

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker

**Wicker Underscores America's Energy Potential****U.S. Could Be Net Exporter Within a Decade**

Temperatures are high, but gas prices are low, reaching their lowest mark in a decade during the Fourth of July holiday. That is good news for consumers, families, and small businesses. Less pain at the pump can translate into more spending power for consumers, helping to boost the economy.

Gas prices are not the only barometer for gauging the future of U.S. energy. Rising U.S. exports in oil and natural gas are an encouraging sign that America's energy independence is within reach. The Energy Information Administration, an agency within the Department of Energy, has pinpointed 2026 as the year in which America could become a net exporter of energy.

This development is particularly significant when it comes to our national security interests. An energy-independent United States could decrease its reliance on oil from volatile suppliers like Venezuela, which has been roiled by anti-government protests in recent months. As a net exporter, the United States could also help bring energy security to Eastern Europe and lessen the influence that Russia is trying to gain in the region by leveraging its energy resources.

An End to Obama-Era Energy Regulations

The Trump Administration recognizes the potential of U.S. energy. The last week in June was designated "Energy Week" by the Administration to draw attention to its energy agenda and pursuit of "energy dominance." Two early items on the agenda have been the expansion of oil and gas exploration and the rollback of Obama-era regulations impeding the development of domestic energy resources. In March, President Trump issued an executive order for a review of the Obama

Administration's costly rules to limit carbon dioxide emissions. Although halted by the Supreme Court, these regulations had amounted to a job-killing war on coal and threatened to saddle Americans with higher energy bills. The President has also signed an executive order to initiate the process for offshore oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf. Rather than picking winners and losers, the Trump Administration is seeking to put the interests of Americans first – with policies that promote economic growth and energy security.

A Legislative Look Ahead

The Senate is also working to promote America's energy future. Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), who lead the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, have introduced a comprehensive energy and natural resources bill that has already been put on the Senate calendar for consideration. The legislation, titled the "Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017," follows the success of a 2015 energy bill that earned overwhelming support in the Senate. The 2017 legislation addresses a host of energy-related issues that cross party lines. Included in the bill's provisions is the need for better infrastructure, greater efficiency, responsible resource development, and expanded access for sportsmen on federal lands.

Such a broad and far-reaching bill focusing on America's energy and natural resources has not passed Congress in a decade. Today's efforts to remove harmful regulations and modernize our energy system promise to go a long way. America's capacity to be a global energy leader is not in question. It is a matter of when our vast energy potential is unleashed.

UPWORDS

The nonprofit teaching ministry of Max Lucado

God is Doing What's Best for Us

God is at work in each of us whether we know it or not, whether we want it or not. Lamentations 3:33 says, "He takes no pleasure in making life hard, in throwing roadblocks in the way." He doesn't delight in our sufferings, but He delights in our development. It's what Paul pointed out in Philippians 1:6 when he wrote, "God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure He will continue until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again."

Don't see your struggle as an interruption to life but as preparation for life. No one said the road would be easy or painless. But God will use this mess for

something good. This trouble you are in isn't punishment, it's training.

It is the normal experience of children. God is doing what's best for us, training us to live God's holy best!

From *You'll Get Through This*.

UpWords, with Max Lucado is a popular daily Bible devotion. This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life. Reading daily devotions provides strength and encouragement in your daily walk with Jesus Christ.

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DURANT NEWS by Rowena Hill

Prayers continue for Plez White, Mrs. R.E. (Ann) Irby and William Henry Hathcock as they recover from recent surgeries or illnesses. Many friends look forward to complete healing for these and others who aren't well.

All are thankful to see Mrs. Sherry Hoover McCrory up and about and feeling better after recent surgery.

Prayers are for the revival services at Ebenezer Baptist Church this week. The visiting preacher is Wayne Hudson.

Sympathy is extended to Roosevelt Green and the

family of Mrs. Katie Green. She recently passed away at the nursing center in Vaiden after years of sickness.

We are very thankful our town is looking much better. Most of the large trees are gone but there's still plenty to do. It's at least doable now.

Those who know and love Paul and Frankie Cain of the Boyette Community are very thankful she is improving after recent surgery. Paul is a former resident.

We are thankful that Emma Bratcher has enjoyed a very good mission trip to Bosnia.

Emma is the granddaughter of Mrs. Cynthia Bratcher.

Prayers and love to Mrs. Mitch (Betty) Land and Mitch's family because of his recent death. Many loving friends also miss him very much. He is now in heaven and feeling great. May God give peace and comfort to all who love him.

Prayers and Love to Mrs. Glen (Inez) Dickerson. She is scheduled for major surgery in a few days. Glen isn't too well himself.

The family of James Parks are busy moving his

belongings from his home on Castalian Road. Prayers are for them as they adjust to their great loss.

Joey and Jackie Hill spent time during the weekend with Jodi, Derek and children in Stewart. They brought home fresh vegetables, which we all enjoyed.

Mrs. Lyn Nations hosted an informative and fun time for the WMU ladies and husbands at their home during the week.

Prayers continue for Mrs. Ann Ezell. She has moved closer to home and family after spending time in the Lexington hospital.

If we are to continue with Durant news please call me with news.

Powering a bright future with solar.

Entergy Mississippi is committed to providing affordable, reliable and clean power to Mississippians for generations to come. So we're making it easier for our customers to self-generate solar electricity and incorporate solar power into our power grid.

**NET METERING**

The Mississippi Public Service Commission recently approved net metering for solar users in Mississippi. This means registered solar users are now credited for the excess energy sent back to the grid.

Learn more about net metering at entergymississippi.com/netmetering.

BRIGHT FUTURE SOLAR PROJECT

In 2016, Entergy Mississippi launched the state's first utility-owned large solar project. Power generated and data collected from our three solar utility sites will help determine how to better implement solar power on a greater scale.

Learn more about our solar project at entergymississippi.com/solarproject.

COMMUNITY SOLAR

We're also working with the Mississippi PSC to understand the potential of community solar programs. This new concept enables customers to participate in larger solar farms as a community, rather than installing solar panels on individual homes.



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N.A.open group meetings every
Friday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at**New Roads Counseling**114½ Spring Street, Lexington
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