

Advancing the Energy Transition with Innovation and a Clean Energy Standard

March 2, 2021

FEATURED PARTICIPANTS



Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)

House Energy and Commerce Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Ranking Member

[@RepMcKinley](#)

David B. McKinley, P.E. has represented the First District of West Virginia since January 3, 2011.

Born in Wheeling in 1947, David attended public schools and worked his way through college, graduating from Purdue University with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation, he worked in the construction industry as a certified professional engineer.

David is the founder of McKinley and Associates — an architectural and engineering firm — with offices in Wheeling and Charleston, W.Va. and Washington, PA. Over the 44 years that David ran the business, he created hundreds of jobs.

As one of two professional engineers in Congress, he has a seat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he has been active on issues related to the coal industry, environmental regulation, energy efficiency, and health care. He serves as the vice-chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment.

David is married to Mary (née Gerkin) from New Martinsville, West Virginia and they are the proud parents of four children and grandparents of six grandchildren.



Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR)

House Energy and Commerce Committee

[@RepSchrader](#)

Congressman Kurt Schrader is currently serving his sixth term in the United States House of Representatives. He represents Oregon's 5th Congressional District, which includes all of Marion, Polk, Lincoln and Tillamook Counties as well as the bulk of Clackamas and small portions of Multnomah and Benton Counties. Before being elected to Congress, Schrader, a farmer and veterinarian for more than thirty years, established and managed the Clackamas County Veterinary Clinic in Oregon City and operated his farm where he grew and sold organic fruit and vegetables.

In 1996, Congressman Schrader was elected to the Oregon State House of Representatives. There he served as a member of the Joint Ways & Means Committee. Schrader was one of five legislators asked by their peers to guide Oregon through the budget crisis of 2001-2002. Schrader was elected to the Oregon State Senate in 2003 and was immediately appointed to chair the Joint Ways & Means Committee. He continued to serve in that capacity until he was elected to U.S. Congress in 2008.

Congressman Schrader attended Cornell University where he received his BA in Government in 1973. He received his veterinary degree from the University of Illinois in 1977.

Congressman Schrader currently serves as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (E&C), which oversees a wide portfolio of issues ranging from health care to the environment. Prior to joining E&C, Congressman Schrader served on the House Committee on Agriculture, where he served on the Farm Bill Conference Committee that successfully passed a five year farm bill, the House Committee on Small Business and House Budget Committee. In the 117th Congress, Congressman Schrader will serve on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, the Subcommittee on Energy, and the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Schrader is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, New Democrat Coalition, for which he serves as a co-chair of the Affordable and Accessible Healthcare Task Force, and the only bipartisan working group in the House, the Problem Solvers Caucus.



Jeff Lyng

Director, Energy and Environmental Policy, Xcel Energy

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Jeff Lyng is Director of Energy and Environmental Policy at Xcel Energy. In this role, he is responsible for developing strategy and policies that continue the company's leadership in transitioning to clean energy while keeping customer bills low. Jeff is current chair of the Edison Electric Institute's Global Climate Change Subcommittee. Before joining Xcel Energy, he served as Senior Policy Advisor for the Center for the New

Energy Economy at Colorado State University, Renewable Energy Policy Manager in Governor Bill Ritter's administration, and Director of Western States Regulatory Affairs for Opower. He earned an undergraduate degree in ecology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a graduate degree in building systems engineering from the University of Colorado.



Brad Markell

Executive Director, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council

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[!\[\]\(f60b7a900783ac3fd531bfd9c111be6d_img.jpg\) @DetroitGearhead](#)

Brad Markell works in the president's office at the AFL-CIO, and serves as the Executive Director of both the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council and the Working for America Institute. He also chairs the AFL-CIO energy task force.

The Industrial Union Council is comprised of 12 unions with over 4.5 million

members, including 1.2 million directly employed in manufacturing. The IUC works to build and advance policy frameworks that support high-wage union manufacturing in the United States.

The Working for America Institute is a non-profit focused on advancing high-quality training and apprenticeship programs, supporting labor's capacity to engage in workforce development, and expanding access to skills and opportunities for underserved populations.

Brad also leads the energy policy work at the AFL-CIO, including staffing the federation's energy committee and coordinating with AFL-CIO affiliates to develop policy positions that broadly advance the interests of workers in energy-producing and energy-intensive sectors. He led U.S. labor delegations to several United Nations climate negotiations, and worked closely with the U.S. State Department to win worker-friendly language in the Paris Agreement.

