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Purpose

Our purpose is simple: we want to advance human progress by providing the world's most affordable, plentiful, reliable energy to consumers and industry.

- Every machine that enhances our lives—from the automobile that takes you to work and play to the respirator that breathes life into the sick to the factory that produces your iPhone to the harvester that reaps the wheat for your bread—needs fuel to run. And the more affordable that fuel is, the more plentiful that fuel is, the more reliable that fuel is, the more empowered the human race is.
- The world needs fuel that is affordable enough to help lift the poor out of poverty, plentiful enough to fuel a high standard of living for every individual in a world of seven billion, and reliable enough to work all the time, on-demand, so that our hospitals always have power and our water purification plants never stop producing clean water.
- We spend every waking hour researching, finding, refining, and delivering affordable, plentiful, reliable energy as efficiently, safely, and responsibly as possible.

Values

Value Creation

We believe in creating long-term value for the world—including more of the affordable, reliable energy humanity needs to flourish.

- We specialize in hydrocarbon energy—commonly called “fossil fuels”.
- Hydrocarbon energy takes the earth’s almost unfathomable deposits of ultra-high-energy carbon-hydrogen-based materials, such as oil and natural gas, from rocks where they lay dormant and unusable for millions of years, and transform them into the energy that charges or iPhone or brings your family together for Thanksgiving.
- We specialize in hydrocarbons because they are unmatched in their ability to provide portable power—whether affordable gasoline for cars or diesel for agriculture or jet fuel for air travel—as well as clean, affordable home heating (natural gas)—and electricity on demand (natural gas).
- We are selling the best, most life-enhancing energy, empowering people in ways that the competition can’t—and if we are prevented from doing our job, people will suffer greatly.

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Safety

Like every technology and every form of energy, hydrocarbon energy has challenges, risks, and side-effects—and we do everything we can to overcome these so that our mission of promoting human progress benefits every human being we come in contact with.

- Fossil fuel opponents present every risk, challenge, or concern as unique and unnecessary.
- With fracking, for example, the implication of their argument is that if only we didn't have fracking our water supplies would be pristine and risk-free. This plus their argument that there is nothing uniquely good about fracking leads to people to regard fracking as alien and even terrifying—a new kind of threat added to their universe for no good reason (or for some insufficient reason, like a few jobs).
- In fact, the risks of our industry are often exaggerated and are comparable to the risks of many other activities people recognize as necessary for human flourishing, such as the risks involved in construction and transportation. And those risks are far outweighed by the unique benefits of our industry.
- We are proud of our safety record, and do everything we can to reduce the risks inherent in producing any form of the energy that human beings need to flourish.

Competition

To achieve our mission we support policies that protect competition, not policies favoring oil or gas or solar or wind.

- The key to maximizing affordable, reliable energy is allowing consumers to choose the best forms of energy and for different energy companies to compete.
- Fossil fuel opponents want to portray all forms of energy as equal in value except in how “dirty” they are—which enables them to portray superior forms of energy (coal, oil, gas, nuclear) as morally inferior to radically inferior sources of energy (solar, wind).
- This is the equivalent of someone saying that some bogus “green remedy” is superior to vaccines” because it doesn't have their side-effects—ignoring the fact that it doesn't have their life-saving effects, either.
- Fossil fuels are currently the best energy sources available in terms of reliability, price, and scalability. So much so, that even wind and solar depend on them throughout their entire life cycles. Without fossil fuels they could not be integrated into the grid or deliver energy at the price they can now, because fossil fuels absorb all the volatility and reduce their production cost. No fossil fuel development, no wind farm.
- We are obligated to allow people to choose the energy that is best for them—and not force anyone to pay for others' luxury energy sources.
- Solar/wind cannot scale on their own, they require reliable backup to parasite on. And without fossil fuels, their price tag would be much bigger.

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- We will produce fossil fuels and people will consume them as long as they are the best option for billions of people—whether that is 50 years or 250 years remains to be seen; the most important thing is the freedom to compete, and therefore, to innovate.
- To force Americans to use expensive technologies now suppresses current prosperity and future innovation.
- We are concerned about attempts to restrict competition, favoring certain technologies and limiting or banning others.

Environmental Quality

To achieve our mission we must and do hold ourselves to high environmental standards.

- We work closely with members, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders to continually assess and evaluate risks and take advantage of opportunities for improvement, so that we meet or exceed all regulatory and industry standards.
- We also recognize that the cheap, plentiful, reliable energy provided by fossil fuels is instrumental in improving our environment, helping to clean our air and water and eradicate disease.
- We are concerned about the mischaracterization of our environmental record and attempts to restrict development based on unscientific claims about environmental risks.

Innovation

To achieve our mission we must both encourage innovation by our members and demand innovation to minimize negative impacts.

