

Message

From: Shawn P. Rusterholz [REDACTED]@api.org]
Sent: 23/02/2021 01:30:10
To: [REDACTED]@listserve.api.org; [REDACTED]@listserve.api.org
CC: Bill Koetzle [REDACTED]@api.org]; Lem Smith [REDACTED]@api.org]
Subject: CFR Update - February 22, 2021
Attachments: Haaland SENR Opening Statement.pdf; JBE Letter to President Biden 2.19.21.pdf; Joint-Letter-to-President-Biden-on-the-Oil-and-Gas-Ban-2.22.2021.pdf; BRADTX_003B_xml.pdf

Committee on Federal Relations:

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Have a great evening,
Shawn

Shawn Rusterholz
Manager, Government Affairs
American Petroleum Institute

API Earned Media

Monday, February 22, 2021

API Blog: LMOGA, API Launch New Educational Partnership In Support Of Workforce Development And Diversity

QUOTES & MENTIONS

Haaland softens tones on fossil fuels before Senate nomination hearing. [Politico Pro.](#) Rep. Deb Haaland, the Biden administration's nominee to lead the Interior Department, will tell senators at her Tuesday hearing that, if confirmed, she will bring to the role an appreciation of fossil fuel jobs and the federal revenue the industry generates, as well as a need to responsibly manage natural resources to protect them for future generations. ... While energy state Republicans have been fairly vociferous in their criticism of Haaland, the actual energy industry has been more circumspect ahead of the hearing. "This confirmation hearing presents an opportunity for the Senate to have a meaningful discussion on the economic and environmental benefits of oil and gas development on federal lands and waters, and we encourage lawmakers to give these important energy issues the attention they deserve," API Vice President of Policy, Economics and Regulatory Affairs Frank Macchiarola said in a press release.

Interior pick Haaland draws GOP ire with fracking opposition. [Bloomberg.](#) Interior Secretary-designate Deb Haaland's opposition to fracking, early endorsement of the Green New Deal and participation in protests against an oil pipeline in South Dakota have made her one of President Joe Biden's most controversial cabinet nominees. ... Policies Haaland charts at Interior could have a dramatic effect on U.S. energy development. Federal lands and waters made up roughly 22% of U.S. crude and 12% of U.S. natural gas in 2019, according to the Energy Information Administration. "That supply is really the difference between greater energy security and going back to the past where we were more reliant on on foreign energy," said Frank Macchiarola, senior vice president of the American Petroleum Institute.

Deb Haaland's past environmental activism promises a confirmation showdown before a panel led by two pro-fossil fuel senators. [Business Insider.](#) Rep. Deb Haaland, who would become the first Native American Interior secretary if confirmed, is set to appear before a Senate panel on Tuesday where the longtime progressive activist will face down two pro-fossil fuel lawmakers critical of her environmental positions. ... Meanwhile, oil and gas industry figures have lined up to voice opposition to Haaland's nomination, arguing that restrictions on their sector would lead to job losses and a greater reliance on energy imports. "We do have a number of concerns about some of the policy positions she's taken as a member of the House and as a candidate for the House," said Frank Macchiarola, a senior vice president at the American Petroleum Institute.

Power cuts in Texas and elsewhere could cost Colorado energy consumers. [Denver Post.](#) Colorado residents were spared from the massive power outages last week that left more than 4 million Texas households in the dark and bitter cold, put 14 million under orders to boil their tap water and left an untold number coping with empty store shelves and

disrupted lives. ... Some energy analysts and politicians, most notably Texas Gov. Gregg Abbott, have blamed renewable sources for the crisis, especially wind generation, which provides about a quarter of the power in Texas, but suffered a big drop as blades iced over and the wind died. But utility and energy experts argue there was plenty of blame to go around and that finger-pointing works against finding needed solutions. “This is a complex and very important issue that people need to understand. We aren’t interested in playing that political back-and-forth game. It is disheartening,” said Dustin Meyer, vice president of natural gas markets at the American Petroleum Institute.

The cold isn’t the biggest threat to Colorado’s power grid — other climate disasters might be. [Colorado Public Radio](#). In the aftermath of the Texas power outages, fossil fuel advocates and some Republican politicians blamed frozen wind turbines for the problems. Texas officials have since debunked the claims, showing natural gas failures were the main cause of the blackouts. Nevertheless, Colorado fossil fuel advocates insist the state’s grid needs natural gas to remain reliable. Lynn Granger, the executive director for the American Petroleum Institute Colorado, told CPR News natural gas is unique in its ability to “ensure grid reliability,” especially as the state transitions to more and more wind and solar. While those energy sources depend on the weather, gas turbines can power up so long as fuel is available and systems aren’t broken.

THIRD-PARTY VOICES

Pa. must strive to maintain strong energy policies. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#). The Feb. 11 article “Shale Gas Boom Counties Saw Little Growth” failed to tell the true story of the natural gas renaissance in Western Pennsylvania. Selectively comparing a handful of counties in our state to the country as a whole, as this study does, is brazen misrepresentation of the fossil fuel industry’s contributions to our state.