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Unnatural Alliances

How a cadre of former Democratic politicians is doing the bidding of pipeline companies and gas drillers pushing to export more gas, greenwash methane, and sow doubt about renewables.



REVOLVING
DOOR
PROJECT



Acknowledgments

This report was written by Hannah Story Brown and Kenny Stancil (Revolving Door Project) and Alan Zibel (Public Citizen). It was copy-edited by Rick Claypool of Public Citizen. The authors are grateful for feedback from the following reviewers: Matt Kasper (Energy and Policy Institute), Naomi Yoder (Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice), Robert Weissman (Public Citizen), Duncan Meisel (Clean Creatives), and Joanne Kilgour (Ohio River Valley Institute).



About the Revolving Door Project

The Revolving Door Project (RDP) was created in order to scrutinize executive branch appointees to ensure they use their office to serve the broad public interest, rather than to entrench corporate power or seek personal advancement. In recent years our work has expanded to include monitoring how corporate and billionaire influence distorts coverage of economic issue in the media, the administration of law in our courts, and policymaking by state constitutional officers.



About Public Citizen

Public Citizen is a national non-profit organization with more than 500,000 members and supporters. We represent consumer interests through lobbying, litigation, administrative advocacy, research, and public education on a broad range of issues including consumer rights in the marketplace, product safety, financial regulation, worker safety, safe and affordable health care, campaign finance reform and government ethics, fair trade, climate change, and corporate and government accountability.

This report was copy-edited by Rick Claypool of Public Citizen and designed by Victoria Lee of Arc Initiatives.

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Key Findings:

- Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future was launched in 2020 in an effort to reach Democratic lawmakers, unions, and other political constituencies key to securing support for gas expansion.
- Natural Allies hires former Democratic politicians to leverage their reputations and connections from their time in public service to peddle natural gas industry priorities such as "permitting reform" legislation packed with fossil fuel giveaways that would undermine the Biden administration's climate commitments.
- Natural Allies' revenue grew to \$9.1 million in 2022, the most recent year available, from \$1.75 million in 2020, for a total of \$15.6 million in its first three years of activity. The group's funding members include gas giants Williams Companies, EQT, and Kinder Morgan.
- Natural Allies spent \$10.4 million over three years on public relations efforts, over \$8.9 million of which went to advertising and public relations giant Omnicom, owner of PR firm Mercury Public Affairs, the lead public relations firm that launched Natural Allies.
- Natural Allies spent up to \$1.2 million on more than 2,000 Facebook and Instagram ads between 2020 and 2024, eliciting between 61 and 72 million impressions.
- Political action committees and super PACs tied to Natural Allies' corporate funders have spent \$3.5 million on federal political races since 2020, with 79 percent going to Republicans.
- Nine top executives at Natural Allies member companies have personally contributed nearly \$921,000 to federal political campaigns and political action committees since 2020.

Introduction:

In February 2024, former Rep. **Tim Ryan**, an Ohio Democrat, took to the pages of the Wall Street Journal to [denounce](#) the Biden administration's [pause](#) on new approvals of methane gas exports as "atrocious politics." Later in the spring, former Sen. **Mary Landrieu** (D-LA), former Philadelphia mayor **Michael Nutter**, and former Rep. **Kendrick Meek** (D-FL) participated in a [pro-gas panel](#) at Rev. **Al Sharpton's** National Action Network's civil rights [convention](#) in New York, with Ryan [in the audience](#).

In July 2024, Natural Allies hosted a [Capitol Hill discussion](#) with Sen. **Bill Cassidy** (R-LA) in an event co-hosted by a sister methane gas industry advocacy group **Partnership to Address Global Emissions (PAGE)**. The event's leaders touted gas exports as a climate solution, [promoting](#) a study commissioned by those groups [claiming](#) supposed climate benefits of exported liquefied natural gas (LNG), which involves chilling gas extracted from the U.S. to super-cold temperatures, placing it on giant tanker ships and sending it around the globe for consumption.

What do these gas-peddling former Democratic former politicians have in common? They are the leaders of a gas industry-created lobbying and influence group called "**Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future.**" Its [goal is to pitch](#) methane gas, also known as natural gas, to key Democratic constituencies such as civil rights groups and labor unions and advance industry-friendly policies.



Left: A Natural Allies [Facebook ad](#) for their panel at the NAN Conference.
Right: Mary Landrieu [speaking](#) at a breakfast discussion on Capitol Hill.

While the group does not deny the reality of climate change, it insists that a rapid transition off fossil fuels is unrealistic and undesirable, while misleadingly branding natural gas as a "clean" energy source. To build support from Democrats, the group has engaged with the Congressional Black Caucus, conducting events with the caucus' chairman, Rep. **Stephen Horsford** (D-NV), [and](#) Rep. **Troy Carter** (D-LA), and has also used [labor unions](#) as [spokespeople](#) to accomplish the industry's goals.

Another example of the group's tactics came at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August 2024. Natural Allies co-hosted an energy briefing with gas industry executives, union representatives, and the CEO of the **American Clean Power Association**, which despite its name has [several fossil fuel industry executives](#) on its board of directors and frequently [pushes for policies](#) that boost fossil fuels. Landrieu and Ryan also [appeared](#) with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman **Willie Phillips**. The event stressed "the importance of an energy transition including natural gas, which when partnered with renewables, can advance America's climate goals while also ensuring energy affordability and reliability," according to a [post](#) on X, formerly Twitter.



A panel discussion at the Democratic party convention in Chicago included Williams Cos executive Chad Zamarin (left), Jason Grumet of the American Clean Power Association (center-left), former Sen. Mary Landrieu (center-right), and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Willie Phillips (right).

A Natural Allies [internal strategy document](#) excerpt below, which was obtained in a public records request by the Energy and Policy Institute, sheds light on the group's aims. According to the document, the organization aims to build and promote the "long term brand of natural gas, independent of other fossil fuels," and asserts that "success for the natural gas industry will be rooted in whether we can message to the left and the Democratic base of black and Latino and age 18 to 34 voters as effectively as we have messaged to the right."

THE TIME IS NOW

To achieve this vision, a robust, multi-million dollar, long-term public affairs campaign is urgently and critically needed. Success for the natural gas industry will be rooted in whether we can message to the left and the Democratic base of Black and Latino and age 18 to 34 voters as effectively as we have messaged to the right. We know what our message needs to be and we know who needs to hear it. While this campaign will require significant resources to effectively execute, the cost of inaction will be even greater. The campaign should include:



A Leadership Council to provide third-party validation



Proactive earned media outreach to shape the narrative



Multi-channel advertising targeting women, communities of color, opinion leaders and youth voters



Targeted outreach to educate core stakeholders and key decision makers involved with energy policy



Investment in long-term, proprietary data infrastructure that can be leveraged for project or advocacy campaigns

Screenshot from Natural Allies internal strategy document.

Natural Allies' appearance at **Al Sharpton's** National Action Network (NAN) conference in April 2024 is an example of this strategy. Several of Natural Allies' leaders spoke on a NAN [panel](#) dubbed "Affordable Energy is a Civil Rights Issue: Why we can't leave Black and Brown voices out of the clean energy conversation." The panel omitted environmental advocates and voices from Gulf Coast communities affected by fossil fuel infrastructure. It was moderated by **Donald Cravins**, a former Biden administration official who [leads](#) the Washington lobbying office of **Williams Companies**, an Oklahoma-based pipeline company that spent [\\$1.6 million](#) on federal lobbying in 2023 and is one of Natural Allies' top funding members, according to [the group's web page](#). Cravins is also a former aide to Landrieu, who spoke on the panel.

The speakers explicitly [framed](#) methane gas as clean, reliable, and affordable, while casting doubt on whether electrification was affordable or realistic for low-income consumers. For example, Nutter, the former Philadelphia mayor, said that "everybody's not putting (a) solar panel on their house, and I can't put a windmill in my backyard." And Meek, the former Florida congressman, said that "natural gas is a clean-burning fuel, and affordable" while claiming that fossil fuel critics "don't think about the reality that you're facing on a day-in, day-out basis of higher rent and higher energy costs."

"We know in our community that [climate change] hurts us more than anybody else," said **Donald Cravins**, head of government affairs at Williams. "But we've also got people on the other side, on the left side, who want us to get from here to here this quick and want to give us the bill or not explain how we get to that point."

“We are proud to follow President Biden’s leadership on getting us to a cleaner, greener environment,” said former Sen. **Mary Landrieu**. “But we want to get there in an affordable way, where everyone in the country, including the poor and the middle class, can...not be left with the bill.”

Key Myths about Methane Debunked

METHANE GAS IS NOT CLEAN. Methane, the main component of natural gas, has a shorter atmospheric lifespan than carbon, but packs a harder planet-warming punch in the meantime, with a [global warming potential](#) between 84–87 times that of carbon over a 20-year timeframe, and 28–38 times that of carbon over 100 years. [Rampant](#) methane [leaks](#) across the oil and gas supply chain, including extraction, processing, transportation, and use, significantly reduce the benefits of switching to natural gas from other fossil fuels. More than 100 studies have [documented](#) the toxic air pollution, water contamination, health problems and safety risks that accompany fracking. Studies of natural gas burned in homes have found that it [contains](#) air pollutants [hazardous](#) to human health, [including](#) known carcinogens like benzene, and have [attributed](#) nearly 13 percent of childhood asthma cases to gas stove use.

METHANE GAS IS NOT EQUITABLE. Fossil fuel infrastructure has long created “[sacrifice zone](#)” communities that experience the [brunt](#) of health damage from toxic air pollution and threats to [water supplies](#). The rapid buildout of US gas export infrastructure deepens this legacy of environmental injustice in the United States, even as the Biden administration has sought to put policies in place to hasten decarbonization. Until the Energy Department placed a pause on new LNG export approvals in early 2024, the federal government ignored the overwhelming evidence that exports of gas through massive LNG terminals expose American families to higher energy costs, pollute communities, and lock in decades more greenhouse gas emissions.

→ **For more mythbusting of corporate claims about natural gas, see Key Myths section on page 25.**

Despite the group's purported focus on energy affordability, Natural Allies [enthusiastically supports](#) the export of natural gas to overseas customers, heedless of its impact on domestic prices. Across the country, the price households pay for natural gas has [increased by 52 percent](#) since 2016, the year that US gas exports started, [according to data](#) from the US Energy Information Administration. By tethering America's natural gas prices to overseas markets, gas exporters—including Natural Allies' corporate backers—have made both residential and business consumers of gas vulnerable to global market volatility and price shocks.

"The fossil fuel industry puts Black lives in danger," **Mustafa Santiago Ali**, a former EPA official, told climate outlet *Heated*. "Energy affordability is a serious concern for communities on fixed budgets, but it should never be a higher priority than our lives."

The majority of new and proposed US gas export terminals have been proposed in Louisiana and Texas, located in economically disadvantaged and predominantly Black and Brown communities. These frontline communities have long coped with the toxic impacts of environmental racism in the Gulf Coast, including air and water pollution that causes serious health impacts. Research by the Sierra Club and Greenpeace [found](#) that a full buildout of 32 proposed LNG terminals would result in air pollution (not counting carbon pollution) that would cause 4,470 avoidable deaths and more than \$62 billion in excess health care costs by 2050 if all planned projects are built. These impacts are disproportionately concentrated in the Gulf Coast, but new LNG terminals and expansions of existing ones have been proposed in other parts of the country such as [Pennsylvania](#) and [Georgia](#), as well as in [Mexico](#).



