

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



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ClearPath Action Rundown July 24th, 2026

Happy Friday!

1. Powering Your Energy Career



The ClearPath Conservative Leadership Program (CCLP) hosted its third annual professional development event, hosting emerging talent in the energy sector for

“Powering Your Energy Career: Connections and Conversations for Young Energy Professionals in Washington.”

Highlights included:

- A fireside chat from **Rep. Celeste Maloy** (R-UT) and former E&C Chairman **Greg Walden** (R-OR);
- A professional development session from Ascent Media partner **Zack Roday**;
- An interactive energy activity with ClearPath's **Hillary O'Brien**; and
- A closing panel about energy careers with ClearPath's **Emily Johnson**, DOE's **Lahra Walker** and DOI's **Matt Middleton**.

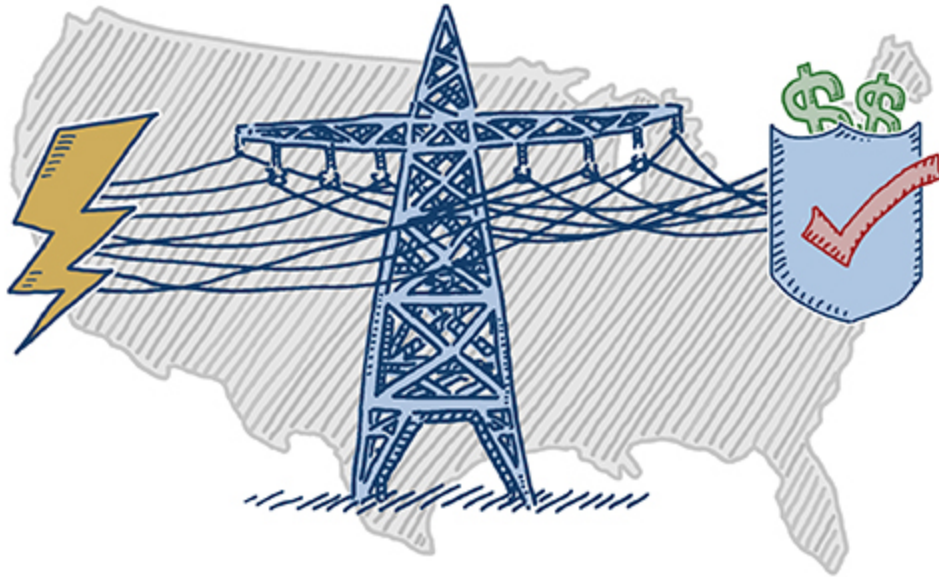


What's clear: CCLP continues to grow the next generation of conservative energy leaders, equipping participants with the skills and network to advance affordable, reliable, clean energy solutions on Capitol Hill and throughout the industry.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **blog** for the full recap of the event.

If you are on the Hill and your office would benefit from having a ClearPath fellow in your office, reach out to **Dana Faught** at **dana@clearpath.org** to learn more.

2. Ensuring affordable electricity bills



President Trump announced the commitment of more than 200 companies to the **Ratepayer Protection Pledge**. This groundbreaking initiative ensures participating tech giants protect American families from electricity price hikes, take action to strengthen grid reliability and guarantee that everyday citizens share in the prosperity of the ongoing technological renaissance.

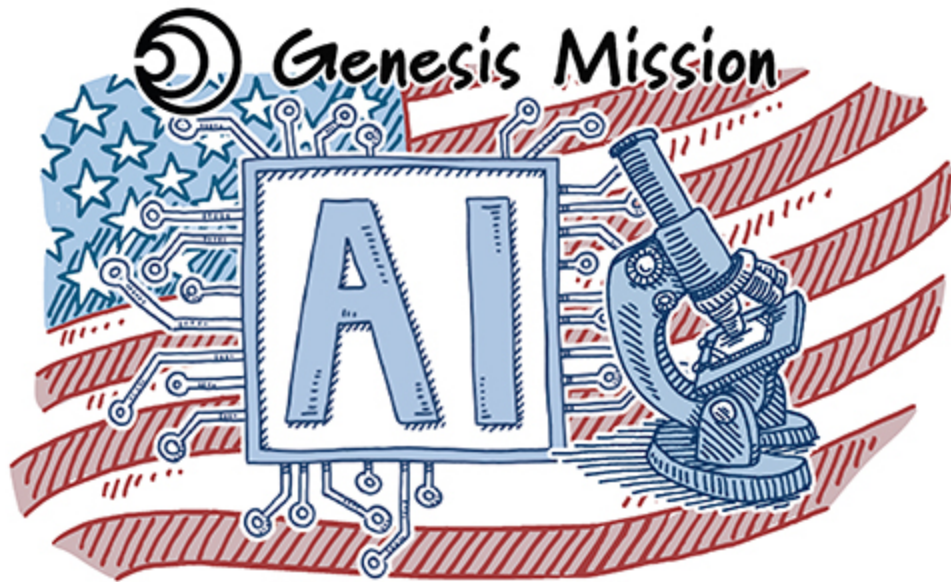
Their pledge includes:

