama EnergyTech Accelerator. Techstars helps accelerate startups’ business success by helping them “#domorefaster,” Mr. Schmidt explained.

The organization provides access to more than 10,000 entrepreneurs, experts, mentors, alumni, investors, community leaders, and corporate partners across Techstars’ Worldwide Network. Techstars’ main focus is to attract startups that are building technologies and business models to enhance the future of energy. Focus areas will include smart cities, the “internet of things,” industrial electrification, connectivity and electric transportation.

Through its corporate accelerators, Techstars has developed partnerships with corporations to add industry expertise through mentorships, business development opportunities and access to resources. Alabama

Power is Techstars’ first electric utility partner.

“Advances in Shale Gas Production” was covered by the Honorable Shawn Bennett, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Natural Gas, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In his opening statement, Mr. Bennett stated that the Department of Energy continues to evaluate how to best maximize the production of our oil and gas resources.

Partnering with Industry, National Labs, Consortia and Academia, the Office of Oil and Natural Gas has set up over 17 Field Labs to ensure that we continue to improve on the development of our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable way. “In addition to our work in the upstream sector, we at the DOE are also engaged in improving our midstream delivery and natural gas development of potential methane hydrates,” Mr. Bennett said.



Mr. Ray Hadley, Special Counsel for Adams and Reese, presented on the topic of Cybersecurity.

Mr. Alan Armstrong, President and Chief Executive Officer, Williams Energy discussed “NEPA Modernization.” Mr. Williams

## In Memoriam – Senator Henry “Hank” Coe

Former Wyoming State Senator Henry “Hank” Huttleston Rogers Coe, 74, lived a life of service. Hank Coe, who represented Park County in the Wyoming Legislature for 32 years, died on January 21 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Coe dedicated the majority of his life to public service. He assisted various organizations, like the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, while spending eight years as a Park County commissioner, 23 years as a volunteer firefighter and 32 years in the state Senate, serving from January 1989 through January 2021. When Coe announced his retirement from the Legislature last year, the senator said he was “eternally grateful to the people of Park County who put their faith in me to represent them for so many years.”

Senator Coe was a long-time member of The Energy Council and Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research (CLEER). He was committed to the organizations and served as Chairman of both.

On behalf of his many friends and colleagues at The Energy Council, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Kari Cooper, his children, H.R., Carey Ann and Bethany, and grandchildren, along with a host of cherished family and friends.



**Hank Coe**  
Wyoming Senator

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explained that the modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will accelerate the nation’s economic recovery and advance energy infrastructure development by ensuring an efficient permitting process with clear lanes of expertise and jurisdiction for environmental specialists and regulatory agencies.

In his conclusion, he stressed that these reforms will allow critical, job-creating infrastructure projects to move into development so the U.S. can take advantage of practical and immediate emissions reductions solutions, while meeting growing energy demand.

“Renewable Natural Gas” was the subject of the next panel, comprised of the Honorable Chris Hansen, Colorado Senate and Chairman of CLEER and Mr. David Cox, Co-Founder and Director of Operations, Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas. In his presentation, Senator Hansen

zeroed in on SB20-150, a bill with bipartisan agreement in Colorado in 2020. The 150 Bill is an opportunity for significant greenhouse gas reductions via methane capture and renewable natural gas (RNG) development.

RNG is defined as biogas derived from landfills, wastewater treatment plants, manure management, food waste; methane gas, derived from municipal solid waste pyrolysis, waste tire pyrolysis, coalmine methane, naturally occurring coalbed deposits; and, “Green” hydrogen (produced with renewable electricity.)

Senator Hansen stated that the bill passed the state Senate before the previous session ended last March due to COVID-19, however, he is hopeful for a reboot of the bill this year. Hansen said coal methane and biogas generated from the decomposition of organic material, can then be refined into what’s

known as renewable natural gas. RNG should not be confused with drilled natural gas—a finite fossil fuel resource in Colorado.

The Colorado bill would compel the state’s largest utility companies from large to small, as they grow, to use 5 percent renewable natural gas by 2025, 10 percent by 2030 and 15 percent by 2035. The bill would also direct the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to create RNG programs for smaller utilities and mandate natural gas emissions reporting for municipal utilities.