A fishing boat with the protest sign, "Thou shall not poison thy neighbor," and fossil fuel infrastructure in the background in Lake Charles, Louisiana in November 2022. [Photograph](#) by Healthy Gulf.

Natural Allies' efforts represent the latest iteration of longstanding greenwashing tactics used by the fossil fuel industry to justify our continued reliance upon methane, or natural gas, despite a decade or more of accumulating scientific evidence that methane is a [false climate solution](#) and [indoor health hazard](#). Industry portrayals of gas as preferable to coal often ignore the climate impact of the gas supply chain, which includes [significant](#) methane leaks.

Oil and gas behemoths have wrestled with how to manage perceptions of gas in recent years, hiring consulting firms to [protect their gas businesses](#) in the face of increasing evidence of methane's harms. A draft communications [campaign plan](#) from 2018 by the oil giant **BP** sought to portray natural gas as a "partner to renewables" as part of an effort to combat "ongoing commentary that aims to discredit gas as part of the future energy mix." In the company's internal documents, BP represents legitimate criticisms of natural gas as a communications challenge to be overcome through aggressive messaging, while [acknowledging](#) that when you take methane leaks into account, natural gas does not support climate goals. Natural Allies and like-minded groups such as **Partnership to Address Global Emissions**, or [PAGE](#), which share gas companies **EQT, TC Energy and Williams** as founding members, have embraced this [deceptive strategy](#) of framing gas as clean and a "partner" to renewables. An August 2024 [briefing from InfluenceMap](#) charts a rapid rise in online advertising from oil and gas industry groups including PAGE on LNG specifically since the Biden administration announced its pause on new gas export permits in January 2024.

"We're trying to build a coalition with Natural Allies... The marriage, the relationship between renewables and natural gas, and that really is the future for dealing with climate, having safe, stable and affordable energy costs, not just for our homes but also for our businesses." -former Rep. **Tim Ryan** (D-OH) [in a radio interview](#).



One of Natural Allies' key agenda items is to build Democratic support for "permitting reform" legislation sought by drillers, pipeline companies and LNG terminal operators. This legislation would weaken environmental reviews and speed the construction of energy facilities, from pipelines to gas export terminals to the electricity transmission lines sought by renewable energy developers.

This sort of "all of the above" energy strategy emphasizing natural gas as a "transition fuel" to renewables [was popular in the early 2010s](#), but has lost credibility over the past decade as [climate disasters](#) such as wildfires, hurricanes and mounting economic damage have added urgency to the need for a speedy transition off fossil fuels. The [astonishing growth](#) of the renewable energy sector in recent years has made the goal of a full transition to renewables increasingly practical and affordable.



Left: Flaring at Cameron LNG after Hurricane Delta in 2020. Right: Flooding at Global's Plaquemines LNG site after Hurricane Ida in 2021. Photographs by Healthy Gulf.

Permitting [legislation](#) introduced in July 2024 by Sen. **Joe Manchin** (I-WV), the fossil fuel industry's [favorite](#) erstwhile Democrat, and Sen. **John Barrasso** (R-WY) passed a Senate committee with strong [support](#) from the [fossil fuel industry](#) as well as some renewable energy proponents. However, it is opposed by more than [360 environmental and community groups](#), who object to tethering policies intended to speed decarbonization with policies intended to expand dirty infrastructure. While the bill does include electric transmission provisions that could accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, they should not be paired with massive giveaways to the fossil fuel and mining industries.

The bill would undermine several Biden administration policy priorities. It would weaken the gas export review process that evaluates whether export projects serve the public interest in favor of corporate interests. This process, long deferential to fossil fuel exporters, is currently being revamped by the Biden administration. But the Manchin-Barrasso bill would deem gas exports as approved after a 90-day waiting period even without any substantive analysis.

In an environment of divided government in Washington, D.C., industry lobbyists seek to curry favor with politicians of both parties as they push to enact corporate-friendly policy. Seeking to enact fossil fuel-friendly provisions with a Democratic controlled Senate with many strong environmental voices, Natural Allies helps gas industry executives build alliances and relationships with traditionally Democratic constituencies.

Natural Allies is Bankrolled by Fossil Fuel Interests

Natural Allies is [funded](#) by nearly two dozen organizations, all with economic interests in gas production and distribution. Several members of the group are investors or owners of major gas export projects in the Gulf Coast and Canada. The group's members are:

FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES



FOSSIL FUEL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY ADVOCACY GROUPS



LABOR GROUPS REPRESENTING FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY WORKERS



Natural Allies Spends Its Money on Public Relations

Natural Allies spends the vast majority of its revenue on public relations efforts aimed at promoting gas. Natural Allies received a total of \$15.6 million in revenue from 2020 to 2022 and spent more than \$10.4 million on public relations services, according to the group's [tax filings](#). The group's [explicit goal](#) is to work against the current of progressive climate policymaking. In an internal document, they identify the Biden administration's "strong focus on climate" as a "challenge," along with state policies that reduce demand for gas.

NATURAL ALLIES FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE Changing the Conversation on Natural Gas

The Challenge Redefine the role of natural gas in fighting climate change and protect the social license to operate, as the most affordable and reliable energy source working together with renewables for a clean energy future.

- HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT ATTACKING FOSSIL FUELS**
creates the negative brand association of natural gas with oil and coal.
- LOCAL OPPOSITION AND STATE-LEVEL OBSTRUCTION EFFORTS**
are causing lasting damage as critical infrastructure projects are delayed or blocked outright, and natural gas bans and other local and state mandates will reduce demand over the long term.
- THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAS SIGNALLED A STRONG FOCUS ON CLIMATE**
through key personnel appointments and policy decisions even before taking office, such as the decision to block the Keystone XL pipeline.
- FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS**
are pressuring major institutional investors – both public and private – to defund all fossil fuel investments, including natural gas.

Screengrab from a Natural Allies strategy document.

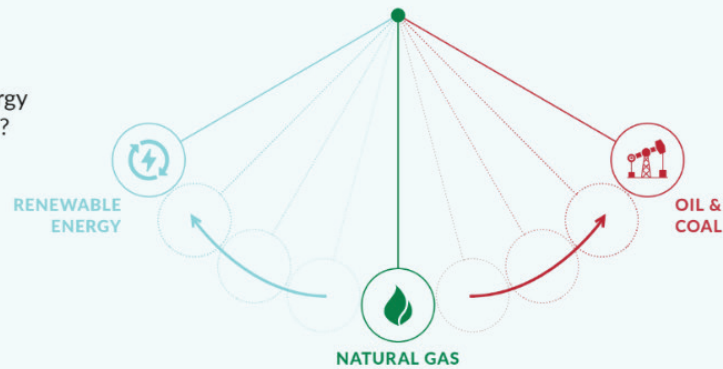
Natural Allies has [identified](#) the next five years as critical to determining whether methane gas becomes associated with renewable energy or other fossil fuels like oil and coal, and indicated that a "robust, multi-million dollar, long-term public affairs campaign" to prevent natural gas from becoming "the next coal" is "urgently and critically needed."

Such a campaign would purportedly [include](#) "proactive earned media outreach to shape the narrative" and "multi-channel advertising targeting women, communities of color, opinion leaders and youth voters."

No other campaign is looking at the big picture, promoting the long-term brand of natural gas, independent of other fossil fuels, and how it complements affordability, green energy, and climate goals among core Democratic constituencies. This is the mission and key differentiator of Natural Allies.

The choice is clear.

In 5 years will natural gas be viewed as part of the green energy future, or will it be the next coal?



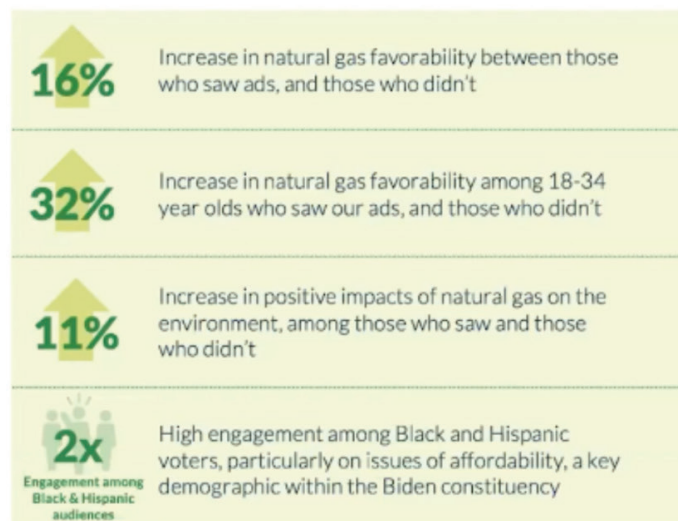
Screengrab from a Natural Allies strategy document.

Natural Allies' part-time pro-bono executive director **Susan Waller** is a [longtime oil and gas executive](#) who was previously vice president at Natural Allies funder **Enbridge**. In a February 2021 energy business [podcast](#), Waller said that Natural Allies is an attempt by energy business leaders to "address the misinformation that plagues our industry."

Waller described creating Natural Allies through a request for proposals sent to multiple public relations firms. According to Waller, the group ended up working with two firms, **Mercury Public Affairs** and **Kivvit**, to create their campaign. The project was led by **Mike DuHaime**, a Republican political operative and longtime [strategist for](#) former New Jersey Gov. **Chris Christie**, and **Maggie Moran**, a Democratic strategist and [pipeline lobbyist](#) who worked as a campaign manager to former New York Governor **Andrew Cuomo** and numerous other political candidates.

A PROVEN, DATA-DRIVEN CASE STUDY AND PATHWAY FOR SUCCESS

Natural Allies launched a 6-week, data-driven pilot campaign targeting opinion leaders in three target states in the Fall of 2020. This proof of concept provides a pathway to expand our efforts into Phase 3.



Screengrab from a 2021 [interview](#) with Natural Allies Executive Director Susan Waller and Mike DuHaime, Partner with Mercury Public Affairs.

As of 2022, Natural Allies' other officers and trustees were current employees at **TC Energy, National Fuel, EQT, Kinder Morgan, Quanta Services, FirstEnergy, and Otis Minnesota Services**, a pipeline construction company. According to their [2022 tax filings](#), none of the officers are compensated for their work for Natural Allies, indicating that the organization's work is seen as an extension of these oil and gas companies' work.

In 2020, Natural Allies received \$1.8 million in member contributions. It spent 99 percent of that money on hiring **Omnicom**, a New York-based public relations and advertising giant with more than [three dozen](#) fossil fuel clients. Between 2020 and 2022, Natural Allies [spent](#) over \$8.9 million on its contracts with Omnicom, which owns Mercury Public Affairs, where DuHaime worked until [late 2021](#).

In 2021, Natural Allies more than doubled its public relations spending from the year prior, [paying](#) Omnicom \$3.7 million for its PR services, nearly 80 percent of the group's \$4.7 million in 2021 contributions. As Natural Allies' revenue has increased, so too has its investment in advertising and PR.

In 2022, the group [received](#) \$9.1 million in contributions and proceeded to spend \$5 million of it on public relations. In 2022, on top of paying Omnicom \$3.5 million for its services, Natural Allies [paid](#) New Jersey-based public affairs firm **Mad Global LLC** more than \$1 million. After DuHaime [left Mercury](#), he [founded](#) Mad Global in early 2022.