- **Build, bring or buy a new power supply:** Companies procure and pay for the generation resources needed for their new energy demand and expand overall energy capacity for the public;
- **Pay for new power delivery infrastructure upgrades:** Companies cover all new power delivery infrastructure upgrades required to service their data centers, ensuring those costs are not passed on to ordinary households;
- **Pay whether they use the power or not:** Companies will work with utilities and state governments to ensure they pay for all the energy infrastructure they need, regardless of whether they use the energy;
- **Invest in local job creation and workforce development:** Companies invest directly in the communities they're building, including hiring local workers and establishing skill development programs; and
- **Contribute to electric and community resilience:** Companies partner with grid operators to enhance reliability and make their backup generation available during scarcity events to prevent regional blackouts.

What's clear: President Trump is placing American consumers first by holding companies accountable while accelerating U.S. energy dominance and technological leadership.

Plug in: Learn more about the initiative directly at the **Ratepayer Protection Pledge** page.

3. Genesis Mission expands: 278 projects selected, \$5B pledged for AI-powered science

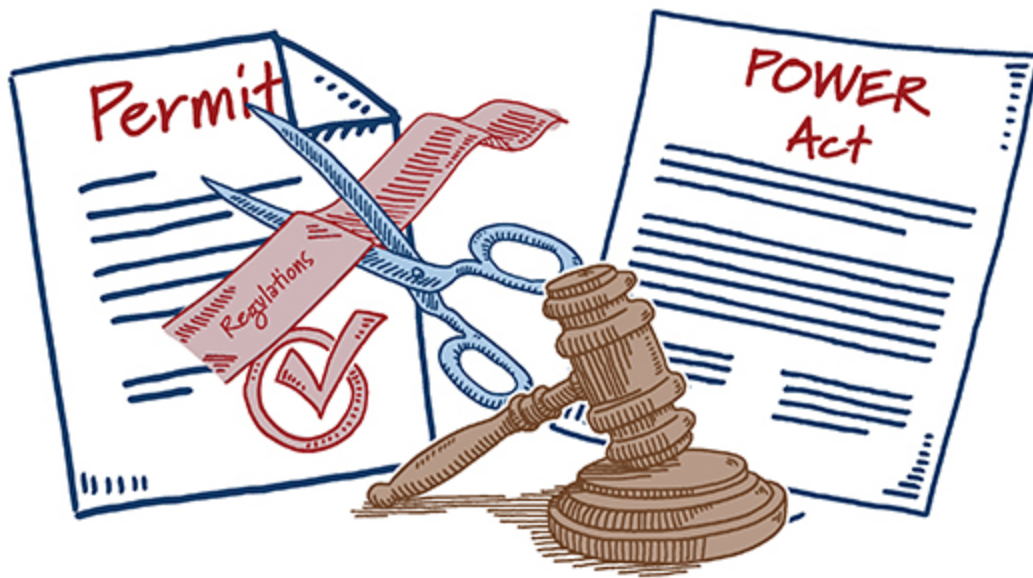


Winning the AI race starts with modernizing the science behind American energy and manufacturing. This week, the U.S. Department of Energy **announced the first 278 projects** selected under the Genesis Mission's Request for Applications, which received the largest number of applications in DOE history. **The White House** also unveiled more than \$5 billion to expand this DOE-led effort to harness AI for scientific discovery across more than 15 federal agencies.

The Genesis Mission would tackle key national priorities across energy, science, and engineering - spanning areas like advanced nuclear power, extraction of critical minerals, innovative chip design and fusion energy deployment.

