



Thursday, February 20, 2025

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Executive Roundtable Panel Discussion II: Changing Course: How Republican Governors will support the Trump Administration's Push for Energy Dominance

On-Site RGA

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Attire:

Business.

Location:

Grand Ballroom, Conrad DC
950 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001

Purpose:

President Trump is back in office, which means American energy is once again open for business. Over the last four years, the Biden Administration ruled by regulation, leading to higher energy costs across the board and less American-made energy. The good news? President Trump changed course within minutes of being sworn into office and issued multiple executive actions to maximize the responsible use of America's natural resources, limit regulations, and expand innovation to achieve energy dominance. Additionally, President Trump has empowered thoughtful, innovative, and commonsense leaders such as Doug Burgum and Chris Wright to unleash American energy and put their foot on the gas for producers. This panel will discuss how Republican governors have been laying the groundwork to leverage the new direction of the Trump Administration and support future American energy production.

Set-Up:

Speakers will be seated in sofa chairs on the stage with wireless lavalier microphones. The audience will be seated in a crescent style and will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the speakers during Q&A. Handheld microphones will be available for the audience for Q&A. Speakers will be seated on stage (left to right): Governor Greg Gianforte, Secretary Doug Burgum, Secretary Chris Wright, Governor Brad Little, and Governor Kelly Armstrong.

- Seating:** There will be open seating for all attendees in attendance, including governors.
- Press:** The session will be closed to the press.
- Speakers:** Secretary Doug Burgum, Interior
Secretary Chris Wright, Energy
Governor Brad Little, Idaho
Governor Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota
- Moderator:** Governor Greg Gianforte, Montana, RGA Vice Chair
- Audience:** Approximately 185 people. Audience is made up of RGA Executive Roundtable members (CEO/President/Executive level personal members to the RGA).
- Format / Timeline:**
- 10:45 AM Governor Greg Gianforte welcomes panelists to the stage and introduces them by name/state and name/title only. Governor Gianforte makes introductory remarks. (5 minutes)
- 10:50 AM Governor Gianforte asks each panelist an opening question:
Secretary Burgum responds (4 minutes)
Secretary Wright responds (4 minutes)
Governor Little responds (4 minutes)
Governor Armstrong responds (4 minutes)
- 11:06 AM Governor Gianforte asks additional questions for further discussion as time allows:
Question 1 and Secretaries Burgum and Wright respond (11 minutes)
Question 2 and Governors Little and Armstrong respond (11 minutes)
- 11:28 AM Governor Gianforte asks for Q&A from the audience (16 minutes)
- 11:44 AM Governor Gianforte concludes Q&A and gives closing remarks (1 minute)
- 11:45 AM Session concludes.

Governors Attending the Meeting (24):

Please note, italics means not confirmed.

Governor Kay Ivey, Alabama
Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska
Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida
Governor Brian Kemp, Georgia, RGA Chair
Governor Brad Little, Idaho
Governor Mike Braun, Indiana
Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa
Governor Jeff Landry, Louisiana
Governor Tate Reeves, Mississippi

Governor Greg Gianforte, Montana, RGA Vice Chair
Governor Jim Pillen, Nebraska
Governor Kelly Ayotte, New Hampshire
Governor Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota
Governor Arnold Palacios, Northern Mariana Islands
Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio
Governor Kevin Stitt, Oklahoma
Governor Jenniffer González-Colón, Puerto Rico
Governor Henry McMaster, South Carolina
Governor Larry Rhoden, South Dakota
Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee
Governor Spencer Cox, Utah
Governor Phil Scott, Vermont
Governor Glenn Youngkin, Virginia
Governor Patrick Morrisey, West Virginia

Moderator Suggested Talking Points (in speaker order):

Kick off discussion and set the stage (5 min remarks):

- Good morning! I'm Governor Greg Gianforte from Montana and I'm happy to be here to moderate our next discussion– how the Trump Administration and Republican governors will accomplish American Energy Dominance!
 - Joining me today we have an old friend with a new title, Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum, and Energy Secretary Chris Wright.
 - We are also joined by the Governor of Idaho, Brad Little and the Governor of North Dakota, Kelly Armstrong.
- It is morning in America again because we no longer are dealing with a federal government focused on restricting America's energy producers through regulations for political purposes.
- The last four years of rules and regulations on the energy sector led to higher energy costs for America's consumers and less American-made energy.
 - Republican governors pushed back on multiple occasions and fought for the American taxpayer – including putting together a list of items the Biden Administration was failing to do to unleash American energy.
 - *[Can share highlights from Montana here.]*
- Thankfully, President Trump took action within moments of being sworn in as the 47th President and removed unnecessary regulations in an effort to maximize America's natural resources.
- We're thankful he has put together a great team to work on energy policies within his administration: my friends Secretary Doug Burgum and Secretary Chris Wright.
- These two will help to lead us energy dominance and our Republican governors are more than ready to work with them to do it.
- Let's get started!

