2021 State of American Energy Opening Remarks
AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
Amanda Eversole, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Through World Wars, energy crises, a pandemic, and other major challenges, the natural gas and oil industry has worked day and night, so the world can swiftly recover from setbacks. And in recent days and months, American resiliency and democracy have been tested like never before.

Amid all the uncertainty, you can depend on our industry and the more than 10 million jobs it supports to strengthen U.S. energy leadership, enhance national security and serve as the foundation for nearly every other industry. When America needs a sure thing, you can count on us.

On behalf of our member companies and staff, welcome to API’s 2021 State of American Energy.

We’re glad you’re with us for this annual, marquee occasion. Talking to you through this screen – in our first virtual State of American Energy event – reflects the significant challenges the world continues to face with the COVID-19 pandemic. And it also showcases America’s culture of resilience, reliability, and innovation – we solve problems and overcome hurdles. That culture is one our industry reflects and lives by – even in challenging times.

I want to share a few examples of that culture in action over the last 10 months.

API member companies proudly produced and donated millions of dollars and petroleum-based medical equipment to support the nation’s recovery. Things like fuels, medical-grade hand sanitizers, and nearly a million pieces of personal protective equipment.

- BP donated millions of gallons of jet fuel to get PPE – like gloves, gowns, and masks – to areas of the U.S. with the greatest need.
- ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical and others reconfigured manufacturing facilities to produce and donate hand sanitizer.
• Marathon Petroleum donated hundreds of thousands of N95 respirator masks to hospitals and first responders across 20 states.  
• Motiva donated computers to students learning remotely. And Apache provided data hotspots so students could receive virtual lessons.

These are just a few ways this industry rose to meet the moment and demonstrate resilience that has defined API’s member companies for more than a century.

This is an industry of problem solvers, and I want to briefly share the stories of Josh and Andrew, who are shining examples of this commitment.

• Josh Gautreau is a land team lead for Chevron’s work in the Delaware Basin. He got a call from his sister in mid-March. She’s a doctor at St. Luke’s in Sugar Land, Texas. She wanted to know if he had ever done 3D printing. Her hospital was facing a shortage of PPE and they were trying to preserve it for the ICU doctors and nurses. Josh had not tried 3D printing before, but ordered two of the printers on the spot and spent nights figuring out how to make the face shields for his sister’s hospital wing. Chevron itself later donated 100,000 surgical masks, and overhauled its labs to produce PPE for local hospitals & first responders.

• Likewise, in Pennsylvania, Andrew Hayek, a pipeline designer by day at Williams Companies, bought a 3D printer a couple years ago to make toys for his daughters. When COVID hit, he switched gears and made hundreds of protective face shields for use at his local hospital. When his bosses at Williams got wind of what he was doing, they bought him two more 3D printers right away. After the virus runs its course, and we know it will, Andrew plans to donate the printers to local high schools.

I am thrilled that so many like Josh and Andrew and Energy Citizens advocates from coast to coast have logged on to join us. So many of you have made a difference in your own communities over the last year, and we’re proud to welcome you here today. We also thank our distinguished guests, including Members of Congress, transition team members, state officials, state lawmakers, legislative staff, industry leaders, labor leaders
from North America’s Building Trades Unions, trade association executives, and our so many partners. We also welcome representatives from Senate and House leadership offices.

This year’s State of American Energy features the natural gas and oil industry’s essential role in restoring our economy today, preserving our energy leadership tomorrow and building for the future.

Next you’ll hear from a distinguished panel of industry employees discussing the workforce of the future.

Soon afterward, API President and CEO Mike Sommers will present a vision for building the future with smart policies and private-sector action to tackle the world’s toughest challenges, including strong environmental performance.

And now, enjoy the 2021 State of American Energy!