Mr. Cox spoke next on the topic and said that renewable natural gas is an innovative method of turning organic waste into clean, affordable and reliable fuel. RNG

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# THE ENERGY COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

## COLORADO

### President Pro Tempore Kerry Donovan

Senator Kerry Donovan has served in the Colorado Senate since 2015.

Senator Donovan serves as Chair on the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and as a member on the Legislative Council and Transportation & Energy Committees.

Senator Donovan resides in Vail.



**Kerry Donovan**  
Colorado President  
Pro Tempore



**Patrick McMath**  
Louisiana Senator

## LOUISIANA

### Senator Patrick McMath

Senator Patrick McMath was elected to the Louisiana Senate in 2019.

Senator McMath presently serves as Vice-Chair of the Transportation, Highway & Public Works Committee. He also serves as a member on the Judiciary A and Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committees.

Senator McMath and his wife, Jayne, have four children and make their home in Covington.

## LOUISIANA

### Senator Michael Reese

Senator Michael Reese was elected to the Louisiana Senate in 2020.

Senator Reese presently serves as the Vice Chair of the Labor & Industrial Relations Committee. He also serves as a member on the Judiciary B; Revenue & Fiscal Affairs; and Senate & Governmental Affairs Committees.

Senator Reese and his wife, Morgan, have two children and make their home in Leesville.



**Michael Reese**  
Louisiana Senator



**Ryan Bourriaque**  
Louisiana Representative

## LOUISIANA

### Representative Ryan Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2019.

Representative Bourriaque presently serves as Vice Chair of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee. He also serves as a member on the Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture; Rural Development; Ways and Means; and House Executive Committees; as well as the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay; House Select Committee on Disaster Recovery; and House Select Leadership Committee.

Representative Bourriaque and his wife, Megan, have three children and make their home in Abbeville.

# THE ENERGY COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

## LOUISIANA

### Representative Jean-Paul Coussan

Representative Coussan was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2016.

Representative Coussan presently serves as Chair of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee. He also serves as a member on the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay and the House Select Leadership Committee.

Representative Coussan and his wife, Jennifer, have three children and make their home in Lafayette.



**Jean-Paul Coussan**  
Louisiana Representative



**Joel Carter**  
Mississippi Senator

## MISSISSIPPI

### Senator Joel Carter

Senator Joel Carter was elected to the Mississippi Senate in 2018.

Senator Carter presently serves as Chair of the Energy Committee. He also serves as a member on the Corrections; Drug Policy; Finance; Highways and Transportation; Investigate State Offices; Labor; Ports and Marine Resources; and Tourism Committees.

Senator Carter and his wife, Suzanne, have four children and make their home in Gulfport.

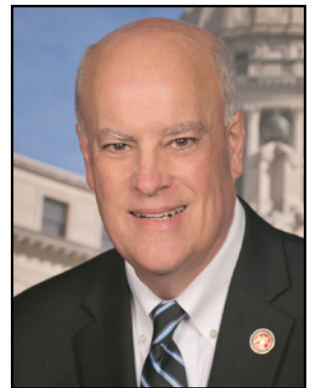
## MISSISSIPPI

### Representative C. Scott Bounds

Representative Bounds has served in the Mississippi House of Representatives since 2003.

He presently serves as Chair of the Public Utilities Committee. He also serves as a member on the Appropriations; Investigate State Offices; Joint Legislative Budget; Management; Universities & Colleges; and Fisheries and Parks Committees.

Representative Bounds and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



**C. Scott Bounds**  
Mississippi Representative



**Brent Powell**  
Mississippi Representative

## MISSISSIPPI

### Representative Brent Powell

Representative Powell was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 2012.

He presently serves as Chair of the Energy Committee. He also serves as a member on the Public Utilities; Public Health and Human Services; University and Colleges; and Rules Committees.

Representative Powell and his wife, Natasha, with their two children reside in Brandon.

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provides local governments and farmers with responsible options for managing waste and a new stream of revenue. RNG is available today from 130 facilities with 60 trillion BTU of production capacity. With more than 100 new RNG facilities under development across North America, RNG volumes are growing at 130 percent annually. What has historically been a burden has now become a long-term financial asset.



Colorado Senator and CLEER Chairman, Chris Hansen participated in a panel discussion on “Renewable Natural Gas” at the 2020 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference.

