



For Immediate Release: April 8, 2024

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Reitenour Campaign's Three-Point Energy Plan for Hoosier Economic Development

In late March of this year, the Biden Administration announced a new rule calling for a 56% reduction in fleetwide average carbon emissions by 2032. This new regulation constitutes the strictest-ever limit on the nation's automobile and light truck manufacturers. It will force auto manufacturers to sell fewer gasoline-powered cars, and more electric vehicles – not because people want them, but because those promoting a “world-is-coming-to-an-end” fanatical belief that we must do away with fossil fuels want to force us to accept their solution.

Such regulations will end jobs for Hoosiers working in the auto manufacturing industry, and as your governor, I will work with other like-minded governors around the country to oppose regulations like this one.

This tailpipe regulation is part of a larger scheme to get rid of fossil fuels and move to an all-electric economy, but they forget that it's coal and natural gas that fuel our electric power grid. Speaking just about Indiana, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that Indiana ranks 12th among the states in total energy use per capita. The industrial sector is the state's largest energy-consuming sector, and it accounts for almost half of the state's total energy consumption. Indiana's industries include energy-intensive chemical and primary metal manufacturing, as well as petroleum refining. The transportation sector is the second-largest energy consumer among Indiana's end-use sectors, followed closely by the residential sector. Overall, Indiana consumes almost four times as much energy as the state produces – a recipe for high-cost energy.

Here's another statistic. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, 19.8% of Indiana employment is in manufacturing – we are the number one state in the country when it comes to manufacturing employment. Our businesses need low-cost energy, but the wind and solar industry is driving energy costs higher.

Here in Indiana, we should be focusing on our own Hoosier version of “Drill, baby, drill” in an environmentally sound, efficient, and technologically-savvy manner.

Today, I am announcing my plan to provide low-cost reliable electricity that includes the use of Indiana coal, Indiana oil, and reopens the discussion for the use of safe, clean, reliable nuclear power.

Mine is a three-point plan.

First, we need to develop our energy resources in rural parts of southwest Indiana to grow our local economies in that part of the state. Southwestern Indiana's oil and gas fields are part of the Illinois Basin which also extends into Illinois and Western Kentucky. Major production from the southwestern Indiana oil fields progressed rapidly following a 1938 discovery in the Griffin Pool along the Wabash River in Gibson County. In 2017, Indiana's crude oil production was 1.78 million barrels. As a state, Indiana is ranked 23rd in overall crude oil production in the U.S. In 2017, Indiana's natural gas production was 5.95 million MCF (thousand cubic feet). As a state, Indiana is ranked 26th in overall natural gas production in the U.S.

Many miners are nearing retirement age, so we need to ensure that the next generation sees this as a viable opportunity by introducing them to modern mining technology. I see this as a golden opportunity for apprenticeship programs within my public education policy.

Second, I believe that we need to explore the development of nuclear energy. I understand that some people may have concerns about having nuclear energy facilities on our soil. Therefore, I've researched other states with nuclear energy and found that Illinois has a plant that's currently not operational. We're studying why it's not operational and exploring the possibility of building a relationship with Illinois to help bring that plant back online. Northern Indiana has a relationship with Michigan for its nuclear energy supply. Low-cost electricity is the lifeblood of a revitalized steel industry that relies on electric arc furnaces. Nucor Steel in Saint Joe, Indiana has built its business model on the use of electricity-intensive electric arc furnaces to melt down scrap metal to create all sorts of new steel products.

Third, we will halt tax and loan subsidies to wind and solar-powered projects that seek to use valuable Hoosier farmland. We need to produce food, not unreliable and intermittently-available electricity. There are those in Washington D.C. who are using the government's power of Eminent Domain to take land that has been in the hands of Hoosier families for decades and use it to make out-of-state investors rich off of this mirage of "renewable resources." Did you know that Jamie Dimon, the C.E.O. of JP Morgan Chase, said on 4/15/2021 that they were committing to invest \$2.5 trillion over the next 10 years toward climate action and sustainable development? But then, he ran into farmers across America who didn't want to sell their land and have it covered up with wind and solar farms which then leach harmful toxins into the soil. After fighting this for two years, Jamie Dimon issued a statement on April 6, 2023 that said that 'eminent domain' — the right of the state to seize or appropriate private property for public use — may need to be invoked in order to unlock wind, solar, and grid projects necessary for a global transition to renewable energy and away from fossil fuels.

As governor, I promise to stand with Hoosiers against those interests aligned with those who are set on lining the pockets of global billionaires at the expense of Hoosiers. If you want to support the development of a reliable electric grid that doesn't take advantage of our farmers and that will grow Indiana jobs, I encourage you to vote for me, Jamie Reitenour, in the May 7th Indiana gubernatorial primary.

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Jamie Reitenour is a Republican candidate for Indiana governor. She is a former collegiate athlete, a corporate veteran, ministry-leader, wife, and homeschool mom of five. With no history in government or politics, she runs on a practical slate of conservative values including smaller government, educational excellence, faith, family, and community that appeals to the everyday Hoosier and challenges the trend of establishment Republican leadership.

Sources:

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JPMorgan pledges \$2.5 trillion over 10 years toward climate change (cnbc.com)