Prior to joining the staff of the AFL-CIO, Brad was an International Representative with the UAW in Detroit for 15 years, where his duties included helping develop and advance the union's positions on energy and environmental policy. While at the UAW, Brad also participated in several rounds of national bargaining in the automobile, aerospace and heavy truck industries.

Brad also worked extensively in Mexico on behalf of the UAW to build ties to Mexican unions and to develop cross-border strategies to build worker power. This included the formation of a working group of U.S., Canadian and Mexican automobile unions and involvement in labor rights cases brought under provisions of the original NAFTA. He is currently a USTR cleared trade advisor to AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka.

Brad was deeply involved in the negotiations leading to the historic tailpipe emissions standards for light-duty vehicles, and led the UAW's efforts to establish public support for manufacturing clean and efficient vehicles in the United States, including the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturers loan program administered by DOE.

Before working for the UAW, Brad was the labor program director at the Michigan Manufacturing Extension Partnership center, where he worked with small and medium-sized union manufacturers to implement new work systems, promote labor-management cooperation, and improve quality and productivity.

Brad's board and committee service on behalf of the labor movement has included the Biden-Harris transition team, the Labor and Employment Relations Association, the National Academy of Engineering, the Export-Import Bank Advisory Council, the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council, the International Research Network on Autowork in the Americas, the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, the Michigan Climate Action Council, and the International Labor Organization's Expert Committee on Just Transition.

Brad has degrees from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. He joined the UAW in 1976, when he hired into General Motors, and is a member of Local 14 in Toledo, Ohio.



Heather Zichal

CEO, American Clean Power Association

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Heather Zichal (CEO, American Clean Power Association) has had a long career battling global climate change and brings deep experience in the

public and private sector. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of the Blue Prosperity Coalition, a global network of governments, NGOs, scientists and ocean experts working to advance sustainable, blue economy goals. She previously served as the Vice President of Corporate Engagement for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), coordinating engagement with multilateral corporations to advance innovative approaches to some of the world's most complex sustainability challenges.

In government, Zichal served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change during the Obama Administration, where she coordinated the administration's energy and climate policy, as well as the groundbreaking Climate Action Plan. Prior to joining the Obama administration, Zichal served as Legislative Director to one of the Senate's leading environmentalists, then-Senator John Kerry.

MODERATORS



Sasha Mackler

Director of the Energy Project, BPC

[@SashaMackler](#)

Sasha Mackler directs the Energy Project at the Bipartisan Policy Center. He has worked for more than two decades at the intersection of energy policy and commercial markets. Prior to leading the Energy Project, he spent nearly 10 years in the private sector, first as vice president of Summit Power Group's carbon capture business and then overseeing market development activities for Enviva, the largest biomass fuel supplier to the global utility industry. His professional work has focused on the innovations necessary to scale emerging energy technologies along with developing the business models and policy frameworks that support the deployment of low carbon energy systems.

Earlier in his career, Mackler played a key role in BPC's first project as the Research Director at the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP), which produced a comprehensive set of policy recommendations many of which were incorporated into the 2005 Energy Policy Act. He subsequently launched BPC's energy innovation portfolio, including the formation of the American Energy Innovation Council. Mackler has managed a number of energy policy projects on topics such as tax incentives, federal RD&D, finance, workforce transition, carbon capture and storage, low carbon fuels, cap and trade, climate impacts and adaptation, and geoengineering research. Prior to his work with NCEP, he was an analyst in the Clean Air Markets Division at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mackler holds both a Master of Science in Earth Resources Engineering and Master of Public Administration from Columbia University. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Geomechanical Engineering from the University of Rochester.



Lesley Jantarasami

Associate Director for Energy and Climate, BPC

Lesley Jantarasami is the associate director for energy and climate and brings over 10 years' policy experience at the state and federal levels. She led energy and climate initiatives at the Oregon Department of Energy to evaluate policy design options for decarbonizing the state's electricity, transportation, industrial, and buildings sectors, including sector-specific strategies and economy-wide cap-and-trade carbon pricing legislation. She

also led integration of energy resilience issues in a new statewide climate adaptation framework for Oregon.

Prior to this, Jantarasami worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on national greenhouse gas regulations in the transportation and power sectors, and on climate impacts assessment and adaptation initiatives. She served as a chapter lead author for the Fourth National Climate Assessment and the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment. Her research has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report volume on Climate Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

Jantarasami has Master of Science and Master of Public Administration degrees from University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences and the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Duke University.