→ **For additional analysis of how Natural Allies spends its revenue on Facebook and Instagram ads, see our section on Natural Allies' ad campaigns on page 22.**

FORMING NATURAL ALLIES FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Recognizing this new reality, Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future formed in August 2020 to establish a long-term public affairs approach to change the narrative in order to stabilize the regulatory and political landscape for the natural gas industry. Since launch, Natural Allies has been particularly focused on determining what messages might resonate with key elements of the Democratic Party's base, anticipating the very scenario the industry is facing today.



Screengrab from a 2021 [interview](#) with Natural Allies Executive Director Susan Waller and Mike DuHaime, Partner with Mercury Public Affairs.

Natural Allies spent almost \$400,000 in 2022 to have two former Democratic lawmakers stick up for methane gas. The group [paid](#) former Sen. **Mary Landrieu**'s consulting firm VNF Solutions LLC \$210,690 and former Sen. **Heidi Heitkamp** (D-ND) \$185,266. Landrieu and Heitkamp co-authored a pair of op-eds [touting](#) fracked gas. Landrieu and Heitkamp appeared in ads making the same case, including "[Real Talk with Heidi Heitkamp](#)," which has over 500,000 views on YouTube. Since then, Heitkamp has left the organization and Ryan, Meek, and Nutter have joined Natural Allies' leadership ranks.



Revolvers at the Helm

The former Democratic politicians on Natural Allies' leadership council—Mary Landrieu, Tim Ryan, Kendrick Meek, Michael Nutter, and previously Heidi Heitkamp—epitomize the harmful "revolving door" phenomenon common among political elites. They leverage their previous stature as public officials to lend credence to the private interests they are now paid to represent, explicitly couching their lobbying and industry advocacy as insight or analysis from former Democratic officials, and often failing to mention their conflicts of interest. An internal strategy document [frames](#) the usefulness of the leadership council as providing "third party validation" of the gas industry's talking points.

MARY LANDRIEU

"You can absolutely be pro-gas and pro-environment, because again, you need a partner for renewables. We cannot run the economy of the United States on wind power and solar power alone." - former Sen. Mary Landrieu in a Natural Allies [advertisement](#)

Mary Landrieu represented Louisiana in the US Senate for 18 years from 1997 to 2015. She received nearly [\\$1.8 million](#) from the oil and gas industry over her career; one of the [highest tallies](#) for any US Senator. After losing her 2014 reelection campaign to Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), she joined the lobbying and law firm **Van Ness Feldman LLP** as a Senior Policy Advisor, where she's worked for the past nine years.

Van Ness Feldman isn't shy about how it capitalizes upon the revolving door between government and industry; it [notes](#) that one of Landrieu's value-adds is providing "high-level contacts within the Executive Branch, federal agencies, and state and local governments" to her corporate clients. Landrieu [joined](#) Natural Allies' leadership council in January 2022, while remaining a lobbyist for Van Ness Feldman and its fully-owned subsidiary **VNF Solutions**.

In both her public and private sector careers, Landrieu has been a consistent advocate for expanding the natural gas industry. In 2014, a full [two years](#) before US terminals started exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the Gulf Coast, Sen. Landrieu was [leading the charge](#) to push President Obama to expedite approvals for gas exports to Europe - a playbook that gas exporters later deployed in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. She was the [top](#) Senate recipient of pipeline industry money in 2014.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in 2014, Landrieu [led](#) a push to ram through the construction of **TransCanada's** (now **TC Energy**) infamous Keystone XL Pipeline, which failed by one vote. When Landrieu joined Van Ness Feldman LLP after losing reelection, the firm was representing TransCanada in its efforts to [realize](#) a long-running yet still unrealized LNG export project in Alaska. TC Energy, which abandoned the Keystone project after the Biden administration rejected a key permit, pivoted to using special corporate investor protection rules to [seek \\$15 billion in damages](#) from US taxpayers—a case that was [dismissed](#) in July 2024. TC Energy is one of Natural Allies' core funders.



One of Landrieu's first clients at Van Ness Feldman was a company Landrieu was already well-acquainted with through her work in the Senate: **Noble Energy**, a Texas-based natural gas company substantially involved in [building out](#) Israel's natural gas industry. In 2011, Landrieu [traveled](#) with executives from Louisiana-based oil and gas companies to Israel to meet with executives from Noble Energy and Israeli officials, [citing](#) the opportunity presented by Noble Energy's discovery of significant offshore gas reserves. Landrieu was one of the top congressional recipients of [donations](#) from Noble Energy's PAC in her 2012 and 2014 campaign cycles.

With a deep and varied bench of fossil fuel clients, Landrieu has lobbied on issues including LNG, crude oil, environmental deregulation, bioenergy, and carbon capture. She lobbied for **Venture Global LNG (\$90,000+)**¹, a Natural Allies member, to receive its federal permits to build the Calcasieu Pass LNG export terminal in Louisiana. Calcasieu Pass has [violated](#) its air pollution permits almost constantly since it began operating in 2022.

She [lobbied](#) Congress for oil and gas company **Enterprise Products (\$610,000+)** not to pass legislation limiting LNG exports and fracking, and spent the past three years lobbying Congress, the White House, and permitting agencies to advance Enterprise Products' deepwater crude oil export terminal, the largest ever proposed. The Biden administration [approved](#) the terminal in April 2024. On behalf of major natural gas producer **Williams Companies (\$690,000)**, Landrieu lobbied Congress to pass permitting reform legislation like the [SPUR Act](#) and [Lower Energy Costs Act](#) that would expedite fossil fuel build-out. She did this while simultaneously working for Natural Allies, which is partly funded by Williams.

¹ The parenthetical dollar amounts in this section indicate the total amounts reported in the lobbying contracts on which Mary Landrieu was a named lobbyist for the specified company, not the amount made by Landrieu specifically, as many contracts named multiple lobbyists. A + indicates that a client company indicated that it additionally spent an undisclosed amount of money less than \$5,000 in at least one reported quarter.

Landrieu has pushed some of Big Oil's favorite fake solutions, lobbying Congress and agencies on behalf of UK-based power generation company **Drax Group** (\$180,000+) to support bioenergy with carbon capture and storage ([razing forests](#) to burn for fuel and then drilling wells to store underground the carbon which trees would have otherwise sequestered). Landrieu lobbied Congress and the White House throughout 2023 on behalf of **Air Products and Chemicals** (\$180,000) to allow the notoriously lax Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to take over enforcement authority for carbon sequestration wells in the state; authority which it received in January 2024, [spurring](#) outrage from environmental groups.

Landrieu has continued lobbying for fossil fuel clients while leveraging her past public service to burnish Natural Allies' greenwashing efforts. In her first year at Natural Allies, Landrieu made [\\$210,690](#) through Natural Allies' contract with VNF Solutions for public relations efforts like producing [sponsored content](#) for Politico calling ironically for an "honest conversation" about energy not fueled by "special interests." Subsequent op-eds in [Newsweek](#) and [NOLA.com](#) kept up the drumbeat of Natural Allies' favorite greenwashing formula: "switching from coal to natural gas" plus "partnering natural gas with renewables."

While Natural Allies leaders claim they see gas as a "partner" for renewables, they also espouse a negative message about renewables. For example, in a May 2024 [letter](#) to Sen. **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-RI), the four Natural Allies leaders claimed that renewables' adoption would "significantly increase our reliance on foreign adversaries like China," and was a "risky gamble."

Recently, Landrieu has been active in criticizing the Biden administration's pause on approving new LNG exports, [calling](#) the decision "tragic," [telling](#) POWER Magazine that Democrats don't understand "math" on the energy transition, and arguing in an [op-ed](#) for The Hill that the pause would make it harder to meet climate goals. Through her roles at VNF Solutions and Natural Allies, she is currently on the payroll of several major LNG stakeholders including **Enbridge, Enterprise Products, EQT, Kinder Morgan, TC Energy, and Williams Companies.**

TIM RYAN

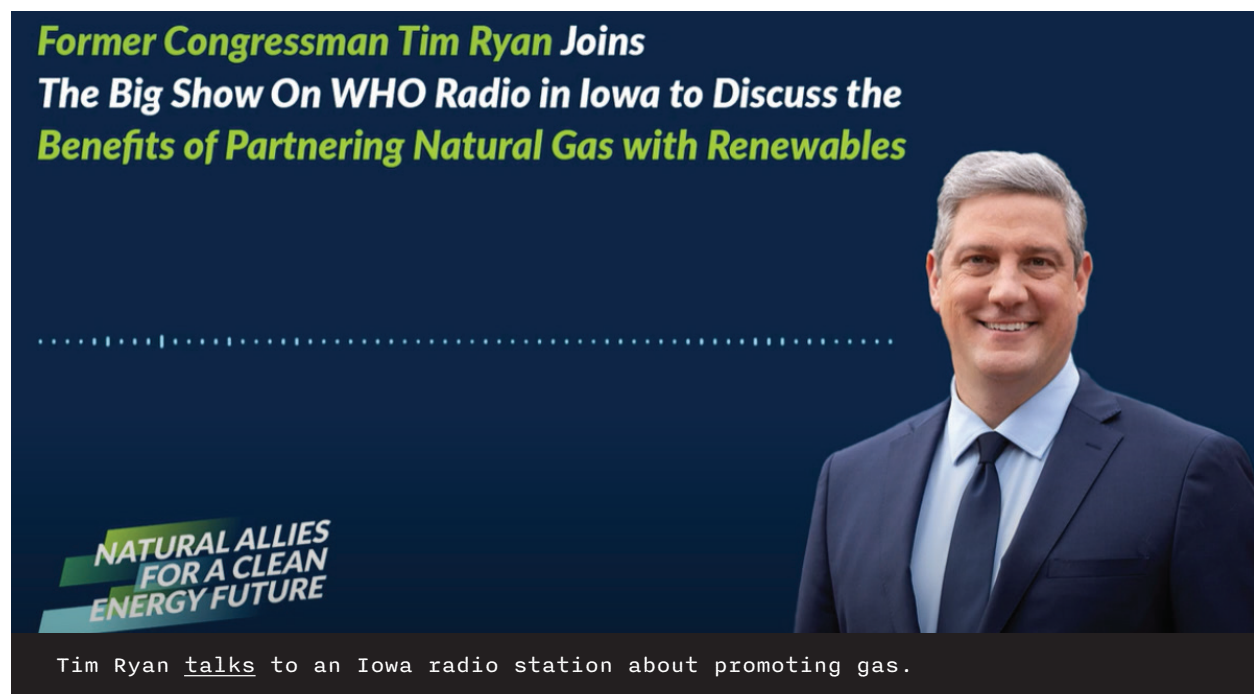
"We're really trying to get a lot of Democrats to come around to seeing natural gas as this fuel that's going to help us both address climate and help the economy hum." - Tim Ryan in a radio [interview](#).

Tim Ryan represented Ohio's 17th congressional district from 2003–2013 and Ohio's 13th congressional district from 2013–2023 in the House of Representatives. While in Congress, Ryan took significant political contributions from the chemical industry, becoming the [top House recipient](#) of chemical industry money in his final term. The chemical industry substantially overlaps with the fossil fuel industry via petrochemicals. Natural gas, for example, is a main [feedstock](#) for producing plastics and fertilizers. The **American Enterprise Institute** [noted](#) that the plastics industry found a "receptive ear" in Ryan, who was given a [100% rating](#) by the Plastics Industry Association in 2019–2020.