What's clear: Increased support for the Genesis Mission keeps America's research and development ecosystem, including its world-leading national labs, at the center of AI innovation so that we can maintain our leadership in mission-critical technologies.

4. House E&C unveils POWER Act to cut permitting red tape



The single biggest obstacle to building the energy infrastructure America needs is the broken permitting process. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY) released a discussion draft of the **Permitting Our Way to an Energy Resurgence** (POWER) Act, combining nearly 20 bills to speed approvals for infrastructure the grid needs most.

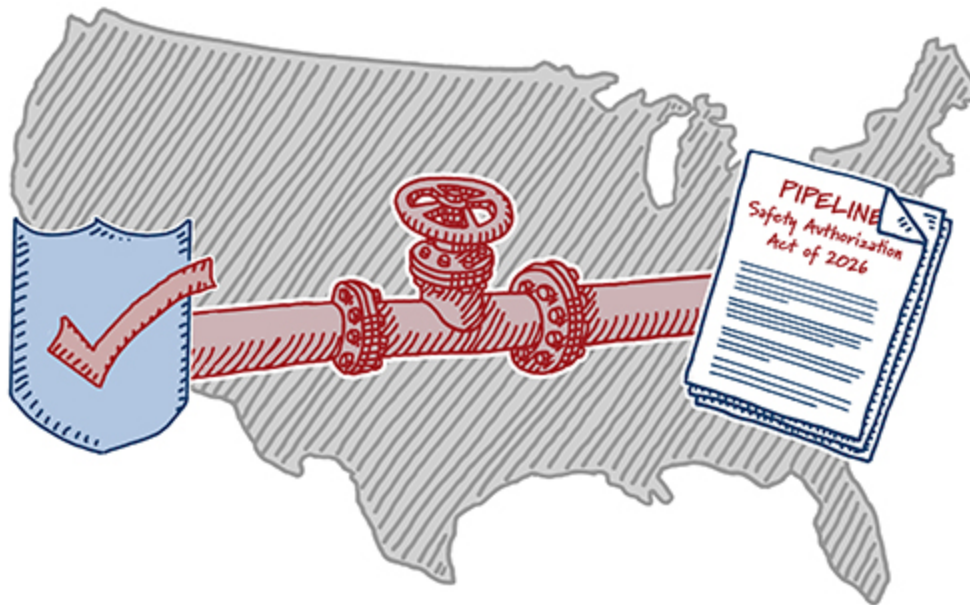
The discussion draft would:

- Streamline permitting for pipelines, power plants and transmission lines;
- Require data centers to help cover the cost of their own infrastructure needs; and
- Modernize Clean Air Act permitting to speed industrial and manufacturing projects.

What's clear: Faster permitting means lower electricity bills for hardworking American families and a stronger competitive edge for the country. Comprehensive, bipartisan permitting reform is crucial to help America build faster and keep our edge in the global race for manufacturing dominance.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **Time to Fix America's Permitting Problems and Let America Build** for a deeper look at the reforms needed to modernize permitting.

5. House E&C advances energy bills in markup



The House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced multiple bills that deliver affordable and reliable energy policy for Americans to innovate here, build quickly and sell globally.

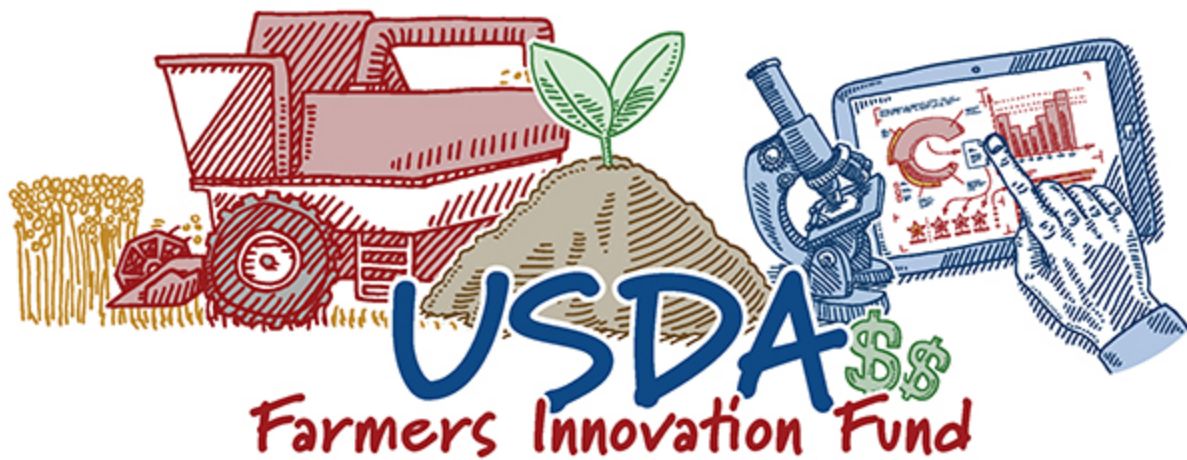
The markup included the:

- **Ratepayer Protection Act**, codifying the principle behind President Trump's pledge with leading tech and AI companies to protect ratepayer bills from data center energy costs;
- **Advanced Transmission Technology to Reduce Rates Act**, directing DOE to support education on and deployment of advanced electricity transmission technologies;
- **High-Capacity Grid Act**, directing FERC to set a best-available conductor standard to promote affordable grid growth;
- **Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act**, directing DOE to study how AI and high-performance computing can enhance bulk-power system capacity and reliability; and
- **Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026**, reauthorizing PHMSA and supporting critical energy infrastructure safety programs.

What's clear: As energy demand continues to surge, Congress must modernize both the electric grid and the nation's pipeline network to keep energy affordable and reliable. This week's bipartisan action on both fronts is a step in the right direction.

Plug in: Read Energy Intelligence's **[take on Congress's permitting reform push](#)** for what comes next.

6. USDA certifies Farmers Innovation Fund to boost private ag investment



Pairing private capital with public programs is how America builds a faster, more competitive agriculture sector. **The Department of Agriculture Rural Development certified the Farmers Innovation Fund** as a Rural Business Investment Company, opening the door for Farm Credit institutions and other private investors to fund agricultural technology companies.

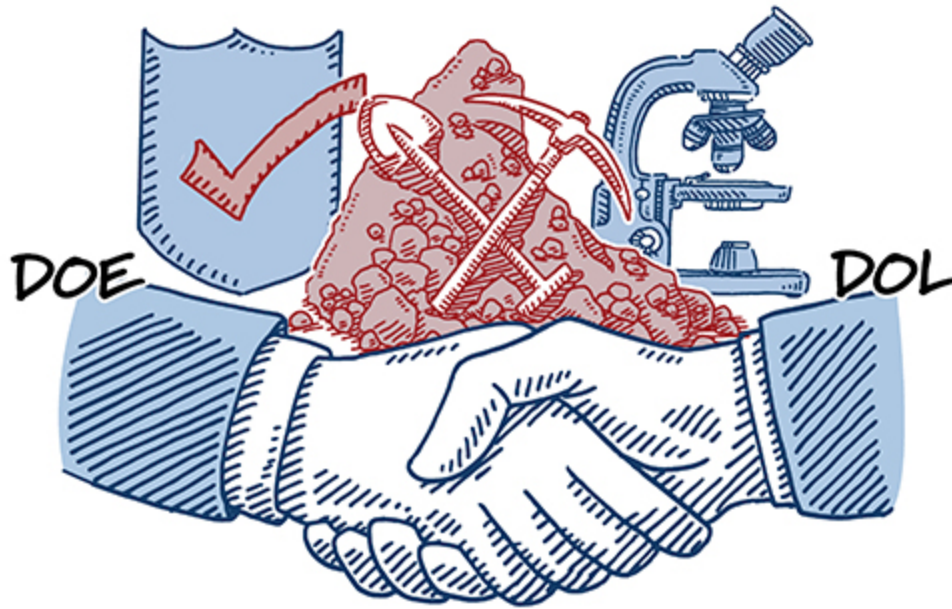
What the certification does:

- Connects early-stage private capital to companies building farm productivity and resilience tools;
- Tests new agricultural technology under real-world conditions; and
- Strengthens domestic agriculture supply chains while creating opportunities for rural entrepreneurs and manufacturers.

What's clear: Allowing private capital to invest in agricultural technology lets American farmers strengthen supply chains at home and keeps U.S. agriculture ahead of foreign competitors, securing the country's long-term food security.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **case for U.S. leadership in agricultural innovation** and why regaining ground on ag R&D investment matters.