- We do this by being a national leader in environmental protection as well as advocating policies that protect energy development and competition.

Scientific Thinking

To achieve our mission we must carefully assess the likely benefits and risks of our choices using the best, most precise science available.

- We do this by setting clear standards and carefully measuring impacts, both positive and negative.
- We are concerned about unscientific criticisms of our members' environmental record and restrictions on development based on unscientific claims and unequitable standards.

Freedom

To achieve our mission we need a respect for the freedom and property rights necessary to maximize value creation and protect against endangerment.

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- We do this by advocating for policies that secure freedom and property rights, while protecting our community and our environment from threats.
- We are concerned about laws and regulations that restrict the freedom and property rights that enable our industry to create enormous value for our stakeholders

Positions

Secure Energy

Since our goal is to support members who produce cheap, plentiful, reliable energy, security is at the heart of that goal. And the key to energy security is to have two things: as much freedom to produce the best energy sources as possible—and as much freedom to trade with other energy producers as possible. A combination of a domestic energy renaissance and free trade around the world will lead to maximum prosperity and security.

- By leaving our industry and others free to produce the best forms of energy, we will naturally evolve as conditions change. For example, if and when it becomes cheaper to produce non-hydrocarbon sources of energy, then we will naturally migrate to those. But hydrocarbons have a long potential future—there are many times more in the ground than we've used in the entire history of civilization, and our technologies are getting better.
- Every energy source involves finite materials and the need to find new sources: solar and wind involve numerous nonrenewable materials such as the rare earth metals they require.
- Thus, we are creating life-giving energy for this generation and many to come—as well as the economic foundation for innovation across every industry, including the energy industry.
- For a secure supply of affordable, plentiful, reliable energy, nothing matches a modern electric grid with centralized power plants combined with modern liquid fuel delivery systems. Home installations of unreliable sources of energy plus batteries have low energy use, far more expenses, and are at the mercy of the weather.
- We believe in free competition among all energy sources, but fossil fuel opponents are not calling for free competition but laws preventing us from selling products to willing customers.

Infrastructure (pipelines / storage)

Every product consumers need needs to be shipped. We want our product to be shipped in the safest, most efficient, most affordable way possible. The form of transportation that meets all those three standards best is a pipeline.

- Just as it is best to transport water through a pipe, not a railroad car or a truck, so it is best to transport liquid and gas fuels through a pipe.
- In terms of risk to local populations, pipelines are the only form of transportation that has almost zero risk of fatalities.

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- When accidents occur, companies have a record of mobilizing quickly and nearby ecosystems recover; oil is a natural, organic, plant-based material that naturally seeps or spills in water all the time, so while we want to do everything we can to avoid spills, it is disingenuous for fossil fuel opponents to treat pipelines as a mortal threat. In fact, to oppose pipelines is a threat to Americans and our trading partners.

Jobs

Our goal is to produce the most affordable, plentiful, reliable energy for Americans and to do that we need great people to help us in every aspect of our business, from engineering to accounting.

- We believe in jobs that are necessary to provide customers great value, not jobs that need to be subsidized by government.
- It is wrong for fossil fuel opponents to deprive hard-working people who want productive jobs from taking them, particularly in this economy.
- Most people don't appreciate how beneficial the energy industry is to creating new job opportunities. When we use shale technology to make more affordable, plentiful, reliable energy, that doesn't just create jobs for people producing the energy, or even just for all the local businesses that benefit from new customers with good salaries. All industries benefit, because all industries benefit from more affordable energy.

Renewables/Unreliables

The main reason we are told that we need to switch to renewable power sources is the need to drastically reduce CO2 emissions.

- Renewables, particularly solar and wind, are unlikely to become a practical, affordable solution to CO2 anytime soon. If CO2 is really a problem, we would have to focus on two technologies we know have a shot at substituting fossil fuels—nuclear and large-scale hydro. Both of these are vehemently opposed by those advocating for renewable mandates.
- It is unlikely that CO2 emission will cause an unmitigated climate catastrophe. The warming and climate changes we have seen since the use of fossil fuels skyrocketed has been mild and manageable and speculative climate models have failed to accurately simulate the climate system.
- The government favored sources of energy, solar and wind, cannot work on their own since their inputs are intermittent. If we are honest about the cost of integrating these sources into our energy systems, they do not come close to affordable energy on the scale of millions or even billions.

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- Solar and wind or any other sources of energy should be allowed to compete on equal terms but government should not pick winners and losers on the basis of unsound science and vague hell narratives.

Climate

Given our mission of human progress, we absolutely want our actions to be consistent with a livable climate now and in the future.