Two major chemical industry groups joined Natural Allies as funding members after Ryan [joined](#) Natural Allies' leadership council: the **American Chemistry Council** and the **Fertilizer Institute**. Both groups have track records of lobbying to evade accountability on environmental and health issues, including [successfully lobbying](#) to delay rail safety legislation in the wake of the East Palestine derailment in Ohio, Ryan's home state. The American Chemistry Council includes [petrochemical subsidiaries](#) of oil and gas majors **BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, Saudi Aramco,** and **TotalEnergies** among its members, and has lobbied against legislation that would tackle [plastic pollution](#) and hold the chemical industry [responsible for](#) cleaning up its own messes. The Fertilizer Institute has lobbied [against](#) clean air legislation and supported weakening environmental laws like the [Clean Water Act](#) and [National Environmental Policy Act](#).

While in Congress, Ryan co-sponsored several bills that aimed to expand US natural gas production, including unsuccessful legislation in [2015](#) and [2017](#) that would have expedited and repealed restrictions on US gas exports. During his 2020 presidential campaign, Ryan signed a [pledge](#) to take no fossil fuel money and [walked a fine line](#) between supporting fracking while calling for more oversight of the polluting industry. Ryan's campaign finance pledge [apparently](#) only applied to his presidential campaign; as a congressman he took more than [\\$107,000](#) in political contributions from the political action committee and employees of Ohio-based utility company **FirstEnergy**, whose former executives were [embroiled](#) in a bribery and bailout scandal, making the utility his ninth-largest donor.

While running to represent Ohio in the US Senate in 2022, Ryan vocally [touted](#) his support for the gas industry. Yet fossil fuel companies [poured](#) their resources into funding the campaign of his competitor, Sen. **JD Vance** (R-OH). Ryan joined Natural Allies' leadership council in January 2023 after losing the Senate race.



Ryan has said his focus at Natural Allies is to get Democrats [in line behind](#) natural gas. In 2023, Ryan wrote sponsored content for Natural Allies in the Washington Post arguing that natural gas was the quickest way to reduce carbon emissions, and testified as an industry spokesperson at a Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force meeting in support of building a gas export terminal in Pennsylvania.

Ryan [joined](#) Third Way, a centrist think tank, as a senior visiting fellow in 2023. He also [became](#) a senior advisor to the Progressive Policy Institute in February 2024, where he helps shape the Institute's "all-of-the-above" approach to energy policy advocacy. Progressive Policy Institute shares some of the same fossil fuel funders as Natural Allies, including **TC Energy** and **EQT**, and has [proposed](#) lifting the LNG pause for companies that submit to third-party emissions [certification](#).

In late January 2024, the Natural Allies leadership council [condemned](#) the pause on new LNG export approvals as "tragic," framing their opposition as the sentiments of former Democratic leaders, though they were being paid by LNG industry players to make such statements. Nine days later, Ryan published an [op-ed](#) in the Wall Street Journal calling the Department of Energy's pause on new gas export approvals (which he incorrectly dubbed an "LNG export ban") a "political misstep."

Ryan also sought to portray the Biden administration's policies as anti-labor, claiming that "natural gas is a crucial bridge to a clean-energy future, but with so many environmentalists cheering the new Biden policy, it's almost impossible for American workers not to conclude that Democrats have moved the goalposts." Ryan continued to [push](#) these ideas at CERAWEEK, and in an open letter to House Speaker **Mike Johnson** [urging](#) him to pair foreign aid with pro-gas provisions "to move natural gas around the country more expeditiously."

In an op-ed in the Cincinnati Enquirer, Ryan [claimed](#) that natural gas is needed to meet electricity demand from data centers used for artificial intelligence, arguing that "Technology companies will not wait decades for renewable energy alone to catch up; a partnership with natural gas is needed." Ryan's anachronistic pro-gas talking points ignore the [rapid growth](#) of renewables around the world in recent years, with electricity generation from renewables [surpassing](#) fossil fuels in Europe in 2024, and experts forecasting that renewables [will meet](#) most of the U.S. electricity supply growth needs in 2024 and 2025.

Ryan also ignores a basic economic reality: Building massive gas pipelines and new liquefaction terminals to export US LNG overseas means US consumers of gas will pay more in both the [residential and industrial sectors](#), which currently pay lower prices than in Europe or Asia. Concerned by the impact of exports on their business, major US industrial companies have [supported](#) the Biden administration's decision to scrutinize LNG exports. In a letter to lawmakers, **Paul Cicio**, president of the **Industrial Energy Consumers of America**, [wrote](#): "As LNG exports increase, reliability and affordability of natural gas and electricity are impacted. US manufacturing is especially impacted because we are price sensitive industries and affordable natural gas is our only global competitive advantage."

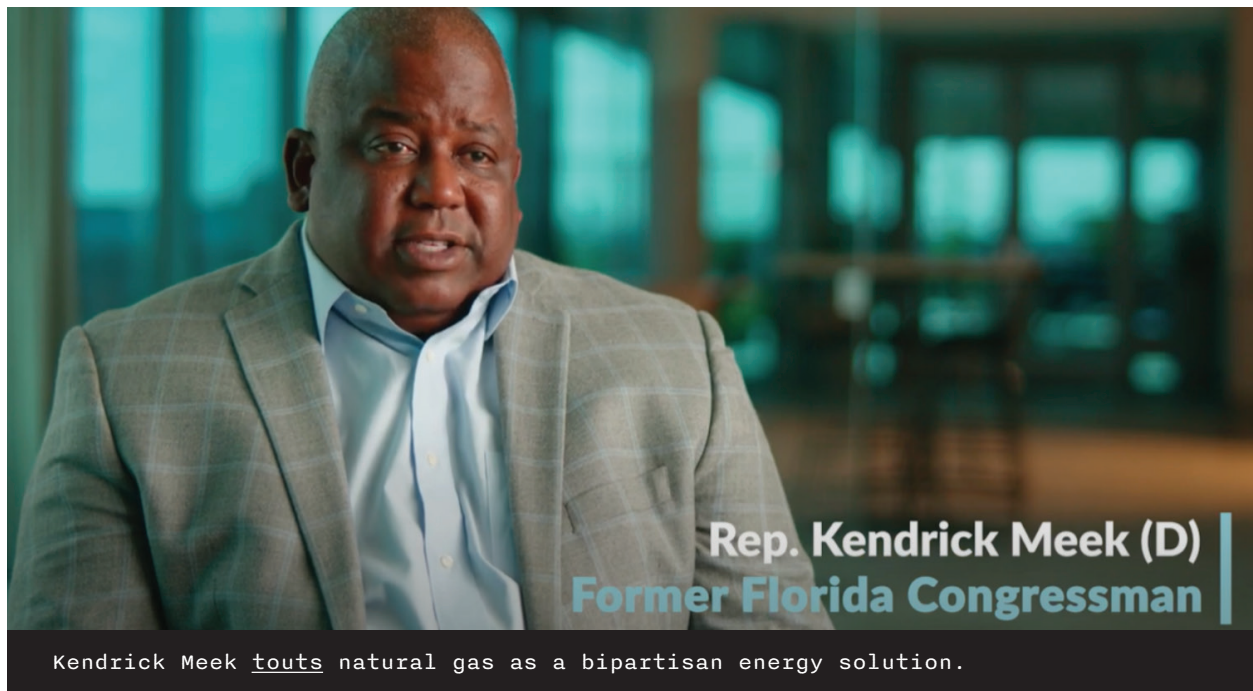
While Ryan continues to peddle the natural gas industry's talking points through his role at Natural Allies, he is [also](#) Chief Global Business Development Officer at technology company **Zoetic Global**, which [markets itself](#) as in the climate solutions business, and sells refrigerants and carbon credits. In 2023, Ryan leveraged his political stature to [pitch](#) the company's carbon credits to President Biden's climate czar John Kerry.

KENDRICK MEEK

"There are individuals in this country that feel that they know what's best for us... You have folks of wealth and good intention who says oh we need zero emissions, we need to do away with quote-unquote fossil fuels. Well, natural gas is a clean-burning fuel, and affordable... They don't think about the reality that you're facing on a day-in, day-out basis of higher rent and higher energy costs." - former Rep. Kendrick Meek during a [panel](#) at the 2024 National Action Network Convention

Kendrick Meek represented Florida's 17th congressional district from 2003–2011 in the House of Representatives. Meek was a member of the **New Democrat Coalition**, a caucus of lawmakers who seek to make the Democratic Party and its platform "[more business friendly](#)."

Meek received less than [\\$25,000](#) from the oil and gas sector during his congressional career, but accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign donations from other predatory industries, including tobacco companies, payday lenders, and for-profit prisons.



During the 2008 election cycle, Meek was the House's top recipient of tobacco industry cash ([\\$73,527](#)) and its second-biggest recipient of money from payday lenders ([\\$38,950](#)). During the 2010 election cycle, when he ran unsuccessfully for Senate, Meek was the House's top recipient of money from the tobacco industry ([\\$120,342](#)), payday lenders ([\\$83,900](#)), and for-profit prisons ([\\$19,100](#)). Overall, the two sectors that contributed most to Meek's congressional campaigns were law/lobbying ([\\$1.8 million](#)) and finance, insurance, and real estate ([\\$1.4 million](#)).

While in Congress, Meek [faced](#) ethics questions and [media scrutiny](#) over his connections to a fraud case that saw a real estate developer [charged](#) with stealing roughly \$1 million from a biotech development

in Miami. Kendrick Meek and his mother, former congresswoman Carrie Meek, a corporate lobbyist, were [embroiled](#) in an apparent conflict of interest when **Carrie Meek** was a [paid consultant](#) for the real estate developer while he was pursuing a project in Meek's district, for which the lawmaker [sought](#) millions in federal funds.

Several years after his 2010 election loss to Sen. **Marco Rubio** (R-FL), Meek followed in his mother's footsteps by becoming a corporate lobbyist. In 2017, Meek [joined King & Spalding LLP](#), which says he "works with US corporations to develop and strengthen their corporate social responsibility initiatives." Since then, Meek has lobbied on behalf of various Fortune 500 companies and industry groups, including **Padron Cigars**, which paid Meek and others at King & Spalding [\\$840,000](#) to lobby for legislation that would [prohibit](#) the Food and Drug Administration from implementing any public health protections related to what the cigar industry calls "traditional large and premium cigars," despite the known health hazards of cigar smoking.

The shared tactics of Big Tobacco and Big Oil are widely recognized, as both [rely on disinformation](#) to perpetuate their exploitative and life-threatening business models. After [joining](#) Natural Allies' leadership council in September 2023, Meek is now a paid messenger for both industries. Meek [said](#) he joined Natural Allies to push for an "energy policy that is pro-climate without sacrificing reliability and affordability for families and businesses." Six weeks later, in one of his earliest public acts after joining Natural Allies, Meek and his fellow co-chair Michael Nutter promoted methane gas in an [opinion piece](#) published in November 2023 by The Washington Informer, a newspaper that serves the DC-area African-American community.

The piece sought to cast doubt on the viability of relying only on renewables, claiming that "pursuing renewable energy sources alone, without considering the price tag or timeline to expand America's power grid by 60 percent, will come at the expense of millions of working-class Americans." This argument ignores the reality that marginalized communities are also disproportionately exposed to the environmental and health harms of fossil fuel pollution, including from fracked gas, and that as gas is currently widely-adopted, it is the source of the energy burden for many households. In a similar vein, Meek espoused the supposed environmental virtues of methane, [calling for](#) an energy policy that was "pro environment and pro natural gas like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich" in a Natural Allies video.