7. DOE and DOL partner to advance mining innovation and safety



The Department of Energy and the Department of Labor will work together to improve efficiency and worker safety in U.S. mining. The offices signed a five-year [**Memorandum of Understanding**](#) to deploy AI, automation and advanced sensing to reduce costs and enable safe mining operations.

The partnership focuses on:

- Conducting research using cutting-edge AI and automation technologies to improve mining operations and safety;
- Preparing the mining workforce for technology-driven operations through targeted education, training, and skills development; and
- Digitizing legacy mining records and datasets to improve the characterization of domestic mineral resources.

What's clear: America has the resources and ingenuity to lead in critical minerals. Unleashing American innovation to improve outputs and protect the critical minerals workforce will advance U.S. competitiveness and strengthen energy security.

Plug in: Read ClearPath CEO Jeremy Harrell's congressional testimony on [**The Importance of Domestic Mining for U.S. National Security**](#) for more on why domestic mining is critical to U.S. supply chains.

8. ClearPath expands research team



Chidera Ofili-Udo

Chidera Ofili-Udo joins ClearPath on the research team as a Senior Research Associate. In her role, Chidera will support analysis on clean energy technologies and energy policies, using quantitative analysis to inform legislative and regulatory decision-making.

Prior to joining ClearPath, Chidera worked in investment banking and contributed to energy research on methane tri-reforming and carbon utilization.

Welcome, Chidera!

9. NEW Podcast: The Politics of AI and Energy



Winning the AI era depends less on chips and more on whether America can build the infrastructure to power it. In part two of **Political Climate**'s conversation with veteran energy investor Phil Deutch, hosts Julia Pyper, Brandon Hurlbut and Neil Chatterjee dig into where Washington and Silicon Valley align and clash, as power demand continues to grow.

In the episode, Deutch and hosts:

- Dig into new FERC large-load interconnection orders and the on-site generation reshaping a grid built for another era;
- Tackle energy affordability head-on, from DOE's push for more supply to shoring up existing power plants; and
- Ask whether America can build fast enough to keep energy innovation and its commercial payoff at home rather than abroad.

What's clear: Whoever adds affordable, reliable, clean power fastest and wins the public and political support to sustain it will set the terms for the next era of American competitiveness.

Plug in: Listen to this episode of Political Climate [here](#).

10. The Circuit



ClearPath CEO **Jeremy Harrell** spoke on a panel during Dynamo Energy Hub's Summer Summit, an event for leaders developing the future of energy and its infrastructure.

Rafae Ghani, Program Manager for Advanced Manufacturing, spoke on the importance of promoting cement concrete and asphalt innovation at a Senate briefing hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center titled "Laying the Foundation: An Innovative Materials Lunch Briefing."





Niko McMurray, Managing Director of International and Nuclear Policy, joined the **Breakthrough Institute**, **TerraPower** and the House American Energy Dominance Caucus for a briefing that gave Congressional offices and stakeholders a timely look at NRC rulemaking and how Congress can help shape nuclear deployment reforms.

11. ICYMI

- **Path to Zero** featured ClearPath CEO **Jeremy Harrell** during CERAWEEK, where he discussed the importance of accelerating American clean energy innovation to meet rising demand for affordable, reliable power.
 - Indiana Governor Mike Braun **announced** the Indiana Advanced Nuclear Ready Community program, a new initiative supporting local communities pursuing site-readiness designations for new nuclear energy development.
 - The Trump administration released an **executive order** that will limit waivers to procure critical minerals from adversaries to supply the defense sector and require supply chain mapping, supplier vetting and faster qualification of domestic mineral sources for defense contractors. This will drive greater investment in domestic mineral sources to meet defense demand.
 - The International Energy Agency released their 2026 **Global Critical Minerals Outlook**, which found that critical minerals have moved to the forefront of global policy agendas, prices for many key minerals increased and China retains control of midstream processing for minerals like lithium, cobalt and rare earths.
 - JPMorgan's Natural Resource Group Co-Heads released a **joint op-ed** on the need for permitting modernization and highlighted the firm's Security and Resiliency Initiative to invest in strengthening U.S. energy independence.
 - The House passed Rep. Pat Harrigan's (R-NC) bipartisan **Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act** by voice vote, expanding federal research into advanced geothermal technology to help meet rising electricity demand from AI, data centers and manufacturing.
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*ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation...
markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.*

That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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