- One key to that, which is never mentioned, unfortunately, is that affordable energy makes our climate far safer. Climate is naturally dangerous, naturally volatile, and ever-changing. Thanks to a dramatic increase in cheap, plentiful, reliable energy from hydrocarbons, we have saved millions and millions of lives from climate-related deaths, which are down 98% since the 1930s, when major global fossil fuel use began.
- When you use a hydrocarbon for energy you generate carbon dioxide; we have increased the amount of CO₂ from .03% to .04% in the last 150 year and are on track to increase it to .05% and .06% throughout this century.
- We do not think there is anything inherently wrong with increasing the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, just as we don't think there is anything wrong with increase the number of buildings on land—the question is the impact on human beings.
- While climate scientists are near unanimous that CO₂ has caused some of the mild warming of the last 150 years—the source of 97% claims—the theories predicting catastrophic warming have failed when put to the test.
- This plus the life and death benefits of using fossil fuels make them a moral choice for the foreseeable future.
- We are open to all future evidence and will change our assessment if warranted.
- If CO₂ emissions were a problem, the solution would be more investment and innovation and lifting restrictions on technologies like nuclear and hydro. The fact that opponents of fossil fuels often oppose these non-carbon technologies reveals that they are anti-development, not anti-CO₂.
- The key to climate safety is technology powered by affordable energy, which today predominantly means fossil fuels.

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Air Quality

Given that our mission is to promote human wellbeing, environmental quality is a top value of ours.

- The oil and gas industry since its inception has been seeking to make our air cleaner, replacing massive animal pollution in our cities with far cleaner cars, and coal stoves with clean natural gas heating. Fracking makes it possible to generate electricity from clean, centralized natural gas plants, far from most people’s homes, and modern emissions control technology keeps both car emissions and any drilling-related emissions falling.
- The government should monitor emissions and protect people against unhealthy levels of any kind of airborne molecule, while allowing healthy levels. For example, if home dust standards were high enough, no one would be allowed to live in their homes. These standards must be based on clear evidence of causation at certain thresholds—not speculation. We believe the evidence shows that our operations do not create health risks to local populations, but we believe that if there is evidence that any industry or company, including ours, endangers anyone, the government should address the situation.
- We have to base assessments of health impacts on sound science that explains clearly how impact happens, how much of an impact air pollution has, and what is proven vs. what is speculative in health effects. Unfortunately, this has not been the basis of many of the health impact assessments so far.

Water Quality

The goal of our products and technologies and projects is to improve as many lives as possible by empowering them with affordable, reliable energy, so of course water quality is one of our highest values.

- Indeed, one of the benefits we are proudest of about our energy is that it helps ensure Americans get all the clean water they need, by providing energy necessary to purify water of natural contaminants and pathogens, to pump clean water wherever it is needed—benefits that unfortunately half the world doesn’t yet have.
- For us to operate in a way that endangers the water supply of our customers, communities, and employees around the country would be a complete violation of our very purpose for being.
- Every technology uses raw materials that must be mined from the ground—any time we drill or mine or dig underground, whether to drill for oil or to mine for the materials in solar panels, groundwater can be compromised. Of all the things you can do underground, fracking is the least likely to impact groundwater, because it takes place thousands of feet away from groundwater.

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Water Use

Nearly every human activity and industry uses large amounts of water—so we want to take measures to make sure we make as much water available as possible now and for generations to come.

- Fortunately, modern ingenuity and technology make it possible for us to have all the water we need, but it requires a lot of energy.
- We believe that because shale energy technology is improving every area of our lives, including making possible more food and clean water, it is a highly worthwhile use of water—and it uses far less water than things like agriculture and even golf courses.
- We think it’s wrong for fossil fuel opponents to single out shale energy for its water use, without informing people about its tiny overall percentage of water use or about the unique benefits of developing shale energy.
- We believe the government should take action to enable us to maximize our water supplies and to apply market pricing to water so consumers and industries, including ours, use it as responsibly as possible.

Earthquakes / Seismicity

As an organization that exists to promote human welfare, we will not take actions that endanger human beings with earthquakes.

- It is important to distinguish a meaningful, dangerous earthquake with harmless underground tremors—which occurs tens of thousands of times a year and can be caused by a variety of natural and man-made activities, including driving a truck or construction work. Drilling and hydraulic fracturing also can cause these tremors. While they can be called “earthquakes,” by that standard the earth is in a constant state of quaking.
- Unfortunately, opponents of shale energy and other forms of industrial development have made us afraid of “fracking earthquakes” that are typically tremors that on not one occasion have harmed a human being. By contrast, not using shale energy technology would harm millions by less accessible, more expensive energy as well as tens of thousands who would unfairly lose their jobs for doing nothing wrong.
- Government policy should monitor every industry for any underground activity that could potentially cause danger. If there is a specific case or location where hydraulic fracturing might be dangerous, then it should not be permitted there—but there is no cause whatsoever to ban it everywhere.