At Natural Allies, Meek and fellow co-chair Michael Nutter leverage their identities as Black men to argue that natural gas will benefit Black communities despite ample evidence of its harms. Their pro-gas advocacy has earned them praise from corporate voices, including an executive from natural gas giant and Natural Allies funder **Williams Companies**, who [called](#) Meek and his Natural Allies co-chairs "Democratic voices who are joining us in making sure that we tell the story of how natural gas has been the most powerful decarbonization tool here in the United States"—a highly misleading claim.

MICHAEL NUTTER

"We believe, certainly, that natural gas is a part of the clean energy solution ... I can assure you ... everybody's not putting (a) solar panel on their house, and I can't put a windmill in my backyard. But I know when I go home tonight, I know that the place is going to be nice and toasty, right? Because it's there, all the time. It's available, it's reliable, it's affordable." - Former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter during a [panel](#) at the 2024 National Action Network Convention



Michael Nutter was mayor of Philadelphia from 2008–2016, announcing at his inauguration his [goal](#) of making Philadelphia the greenest city in America. Nutter's track record as mayor was decidedly less ambitious, and his environmental messaging was undermined by his advocacy for privatizing a public gas utility and openness to fossil fuel infrastructure in Philadelphia.

Since leaving office, Nutter has shown himself to be a quintessential corporate revolver, leveraging his mayoral tenure to land a [dizzying number](#) of paid and unpaid professional roles. According to Philadelphia Magazine, Nutter held 19 simultaneous positions in 2017.

Early in his first term, Mayor Nutter established a sustainability office whose modest [plan](#) included reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from 1990 levels and purchasing or generating 20 percent of electricity from alternative energy sources.

In 2006, a decade before the US embarked on its meteoric rise as an LNG exporter, there was widespread concern that the US would not have enough gas, and projects to import natural gas were proposed around the country. At the time, Nutter was a Philadelphia City Council member, and

Philadelphia Gas Works, the largest municipally owned gas utility in the US, [proposed](#) to build a \$150 million LNG import terminal on the Delaware River.

The LNG terminal faced staunch community opposition, and most city council members rejected considering the plan outright based on constituents' opposition. "Our vision of giving the Delaware River back to the people of Philadelphia does not include football-field-sized LNG tankers floating up our river hauling potentially hazardous and dangerous chemicals vulnerable to spillage or attack," [wrote](#) three of Nutter's fellow city council members. Nutter disagreed, and was one of [two votes](#) against a successful City Council resolution rejecting the proposed LNG import terminal.

Shortly before Nutter joined Natural Allies' leadership council, Natural Allies co-chair Tim Ryan [testified](#) at a Philadelphia hearing arguing in favor of an LNG export terminal to be built on the Delaware River, part of the fossil fuel buildout which [continues to be opposed](#) by residents of Philadelphia and nearby communities.

As mayor, Nutter continued to demonstrate openness to local fossil fuel infrastructure development. In 2011, Nutter [declined](#) to join a lawsuit to block fracking in the Delaware River Basin. The decision ran counter to requests from the City Council, which passed a unanimous resolution asking Nutter and the Philadelphia water commissioner to take legal action in response to environmental advocates' concerns about pollution of the Delaware River.

In 2012, the Nutter administration signed off "[without hesitation](#)" on transferring emissions credits to Sunoco to [reopen](#) a large oil refinery on the Schuylkill River just outside the city. This move was quickly met by a lawsuit, and eventually a 2019 finding that granting the credits was [unlawful](#). As Next City [reported](#), an "unusual provision" in the deal would have transferred the emission credits from Sunoco's former Marcus Hook site to Philadelphia, "using the somewhat strained logic that the two refineries—17 miles apart—operated as a single facility." Nutter's support for such legal gymnastics, while [touting](#) his "oft-proclaimed goal to make Philadelphia 'the greenest city in America,'" is a clear demonstration of the logic of greenwashing: drawing attention to high profile "sustainability" projects and false solutions while simultaneously supporting the fossil fuel industry's expansion.

In 2014, Nutter advocated for a plan to privatize Philadelphia Gas Works by selling the nation's largest publicly owned gas utility to **UIL Holdings Corporation**, a Connecticut-based utility operator for \$1.86 billion. Supporters of the deal highlighted a [vision](#) shared by Mayor Nutter's [Manufacturing Task Force](#) to make Philadelphia "[the Silicon Valley of energy](#)" and "spark new manufacturing" through the use of shale gas, which he framed as "[cleaner energy](#)." The city council [refused to support](#) this effort, and the deal did not proceed.

Natural Allies Ad Campaign Push Deceptive Climate Misinformation

In June 2024, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres [called](#) for a global ban on fossil fuel advertising.

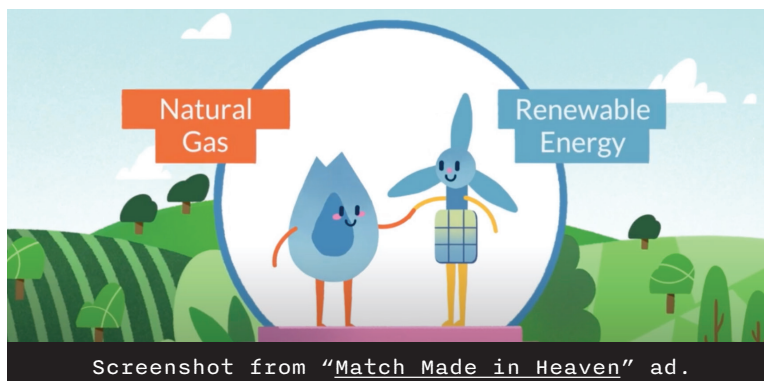
“Billions of dollars have been thrown at distorting the truth, deceiving the public, and sowing doubt,” [Guterres](#) said. “Many in the fossil fuel industry have shamelessly greenwashed, even as they have sought to delay climate action with lobbying, legal threats, and massive ad campaigns.”

One of Natural Allies' main objectives is to make fracking and gas exports more palatable to constituencies ideologically inclined to reject fossil fuel expansion. Through its advertisements, Natural Allies has worked to sow doubt about the feasibility of switching to renewables, pushing misleading messages to community groups and civil rights coalitions.

For example, an [ad](#) from Black History Month in 2022 invites viewers to learn more about Alice H. Parker, a Black inventor “famous for inventing central heating using natural gas” in the 1920s. Such ads are cynical attempts to bolster the environmental justice bonafides of a product that harms disadvantaged communities, including Black and brown communities located near industrial facilities such as LNG export terminals.



Another example is a 30-second Natural Allies advertisement that ran in the summer of 2023 in DC and Pennsylvania on television as well as online. Titled “[Match Made in Heaven](#),” the ad is a children's cartoon depicting a wedding ceremony between a methane gas flame and a windmill.



With instrumental string music in the background, the ad says:

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the joining of two energy sources, natural gas and renewables.

"Working together, they will lower emissions faster, reliably and affordably for generations to come.

"Do you, renewables, take natural gas to be your reliable energy partner?"

"I do."

"Do you, natural gas, take renewables to be your carbon free energy partner?"

"I do."

"Natural gas and renewables, a match made in heaven to save planet Earth."

Thousands of ads purchased by Natural Allies on social media peddled claims that natural gas is more affordable and reliable than renewable energy and central to US national security objectives. The ads appear designed to spread doubt about the viability of renewables, while also avoiding the more aggressive anti-renewable, climate-denying language favored by Republican politicians and some oil and gas drillers.

Natural Allies' Facebook and Instagram ad buys lean on Democratic party officials to get its message out. For example, **Ernest Moniz**, who served in the Obama and Clinton administrations and is now CEO of the gas-funded Energy Futures Initiative Foundation, has been mentioned dozens of times in Natural Allies' pro-methane gas ads.

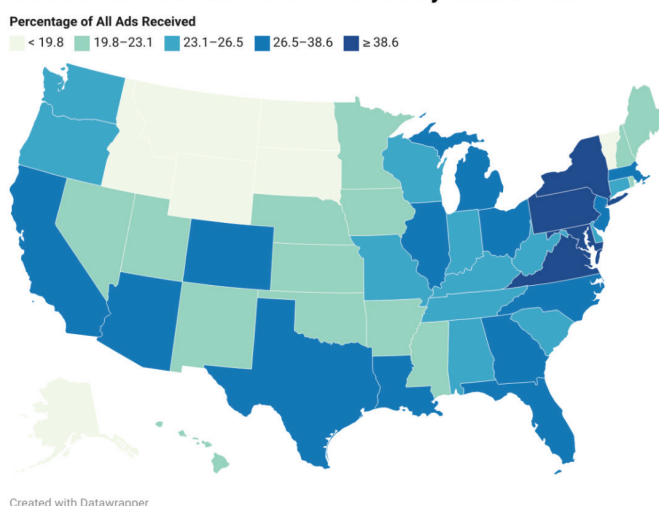
According to data published by Meta, Natural Allies spent between \$865,800 and \$1,228,687 on more than 2,000 Facebook and Instagram ads delivered from September 23, 2020, to April 26, 2024. Each ad was written in English and shared on both Facebook and Instagram, eliciting between 61.1 million and 71.7 million impressions.²

Natural Allies' ad spending and impressions peaked in the fourth quarter of 2022, during which the US midterm elections were held. The second-highest level of spending and impressions came during the second quarter of 2022—closely following the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which destabilized global energy markets and expedited a boom in US LNG exports. In third place was the final quarter of 2020, which coincided with that year's US presidential election.

2 Information about how much Natural Allies spent on Facebook and Instagram ads, as well as the number of social media impressions they evoked, varies due to Meta's data collection and reporting methods.

Natural Allies purchased ads for distribution to regions around the United States, with a pronounced emphasis on the DC area, home to federal policymakers and a vast ecosystem of think tanks, lobbyists, and other political actors. All of the 2,013 Natural Allies ads circulated nationwide during the period in question were distributed simultaneously to multiple jurisdictions. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia received 1,102 (55%), 974 (48%), and 920 (46%) of them, respectively.

Share of Natural Allies' Ads Received by Jurisdiction



Pennsylvania (937 ads, or 47% of the total), Texas (605, 30%), Louisiana (541, 27%), and Ohio (540, 27%)—states heavily involved in the production, transportation, and export of fracked gas—were also all in the top-third of ad recipients by absolute volume. See the table below and map above for more details.

Table 1: Top 10 State Targets of Natural Allies' Ads

Jurisdiction	Number of Ads	Percentage of All Ads Received
Washington DC	1,102	54.7%
Maryland	974	48.4%
Pennsylvania	937	46.5%
Virginia	920	45.7%
New York	778	38.6%
New Jersey	632	31.4%
North Carolina	605	30.1%
Texas	605	30.1%
California	591	29.4%
Michigan	561	27.9%

Source: Analysis of Meta data on Natural Allies' Facebook and Instagram ad buys

Misleading Myths

In addition to [falsely portraying](#) gas as a clean energy source, Natural Allies' ads typically perpetuate three other pervasive and misleading myths about natural gas:

- It cannot be replaced because renewables are too unreliable;
- It is more affordable than renewable energy; and
- it is essential to the energy and national security interests of the US and its allies.

Each of these myths is highly problematic, based on outdated assumptions that ignore market realities, climate science, and massive advances in renewable energy technology that have occurred over the past decade.

MYTH: Natural gas cannot be replaced because renewables are too unreliable.