“Uranium Production and Procurement” was covered by Mr. Paul Goranson, Chief Executive Officer and Director, enCore Energy. According to Mr. Goranson, currently, almost 20 percent of America’s electricity is generated using nuclear power. There are currently 94 nuclear reactors generating electricity and approximately 120 nuclear reactors in use by the U.S. Navy and Department of Energy.

Globally, there are over 400 nuclear reactors in civilian power use. As a result, the nuclear energy industry is truly a global concern with a combination of commercial and

government owned nuclear fuel programs supporting that demand. The uranium industry in the United States has had a 75-year history of providing clean, baseload electric power and supporting national security. Until the late 1980’s, the U.S. was completely self-sufficient in fulfilling its demand for uranium, and it was a net export that employed 25,000+ workers.

In 2019, the U.S. produced less than half of what is needed to reload one nuclear reactor and employs less than 250 people. There are several reasons for this decline such as market conditions, but geopolitics and government policies have had the greatest impact. In addition to some global market changes, there is a greater emphasis on securing critical supply chains with a focus on national security that could lead to a revival of this critical domestic industry.

Saturday afternoon’s CLEER University Advisory Board (UAB) Seminar was entitled “Renewable Energy Incentives.” Mr. Mike Nasi, Senior Advisor, Life: Powered presented the seminar.

The debates about energy subsidies typically revolve around which energy resources receive more subsidies, but this question is easily answered, according to Nasi. He said all energy sources receive substantial federal and state subsidies, but wind and solar receive the most and are by far the most dependent on subsidies for their profitability. The more important and difficult question to hear is, why should we provide energy subsidies in the first place? This question boils down what makes an energy resource “good” and whether energy markets are able to appropriately determine

the proper mix of energy resources that we produce and consume.

Policymakers often deem energy markets to be falling short in spurring innovation and controlling pollution, which means some combination of subsidies and regulations are required. In most cases, these attempts are misguided, and energy markets would provide the best outcomes for energy producers and consumers if they were not distorted by the excessive regulations and subsidies that exist today, he concluded.

On Sunday morning, the CLEER Program Advisory Board Planning Session, gathered input for the 2021 State and Provincial Trends in Energy Conference to be held in June.



# Final Agenda

## The Energy Council's

### 2020 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference

December 3-6, 2020  
*Point Clear, Alabama*

#### **Welcome Remarks and Opening Address**

The Honorable Cam Ward  
Alabama Senate and  
Chairman, The Energy Council

The Honorable Chris Hansen  
Colorado Senate and  
Chairman, CLEER

#### **Opening Address**

The Honorable Kay Ivey  
Governor  
State of Alabama

#### **The Energy Impacts of COVID-19**

Ms. Joy Ditto  
President and CEO  
American Public Power  
Association

Mr. Brook Simmons  
President  
The Petroleum Alliance of  
Oklahoma

#### **An Update on the Alabama Energy Institute**

Ms. Blake Hardwich  
Executive Director  
Alabama Energy Institute

#### **Energy Export Opportunities**

Mr. John Driscoll  
Director and CEO  
Alabama State Port Authority

#### **A Cybersecurity Update**

Mr. Roy Hadley  
Special Counsel  
Adams and Reese

#### **North American Energy Outlook**

Mr. Gary Smith  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer  
PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

#### **Breakfast Presentation: Federal Energy Outlook**

Mr. Rick Dearborn  
Partner at Mindset  
Senior Policy Advisor at Adams  
and Reese

#### **Global Energy Demand**

Mr. Nathan Schmidt  
Managing Director  
Techstars Alabama EnergyTech  
Accelerator

#### **Advances in Shale Gas Production**

The Honorable Shawn Bennett  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil  
and Natural Gas  
U.S. Department of Energy

#### **NEPA Modernization**

Mr. Alan Armstrong  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer  
Williams Energy

#### **Renewable Natural Gas**

The Honorable Chris Hansen  
Colorado Senate and  
Chairman, CLEER

Mr. David Cox  
Co-Founder and Director of  
Operations  
Coalition for Renewable Natural  
Gas

#### **Uranium Production and Procurement**

Mr. Paul Goranson  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Director  
enCore Energy

#### **UAB Seminar: Renewable Energy Incentives**

Mr. Mike Nasi  
Senior Advisor  
Life: Powered

Working Breakfast

#### **CLEER Program Advisory Board Meeting**