Introduce Secretary Doug Burgum, Interior (<1 min intro; 3 min answer; 4 min total):

- First, let's give a warm welcome back to the newest Secretary of the Interior and RGA alum, Doug Burgum.
 - As Governor of North Dakota, Secretary Burgum championed energy production and innovation.
 - As you all know, Secretary Burgum is recognized globally as a business leader, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.
 - In addition to serving as the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Burgum is also the chair of the National Energy Council.
 - Secretary Burgum has already taken action to set a vision for American Energy Dominance – issuing actions to streamline processes and enhance proficiency and innovation across the Department of the Interior.
- ***Secretary Burgum: In your dual roles, can you share what you think the Trump Administration will prioritize to continue to unleash American energy?***

Introduce Secretary Chris Wright, Energy (<1 min intro; 3 min answer; 4 min total):

- Next, let's turn to my friend Chris Wright, our new Energy Secretary.
 - Prior to taking over the Energy Department, Secretary Wright was the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Energy, an American onshore oilfield services company based in Denver, Colorado.
 - Secretary Wright is a self-described tech nerd-turned-entrepreneur and a dedicated humanitarian on a mission to better human lives.
 - This passion has inspired a career in energy working not only in oil and gas, but fusion, solar, and geothermal.
 - Secretary Wright already has directed the Department of Energy to take immediate action to unleash the 'golden era' of American energy dominance.
- ***Secretary Wright: Can you share with us a little bit about your background in the energy industry and what your vision is at the Department of Energy for American energy production?***

Introduce Governor Brad Little (ID) (<1 min intro; 3 min answer; 4 min total):

Thanks, Secretary Wright! Next, let's turn to the Governor of Idaho, Brad Little

- Since taking office in 2019, Governor Little has been a champion for streamlining government and removing red tape, two issues of great importance to the energy sector.
- Last month, Governor Little signed the SPEED Act into law in Idaho which is aimed at better coordinating state permitting on big projects that promote energy independence, support national security, and drive our economy.
- ***Governor Little: Tell us more about the SPEED Act and how having the Trump Administration back in office is a game-changer for the energy sector.***

Introduce Governor Kelly Armstrong (ND) (<1 min intro; 3 min answer; 4 min total):

- Thank you, Governor Little!
- Next, let's turn to Secretary Burgum's successor, Governor Kelly Armstrong from North Dakota.

- Governor Armstrong comes to the governor's office with a background in business and previous service in the U.S. House of Representatives where he was a staunch supporter of North Dakota's oil and gas industries.
- During his time in congress, Governor Armstrong was an advocate for energy independence, agricultural interests and conservative fiscal policies, reflecting the priorities of his largely rural and resource-rich home state.
- **Governor Armstrong: What are your plans to continue energy production in North Dakota?**

Ask Follow-up Question #1 (<1 min question; 5 min answer each; 11 min total):

- Thank you, Governor! Let's move to some additional Q&A before we open it up to the audience.
 - [Ask audience to think of some questions and be prepared to raise hand for an RGA staffer to bring microphone.]
- **Secretaries Burgum and Wright: Thank you both for outlining what you would like to prioritize in your new positions. How do you want to work with states to implement your ambitious agenda?**

Ask Follow-up Question #2 (<1 min question; 5 min answer each; 11 min total):

- Thank you both!
- I'm very excited to have a new direction for innovation and commonsense action from your two agencies.
 - [Share how you can work with them to promote Montana's energy goals.]
- **Governors Little and Armstrong: What are you most excited about when it comes to working with these two great Secretaries and what positive impacts do you think their work will have on your states?**

Facilitate Audience Q&A (as time allows):

- With our time left, let's open it up to questions from the audience.
- If you have a question, please stand up or raise your hand, and an RGA staff member will bring you a microphone.
 - [If there are no audience questions, then ask panelists for final thoughts or comments.]

Close out the Panel (<1 min remarks):

- We've hit our time limit today, so please join me in a huge round of applause for my fellow Republican governors and Secretaries Burgum and Wright for this important conversation.
- On behalf of everyone at the RGA, thank you all for joining us!

Space Diagram:

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