A central idea repeated throughout Natural Allies' ads is that the United States cannot depend on renewables alone to get through harsh winters or to meet its emissions reduction targets. There are indeed periods when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, but the intermittent nature of renewables can be overcome with better [battery storage](#) and other technological improvements. Meanwhile, natural gas has proven unreliable amid severe winter weather.

REALITY: Natural Gas Is Not Reliable.

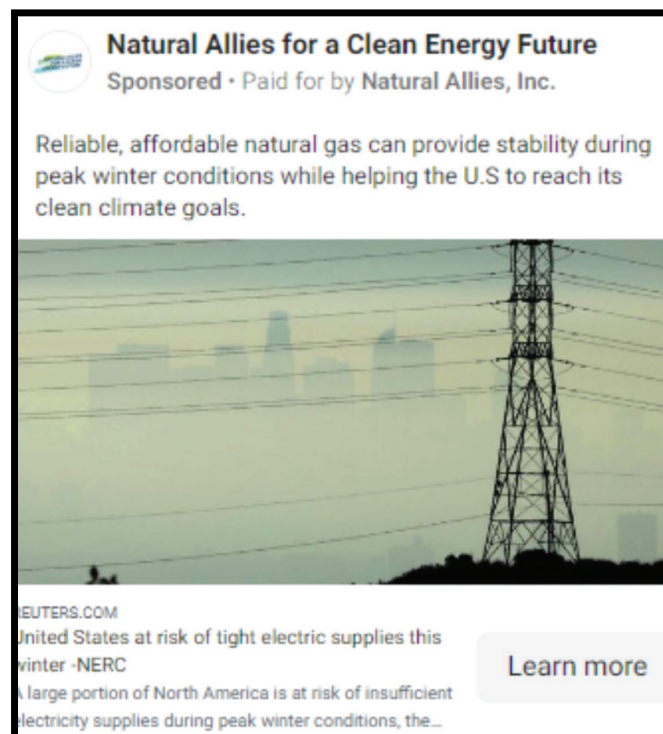
Natural gas [replaced](#) coal as the top source of electricity in the U.S. in 2016, and by 2023 accounted for roughly [43 percent](#) of the nation's power generation. Although the grid's growing dependence on gas was initially raved about, it is increasingly [recognized](#) as a key vulnerability. That's because natural gas plants are [responsible](#) for an outsized share of power outages during extreme weather events, which are increasing in frequency, duration, and intensity due to unmitigated greenhouse gas pollution (a problem exacerbated by [methane leakage](#) across the fracked gas life cycle).

One notable example of the unreliability of natural gas came in February 2021, when Winter Storm Uri, a major cold snap [made more likely](#) by rapid warming in the Arctic, battered Texas with frigid temperatures. Texas' isolated, under-regulated, and gas-dependent grid was ill-prepared to handle the extreme cold and as a result, [millions of people](#) were forced to go without electricity, and thus, heat, for days amid dangerously cold conditions. Nearly 250 people [died](#) as a result of the storm, according to Texas officials; an independent analysis put the death toll above 750. Meanwhile, fossil fuel profiteers [capitalized](#) on the disastrous power outages, raking in billions of dollars in windfall profits thanks to surging energy prices.

Republican lawmakers, fossil fuel interests, and right-wing media figures [falsely blamed](#) the wind industry for the crisis despite ample evidence that natural gas was the [biggest culprit](#). Incidentally, solar was the only energy source that [outperformed](#) expectations during the winter storm. One analysis [found](#) that while an additional 10 GW of utility-scale solar capacity would not have prevented

the blackouts, it would have provided enough energy to power more than 1 million homes for between four and eight hours per day.

Such technological advances are nowhere to be found in the messaging of Natural Allies, which consistently pushes misinformation about the supposedly superior dependability of methane gas. The following [ad](#), which ran from December 1, 2022, to March 16, 2023 distributed mostly in DC, asserts that "Reliable, affordable natural gas can provide stability during peak winter conditions while helping the US to reach its clean climate goals." The ad links to a Reuters [article](#) with the following subhead: "A large portion of North America is at risk of insufficient electricity supplies during peak winter conditions, the organization responsible for the reliability of the US power grids said on Thursday."



The ad above accumulated between 900,000 and 999,999 impressions—by far the most of the roughly 2,000 Facebook and Instagram ads that Natural Allies paid for during the period in question. It was the only ad to garner at least 900,000 impressions and one of just 10 to amass more than 700,000. This ad's above-average performance can be explained in part by the fact that it ran for three-and-a-half months (substantially longer than the single week many ads get).

Another [ad](#) in this vein similarly asserted without evidence from late October 2022 to mid-November 2022 that "America needs more natural gas infrastructure to meet domestic and global demands for clean, reliable, affordable gas before it's too late."

Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future
Sponsored · Paid for by Natural Allies, Inc.

America needs more natural gas infrastructure to meet domestic and global demands for clean, reliable, affordable gas – before it's too late.

WSJ.COM
New England Risks Winter Blackouts as Gas Supplies Tighten
Severe cold spells in the Northeast could reduce the amount of gas available to generate electricity as more ...

[Learn more](#)

The ad linked to a Wall Street Journal [article](#) with the following subhead: "Severe cold spells in the Northeast could reduce the amount of gas available to generate electricity as more of it is burned to heat homes."

While it is true that New England gas users have [paid](#) some of the highest prices in the country in recent years, the pro-export policies favored by the natural gas industry are [partly to blame](#). The region largely imports its supplies from foreign countries and so is exposed to dramatic international price gyrations.

The two ads documented above were the first- and fourth-best performing Facebook and Instagram ads purchased by Natural Allies during the period under review. But they were far from the only ones pushing the myth that legitimately green energy sources such as solar and wind are fickle. The words "reliable" and "reliability" appeared more than 800 times throughout the ads in question, and that's only taking into account the body text of the ads.

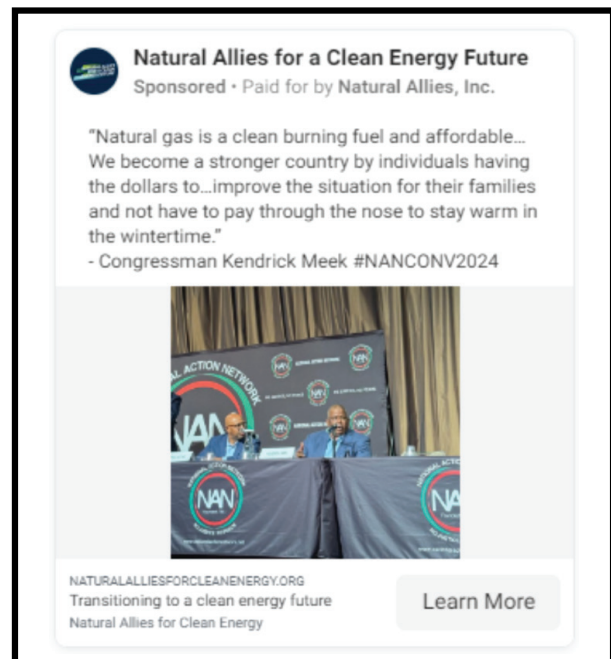
MYTH : Natural gas is more affordable than renewable energy.

A second misleading idea pushed frequently in Natural Allies' ads is that natural gas is necessary because it's cheaper than renewables, which are portrayed as prohibitively expensive. Natural Allies and other fossil fuel industry defenders downplay the full costs of methane gas and exaggerate the costs of genuinely clean energy sources like solar and wind.

REALITY: Natural Gas Is Highly Volatile In Price And Increasingly Unaffordable.

Across the country, the price households paid for natural gas has [increased 52 percent](#) since 2016. The price went [up 31 percent](#) for industrial customers nationwide over the same period, during a time when overseas gas exports soared. Politicians on both sides of the aisle have [ignored warnings](#) from consumer advocacy and environmental groups about the economic impact of increasing gas exports, and sided with corporate profit at the expense of climate stability and vulnerable communities. An analysis from **Energy Innovation** [found](#) that the Biden administration's temporary pause on permitting new gas export terminals could be insulating the American public from a [9-14 percent](#) spike in gas prices, or up to \$18 billion in new annual energy costs from gas pricing volatility, with low-income households shouldering the largest burden. Additionally, the same taxpayers and ratepayers who pay for the cost of maintaining and expanding polluting gas infrastructure also bear substantial [public health costs](#) associated with the entire fracked gas supply chain.

Yet Natural Allies' messaging ignores these harsh realities. In one ad delivered in April 2024 to adults aged 35-44 in mid-Atlantic states, Natural Allies leaders Nutter and Meek take an implicit swipe at renewables while claiming that gas is clean-burning. In reality, natural gas releases toxic chemicals when burned that have been found to be [carcinogenic](#) and [increase childhood asthma rates](#). Natural Allies representatives also claim the fuel is affordable, ignoring low-income communities' lived experience of [natural gas price volatility](#).



Another post-NAN convention [ad](#) invites those who missed it to watch Meek, Landrieu, and Nutter discuss "the role natural gas plays in building a more equitable and affordable clean energy future for all." The ads described above constitute a tiny fraction of all those purchased by Natural Allies during the period in question. The words "affordable" and "affordability" appeared more than 560 times within the body text alone of the ads under review.

MYTH: Natural gas is essential to the energy and national security interests of the US and its allies.

A third misleading idea pushed by Natural Allies' ads is that methane gas is indispensable to advancing the energy and national security interests of the US and its allies. (Nevermind that two of Natural Allies' top financial backers, **Enbridge** and **TC Energy**, aren't even American companies.) Such ads were more prominent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the fossil fuel industry [capitalized](#) on the war to justify a massive buildout of gas export infrastructure. These social media ads were still being distributed in late 2023 despite [waning](#) European demand for US LNG exports and mounting evidence that the coal-substitution case for fracked gas is [weaker](#) than originally thought, [even in China](#).

REALITY: Natural Gas Exports Do Not Ensure The Energy And National Security Of The US Or Its Allies.

When expressing its opposition to the Biden administration's [pause](#) on pending approvals of LNG exports, the Natural Allies Leadership Council [claimed](#) in January 2024 that U.S. LNG exports are "enhancing global security by freeing allies of energy from hostile nations." But given that existing LNG exports, which were not affected by Biden's [now-blocked moratorium](#), are already adequate to meet Europe's needs, freezing the authorization of new LNG shipments while reevaluating whether they are in the public interest has no bearing on Europe's security. In fact, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) found in February 2024 that European demand for gas had [fallen](#) to a 10-year low. This decrease in gas demand is largely attributable to improvements in energy efficiency and investments in clean energy—changes that European leaders, many of whom have [affirmed](#) the Biden administration's efforts to reassess the impacts of additional LNG exports, understand are essential to achieving real security.

The fossil fuel industry has portrayed increased LNG exports as a necessity because shipping more and more U.S.-produced energy overseas boosts the bottom line of big oil and gas corporations. But those enhanced profits come at the direct expense of U.S. consumers who are forced to foot [higher energy bills](#); low-income frontline communities, disproportionately Black and brown, that are forced to endure the [devastating health and environmental impacts](#) of expanded gas production and distribution; and the world at large as continued investment in fossil fuel infrastructure locks in decades of greenhouse gas emissions, consuming our rapidly shrinking carbon budget and [making catastrophic levels of warming more likely](#). All of those negative consequences are at odds with enhancing national and global security, and they only underscores the extent to which the [cleanest sources of energy are also the safest](#).

