All too often today’s important policy discussions revolve around abstractions and devolve into unproven assertions based on political ideology rather than facts. Fortunately, when it comes to the best way forward on American energy policy, we know what works, because it is today’s reality.

Just a decade ago conventional wisdom pointed toward sustained American energy dependence, scarcity and restricted energy choices and that greater production of U.S. oil and natural gas resources were not technologically possible or environmentally desirable.
And yet the United States is in the midst of a 21st century energy renaissance that has significantly lowered energy costs for American consumers and delivered a sizable lift to the U.S. economy. In fact, the next president of the United States will inherit a country with a growing population and a growing economy, with production of U.S. oil and natural gas at or near record highs, while at the same time, according to the EPA, greenhouse gas emissions are at near 20-year lows.

“GAS UNDER TWO BUCKS A GALLOON AIN’T BAD, EITHER.”

President Obama – 2016 State of the Union Address
This progress is the result of a market-driven, consumer-focused approach to American energy policy we call the U.S. Model. The U.S. Model demonstrates that market forces are far better able to achieve our nation’s energy, climate and economic goals than government mandates and regulatory dictates. Simultaneously, as the United States is leading the world in energy production, we have one of the strongest western economies and are leading the world in reducing greenhouse gas emissions – a trifecta of success unmatched by any other nation.

IHS estimated that average U.S. household income was

**$1200 HIGHER IN 2012 THANKS TO ENERGY**

from shale. IHS estimated that that figure could reach $3500 a year in 2025.

**CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY**

Source: AG0339W - Table 19, 2015 EIA Report and Jan 2016 STEO for 2015

---

When comparing GDP growth and emissions reductions, you can again see U.S. leadership. For most countries, GDP growth is synonymous with emissions growth, but this is not true for the United States. Natural gas is enabling this rare combination of increased economic growth and falling emissions.

**CHANGE IN CARBON EMISSIONS VS. GDP**

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Emissions Data, World Bank, GDP Data
Our nation’s best path forward is clear: If we want to continue the progress achieved through the U.S. Model – lower energy costs for consumers, a cleaner environment, abundant energy supplies and improved American energy security.

**WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT OUR NATION’S ENERGY POLICY** doesn’t hinder the market-driven innovation and investment that’s made our nation a global energy leader. We need energy policies that build upon our nation’s ability to supply more of the energy consumers need to heat their homes, run their businesses and enjoy their lives.

Just as the success of the U.S. Model is clear, we also know what the contrary vision of less energy that seeks to constrain energy production, distribution and use looks like and how it increases the cost to American consumers, businesses and our economy. Choosing energy policies that seek to thwart or severely curtail the 21st century American renaissance will cost our nation’s economy and consumers billions of dollars over the next several decades.

The Energy Information Administration estimates that the American consumer saved, on average, $700 in 2015 on transportation fuel costs as a result of abundant energy. And IHS estimated that average U.S. household income was $1200 higher in 2012 given lower home energy costs brought about by unconventional development. IHS estimated that that figure could reach $3500 a year in 2025.

Votes cast this November, at all levels of government, will have clear implications for our nation’s economy and national security, and for American families. The reality is that we will need more energy from all sources for many years to come. A Vote4Energy will be critical to ensuring we continue down the path of progress, instead of backsliding toward previous decades of energy scarcity and uncertainty.