The first Natural Allies [ad](#) to mention the word "security" went live on March 22, 2022, one month after Russia launched its war on Ukraine, promoting a talk on energy security from **Heidi Heitkamp**. It ran in numerous US markets through May 13, 2022.

Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future
Sponsored • Paid for by Natural Allies, Inc.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) discussed how we can have energy security for ourselves and our allies while also taking care of our environment:
naturalalliesforcleanenergy.org

"We have to produce more natural gas to fuel our economy and provide energy security for the world."

FORMER SEN. HEIDI HEITKAMP
(D-ND), 3/9/22

Natural Allies for a Clean Energy Future [Learn more](#)

The ad above ran concurrently with [two similar](#) ads promoting gas as key to "energy security." Natural Allies subsequently ran an [ad](#) promoting a Boston Globe [op-ed](#) written by former US Energy Secretary **Ernest Moniz** which argued that "American LNG is a major geostrategic tool for the United States and its allies and trading partners."

Natural Allies' Corporate Members: The Dirty Details

The ten natural gas industry corporations behind Natural Allies have a common history of environmental disregard, methane greenwashing, and working against the energy transition.

Williams Companies

Williams is a US-based fossil fuel producer and pipeline operator that handles [roughly one-third](#) of the country's methane gas. It reported [\\$3.3 billion](#) in profits in 2023. The company is a leading proponent of "[gas certification](#)," an industry-led push to [greenwash](#) the extraction and combustion of methane, a potent planet-heating gas. While attempting to extend the fossil fuel industry's social license, Williams and its subsidiaries have paid millions of dollars in [civil penalties](#) to settle allegations that the company failed to comply with the Clear Air Act's pollution standards.

Williams continues to invest in fossil fuel expansion. In November 2022, Williams [signed](#) a preliminary agreement with **Sempra Energy** to supply gas to two LNG export terminals planned for Texas and Louisiana, **Port Arthur LNG** and the **Cameron LNG** Phase 2 project. In December 2023, Williams [purchased](#) a portfolio of underground methane gas storage facilities and pipelines around Louisiana and Mississippi for \$1.95 billion.



Left: Flaring at a Williams-owned processing facility in Marshall County, WV. Photograph by Ted Auch, FracTracker Alliance, 2018.

Right: Flaring at Cameron LNG in May 2021. Photographs by Healthy Gulf.

EQT Corporation

Based in Pittsburgh, EQT is the [second](#) largest gas producer in the US, operating mainly within the Marcellus shale basin in Appalachia. EQT [owns](#) the Mountain Valley Pipeline which was developed by Equitrans, a pipeline company that spun off from EQT in 2018 and was [repurchased](#) by EQT in 2024.

Sen. **Joe Manchin** (I-WV) has long sought construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. EQT CEO **Toby Rice** has personally made thousands of dollars in [political contributions](#) to Manchin, and is among the top fossil fuel boosters in Congress. After Manchin inserted language into the 2023 debt ceiling deal that [guaranteed approval](#) of the pipeline, Manchin, Rice and Equitrans Executive Chairman **Thomas Karam** appeared together to [celebrate](#) the pipeline's opening and praise Manchin for his efforts to lobby for it.

Rice is a [self-described](#) "champion of natural gas" whose Twitter (X) handle, "Shalennial," is a portmanteau of millennial and the shale basins where fracking takes place. He has falsely [characterized](#) fracked gas as the "cleanest energy in the world," even as it [accounts](#) for over 20 percent of global GHG emissions from the energy sector, and called [liquified](#) natural gas "the biggest green initiative on the planet."



EQT [claims](#) to be the largest producer of "certified" natural gas in the US as well, a controversial label designed to designate gas with fewer methane emissions. The rapidly growing gas certification industry [contends](#) that it can accurately measure methane pollution and verify which fracking operations are less-emitting. Nearly [40 percent](#) of U.S. gas is now considered "certified" by third-party companies. However, as Earthworks and Oil Change International have [shown](#), these claims are deceptive, relying on faulty measurements to make unverifiable claims about emissions reduction. The two groups [warned](#) in a recent report that "gas certification threatens climate goals by promoting false data and enabling gas companies to expand operations under the guise of reduced emissions."

EQT is also heavily involved in the effort to boost US LNG exports, and would derive massive financial benefits from it. In January 2024, EQT [agreed](#) to provide 500,000 tons of methane gas per year to **Texas LNG's** proposed liquefaction facility in Brownsville, Texas near the Mexico border. This plant is one of two export terminals placed on hold after a [court decision](#) finding that federal energy regulators failed to properly analyze the impact of two plants. EQT also has a [15-year contract](#) to provide 1 million tons of gas per year to **Commonwealth LNG's** facility in Cameron, Louisiana.

In a letter to Energy Secretary **Jennifer Granholm**, Rice opposed the Biden administration's efforts to pause new approvals of gas export projects, [claiming](#) that gas exports would benefit the climate and waving away the problem of increased volatility and price shocks from increased exports that have stuck households and businesses with [higher gas bills](#). He also [testified](#) at a February 2024

hearing convened by U.S House Republicans [entitled](#) "Politics Over People: How Biden's LNG Export Ban Threatens America's Energy and Economic Security" in the same week as a [\\$250,000](#) donation by EQT Corp to the Senate Leadership Fund, a Super PAC backing Republican Senate candidates.

In May 2022, Rice met with **Amos Hochstein**, President Joe Biden's top energy security advisor, to "discuss issues related to expanding LNG exports to Europe and building capacity to replace overseas coal with cleaner, more reliable US LNG," according to a [copy](#) of Hochstein's calendar obtained by Friends of the Earth through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

EQT was also named in a 2022 [lawsuit](#) in which West Virginia homeowners alleged that EQT tried to dodge its responsibility to clean up more than 700 wells by transferring them in 2018 to **Diversified Energy**, which owns thousands of wells and [has faced doubts](#) about whether it has the financial resources to clean them up

Kinder Morgan Inc.

Kinder Morgan is a major US pipeline and terminal owner [co-founded](#) by **Richard Kinder**, a former president of **Enron Corp.** who left several years before the energy giant's collapse in 2001. Kinder Morgan has grown into one of the largest pipeline companies in the country through numerous mergers and acquisitions.

The company is [responsible](#) for one of the largest gasoline spills in US history: a 2014 spill in South Carolina, where an estimated 369,000 gallons of gasoline seeped into the soil and waterways after an earlier pipeline repair failed. The company's actions also came under scrutiny in early 2021 when, as Winter Storm Uri left Texans without power, Kinder Morgan capitalized on the crisis, [raking in](#) a windfall of approximately \$1 billion.

In February 2024, Kinder Morgan [claimed](#) that it routinely collaborates with federal and state agencies to protect public and environmental health. The following month, the company [sued](#) to block the EPA from applying its [Good Neighbor Plan](#)—which sought to reduce ozone-forming emissions of nitrogen oxides from power plants and industrial facilities—to the engines used to transport gas through pipelines. The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to [block enforcement](#) of the rule.

Kinder Morgan has [argued](#) that methane gas will remain a necessity for years to come, and is in the process of [increasing](#) the gas processing capacity of the **Elba Island LNG** export terminal that it operates in Georgia. It is also the lead investor in the long-delayed **Gulf LNG** project in Mississippi, which would [add](#) export capacity to an existing import terminal.

TC Energy

Canadian fossil fuel firm TC Energy, formerly known as **TransCanada**, is the co-owner of the Keystone pipeline system, including the [abandoned](#) Keystone XL, which faced years of grassroots resistance.

TC Energy transports an estimated [30 percent](#) of North American methane gas. The company has a substantial record of oil spills and safety problems. In December 2022, TC Energy was [responsible](#) for 14,000 barrels of oil spilling into a Kansas creek adjacent to an already-completed section of the Keystone pipeline. In July 2023, a section of the company's gas pipeline

in Shenandoah, Virginia [exploded](#).

TC Energy has [sought](#) to circumvent regulations in Canada, asking the government to exempt LNG facilities and methane pollution from federal emissions limits. The company has also acted in defiance of US officials, moving to [expand](#) the capacity of its fracked gas pipeline in the Pacific Northwest despite vocal opposition from local policymakers. Like its counterparts, TC Energy is barreling forward with [plans](#) to build out gas exports, building a controversial pipeline [through indigenous territory](#) to an export [terminal](#) in British Columbia. The company also supports efforts to weaken permitting regulations.

“For natural gas to realize its full potential, we have to see permitting reform. We need the infrastructure to get that gas to where it needs to be consumed, so that we can help decarbonize, not only here in the US but abroad...” - TC Energy executive [Tina Faraca](#) in a [panel discussion](#).

Enbridge

Enbridge is the Canadian fossil fuel giant behind the [controversial](#) Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, which opened in 2021. Enbridge says its pipeline network [serves 15 percent](#) of gas export capacity in the Gulf Coast. It has a [30 percent stake](#) in the **Woodfibre LNG** export terminal in British Columbia, scheduled to open in 2027. In 2023, Enbridge [acquired](#) three U.S. natural gas utilities in Ohio, Utah and North Carolina from **Dominion Energy**.

While [opposing](#) actual decarbonization, Enbridge [pushes](#) misleading [claims](#) about “clean” fracked gas. The company has formed [a joint venture](#) to invest in the buildout of additional gas infrastructure in the Gulf Coast, including the Rio Bravo pipeline, which would [supply](#) the **Rio Grande LNG** project in Brownsville, Texas and has proposed a major pipeline [expansion](#) known as Project Maple, in New England.

The company was [responsible](#) for the largest inland oil spill in US history, which in 1991 when an older iteration of Line 3 [ruptured](#) in Minnesota and leaked into a Mississippi River tributary. In the aftermath of a pair of devastating 2010 oil spills in Michigan and Illinois, Enbridge [agreed](#) to pay over \$110 million to settle with the US government, plus \$62 million in civil penalties for Clean Water Act violations.

Those fines did little to alter the corporation's conduct. Enbridge-supported groups [provided](#) undisclosed funding for the University of Minnesota, Duluth to publish a flawed study that was then cited in defense of the company's Line 3 project. In 2018, Enbridge shared [dubious](#) materials authored by a climate change denier in a bid to get city officials in Boston to approve a proposed gas compressor station. And in March 2024, Enbridge [urged](#) shareholders to oppose climate disclosure requirements.



LNG tankers moored at Enbridge's LNG export terminal in San Patricio, Texas.
Photograph by Ted Auch, FracTracker Alliance, 2023.

National Fuel

A pipeline, utility and exploration midstream gas company based in New York, National Fuel is a member of a fossil fuel front group that has [lobbied against](#) the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, a landmark decarbonization law [passed](#) in New York in 2019. Not only did National Fuel fight the legislation, but they [spent](#) customer money to do so. Using customer fees, the company created a website that encouraged New York voters to ask their representatives to oppose methane gas restrictions.

From 2002 to 2023, the company was [cited for](#) 19 environmental and safety-related violations, yielding nearly \$1.7 million in fines, according to data compiled in the Violation Tracker database run by Good Jobs First. In 2020, former Pennsylvania Attorney General **Josh Shapiro** [charged](#) a unit of National Fuel with environmental crimes for their gas operations polluting a tributary and groundwater. The company also [paid](#) a \$125,000 civil penalty in 2023 for a gas leak and fire in Pennsylvania which was purportedly exacerbated by deficiencies on the company's part, including failing to stop the flow of gas in a timely manner.

Solar Turbines

Solar Turbines is a US-based subsidiary of Caterpillar, one of the world's biggest manufacturers of mining and construction equipment. Despite the company's name, Solar Turbines' business has nothing to do with solar energy; it [specializes](#) in making the industrial gas turbines used in power plants and compressor stations. The company's website [claims](#) that fracked gas is a "clean-burning" fuel that can provide "sustainable, cost-effective power." Meanwhile, the Gas Turbine Association, to which Solar Turbines pays dues used for federal lobbying, has [pushed](#) the EPA to weaken and postpone emissions standards for gas turbines.

Venture Global LNG

Venture Global is an LNG company headquartered in Virginia. The firm owns multiple gas liquefaction and export terminals in Louisiana. In 2022, the first year the company's **Calcasieu Pass** export terminal was operational, the facility [violated](#) the Clean Air Act by "exceeding the pollution thresholds specified in its permit more than 2,000 times." Grist [reported](#) that flaring at the site released up to 37,000 pounds of nitrogen dioxide, a carcinogenic greenhouse gas. In December 2023, Venture Global [proposed](#) building another gas export terminal, called **CP2**, adjacent to the existing Calcasieu Pass facility. The expansion would also [involve](#) laying down more than 90 miles of new pipeline and constructing a new compressor station. Venture Global has been locked in a [dispute](#) with **BP, Shell**, and other customers after [delaying](#) shipments of LNG to customers who signed long-term supply contracts, instead selling them at [higher spot market prices](#).



Venture Global's Calcasieu Pass export terminal in Cameron Parish, LA in August 2023. [Photograph](#) by Ted Auch, FracTracker Alliance.

Venture Global is also [developing](#) the **Delta LNG** and the **Plaquemines LNG** export terminals in Louisiana. Over the next ten years, the company is [slated](#) to receive \$834 billion in tax breaks through Louisiana's Industrial Tax Exemption Program, which is meant to lure jobs to the state. However, it is expected to employ just 300 workers once completed, meaning that Venture Global is netting \$2.8 million in tax breaks for each permanent job it creates. Venture Global has also [held talks](#) with Alaska officials over a massive proposed gas export project.

Southern Company

Southern Co. is the second-largest gas and electric utility in the US. The Atlanta-based company and its subsidiaries—**Alabama Power, Georgia Power, and Mississippi Power**—together [serve](#) 9 million customers. The company's gas subsidiary, **Southern Company Gas**, serves [4.4 million](#) gas customers through Atlanta Gas Light, Chattanooga Gas, Nicor Gas, and Virginia Natural Gas brands. That unit was [created in 2016](#) after the \$12 billion [acquisition](#) of **AGL Resources**. Despite [touting](#) its commitment to "a net-zero transition focusing on greenhouse gas emissions reductions, decarbonization, and a Just Transition," Southern Company has [no credible plans](#) to move away from gas.

Together, Alabama Power and Georgia Power plan to add more than 7,500 megawatts in new gas power generation capacity by 2030, [according to](#) the Sierra Club. Even as Southern Company and its subsidiaries continue to expand their fossil fuel production, the utility is still [paying](#) its executives bonuses for slashing pollution.

Quanta Services Inc.

Quanta is a Houston-based construction and engineering fossil fuel infrastructure firm that serves the oil and gas industry. It is [involved](#) in a variety of activities "across the refining, petrochemical, midstream, and upstream sectors."

In 2019, Quanta [completed](#) the installation of 27 miles of pipes for **EQT's** Mountain Valley Pipeline project. In addition, Quanta [owns](#) 50 percent of **LUMA Energy**, the private utility company that control's Puerto Rico's power grid. The company has come under fire for [deferring](#) needed repairs, and for its profit-driven resistance to expanding renewable energy after Hurricane Fiona left hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans [without power](#) for weeks.

Like the other companies backing Natural Allies, Quanta has [identified](#) the global LNG export market as a profitable opportunity to build more pipelines.

Natural Allies' Corporate Members Funnel Millions to Republican Politicians

Despite Natural Allies' focus on gaining support from Democrats, the political action committees (PACs) of the group's key corporate members overwhelmingly support Republican candidates for office.

Of about \$3.5 million in political contributions made by corporate PACs tied to major Natural Allies members since 2020, about \$2.8 million, or 79 percent, went to Republican candidates and Super PACs, while \$761,950 went to Democrats. The largest political contribution by Natural Allies members was **EQT's \$250,000** donation in 2024 to the Senate Leadership Fund, a Super PAC backing Republican Senate candidates, followed by **\$50,000** from EQT to Team West Virginia, a Super PAC [backing](#) the campaign of Gov. **Jim Justice** (R-WV) for U.S. Senate as well as **Donald Trump's** presidential campaign.

The top Senate recipient of campaign contributions from Natural Allies members was Sen. **Joe Manchin**, the fossil fuel-friendly Democrat turned Independent, followed by fossil fuel friendly Republican Senators **Shelley Moore Capito** (R-WV), **Markwayne Mullin** (R-OK), **Deb Fischer** (R-NE) and **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK). In the House of Representatives, the top recipient of campaign contributions by Natural Allies members was Rep. **Sam Graves** (R-MO), the chairman of the House Transportation Committee, who has [pushed](#) to alter rules to allow shipments of LNG by railroads, followed by Rep. **Lizzie Fletcher** (D-TX), a fossil fuel-friendly Democrat who [chairs](#) the bipartisan House Natural Gas Caucus.

TABLE 2: Federal PAC & Super PAC Contributions By Natural Allies Corporate Members, 2020-2024

Company PAC	Democrats	Republicans	Grand Total	Pct Dem	Pct GOP
Williams Companies PAC	\$364,000	\$1,234,750	\$1,598,750	23%	77%
Southern Co. Gas Pac	\$96,500	\$454,000	\$550,500	18%	82%
Transcanada USA Services Inc. Pac	\$109,500	\$256,500	\$366,000	30%	70%
National Fuel Gas Co PAC	\$63,950	\$294,050	\$358,000	18%	82%
EQT Corp PAC	\$19,100	\$321,500	\$340,600	6%	94%
Enbridge Inc PAC	\$69,900	\$183,700	\$253,600	28%	72%
Quanta Services PAC	\$39,000	\$41,400	\$80,400	49%	51%
Grand Total	\$761,950	\$2,785,900	\$3,547,850	21%	79%

*Includes both PAC and SuperPAC contributions

Source: Analysis of OpenSecrets.org, Federal Election Commission data

TABLE 3: Top Senate Campaign Contributions from Natural Allies Member PACs, 2020-2024

Candidate	Democrats	Republicans	Grand Total
Joe Manchin (D-WVa)	\$42,500		\$42,500
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WVa)		\$30,500	\$30,500
Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla)		\$24,500	\$24,500
Deb Fischer (R-Neb)		\$23,000	\$23,000
Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)		\$22,000	\$22,000
Steven Daines (R-Mont)		\$18,500	\$18,500
John Cornyn (R-Texas)		\$18,000	\$18,000
John Barrasso (R-Wyo)		\$18,000	\$18,000
Bob Casey (D-Pa)	\$16,100		\$16,100
James Lankford (R-Okla)		\$15,500	\$15,500

Source: Analysis of OpenSecrets.org data (*Manchin switched his party registration to Independent in May 2024)

TABLE 4: Top House Campaign Contributions from Natural Allies Member PACs, 2020-2024

Candidate	Democrats	Republicans	Grand Total
Sam Graves (R-Mo)		\$76,500	\$76,500
Lizzie Fletcher (D-Texas)	\$52,200		\$52,200
Garret Graves (R-La)		\$47,400	\$47,400
Guy Reschenthaler (R-Pa)		\$44,000	\$44,000
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash)		\$43,500	\$43,500
Buddy Carter (R-Ga)		\$43,000	\$43,000
Vicente Gonzalez (D-Texas)	\$41,500		\$41,500
Bill Johnson (R-Ohio)		\$41,000	\$41,000
Rodney Davis (R-Ill)		\$40,000	\$40,000
Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill)		\$40,000	\$40,000

Source: Analysis of OpenSecrets.org data

Besides corporate political action committees and Super PACs, nine senior executives at Natural Allies members are significant political donors, contributing at least \$20,000 to political candidates since the 2020 election cycle. Key recipients included political committees backing lawmakers including Sen. **Mitch McConnell** (R-KY) and Sen. **Joe Manchin** (I-WV).

Kinder Morgan founder **Richard Kinder** was the biggest political donor, contributing \$310,000 to federal races, including nearly \$150,000 to the National Republican Senatorial Committee. Other significant donors are Venture Global founder **Robert Pender** (\$222,000), who [contributed \\$100,000](#) to a Super PAC that unsuccessfully [sought to defeat](#) fossil fuel critic Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA) in a 2020 primary race. Other big political donors were former Kinder Morgan CEO Steven Kean (\$93,900) and EQT CEO **Toby Rice** (\$92,235).

TABLE 5: Top Federal Campaign Contributors Among Senior Executives of Natural Allies Companies, 2020-24

<i>Contributor</i>	EQT	Kinder Morgan	Quanta	Southern Co.	Venture Global	Grand Total
Kinder, Richard		\$310,200				\$310,200
Pender, Robert					\$225,500	\$225,500
Kean, Steven		\$93,900				\$93,900
Rice, Toby	\$92,235					\$92,235
Fanning, Thomas				\$83,528		\$83,528
Austin, Earl			\$41,392			\$41,392
Sabel, Michael					\$31,800	\$31,800
Desai, Jayshree			\$21,350			\$21,350
Greene, Kim				\$20,800		\$20,800
Grand Total	\$92,235	\$404,100	\$62,742	\$104,328	\$257,300	\$920,705

Source: Analysis of OpenSecrets.org, Federal Election Commission data (excludes contributions to corporate PACs but includes other PACs)

TABLE 6: Top Recipients of Federal Campaign Contributions from Natural Allies Senior Executives, 2020-24

<i>Recipient</i>	Amount
National Republican Senatorial Cmte (R)	\$163,000
New Leadership PAC	\$100,000
National Republican Congressional Cmte (R)	\$40,000
Sen. Joe Manchin (D)	\$38,400
Republican Party of Texas (R)	\$37,200
Country Roads PAC (D)	\$25,400
Alamo PAC (R)	\$20,000
Rep. Tony Gonzales (R)	\$17,100
Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D)	\$14,300

Source: Analysis of OpenSecrets.org, Federal Election Commission data (excludes contributions to corporate PACs but includes other PACs)

Conclusion

The dramatic expansion of methane gas drilling over the past 15 years and the expansion of overseas gas exports has enriched fossil fuel companies, securing windfall profits for companies peddling disinformation and discouraging climate action. Meanwhile, American communities are feeling the pain of record oil and gas production and skyrocketing gas exports in myriad ways, from volatile utility bills to skyrocketing temperatures to toxic pollution and health problems.

Through lobbying on Capitol Hill, campaign contributions and deceptive influence groups such as Natural Allies, the fossil fuel industry is doing its best to undermine the public support and institutional clarity necessary to end our deadly dependence on fossil fuels. Tying the American economy to continued extraction of fossil fuels for export to overseas markets is not a viable long-term model for economic growth. It enables short-term profits for a handful of corporations at the immediate expense of local communities, and does lasting damage to our planet's ecological stability, to which there can be no price tag attached.



Photograph of gas export infrastructure and tanker on fragile Louisiana wetlands by [Healthy Gulf](#).