



REGIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT

In Coordination With Consumer Energy Alliance

CSG SOUTH REGIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT

JULY 11, 2026 | LEXINGTON, KY

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST BUFFET OPENS

8:00-8:15 AM

WELCOME WITH BREAKFAST

Theme: "Powering the South's Next Phase of Growth"

- Speaker Pro Tempore David Meade, Kentucky District 80

8:15-9:00 AM

OPENING PLENARY (FIRESIDE CHAT) WITH BREAKFAST

Theme: "The South's Role in America's Energy Dominance"

This breakfast fireside chat highlights the South's growing influence in advancing America's global energy leadership. The address will explore the region's role in LNG exports, natural gas production, and downstream development, as well as its position as a hub for industrial reshoring and export infrastructure. It also examines how state policy decisions can align with broader national energy security priorities while supporting sustained economic growth and global competitiveness.

Moderator:

- Speaker Pro Tempore David Meade, Kentucky District 80

Fireside Chat:

- Dr. David Gattie, University of Georgia (Moderator)
- Jeff Ostermayer, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Consumer Energy Alliance

9:15-10:15AM

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 & BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Breakout Session 1: Workforce Development for the Energy Economy

This breakout session examines the growing need for a highly skilled workforce to support the South's expanding energy economy. Panelists will highlight workforce challenges across generation, transmission, and construction, along with strategies to strengthen talent pipelines through apprenticeships, hands-on technical training, and partnerships with community colleges and industry organizations. The session also addresses increasing competition for labor from sectors such as data centers, advanced manufacturing, and large-scale infrastructure projects, and the implications for meeting the region's energy needs.

Moderator:

- Speaker Roger Hanshaw, West Virginia District 62

Panelists:

- Nima Ashkeboussi, Vice President, Government Relations and Communications, Global Laser Enrichment
- Ryan Sandmann, Legislative Representative, Laborers' International Union of North America

- Clay Scofield, Executive Director, Energy Institute of Alabama

Breakout Session 2: The Energy Supply Chain—Securing Materials & Infrastructure

This breakout session explores challenges facing the energy supply chain as demand for infrastructure continues to grow. Panelists will discuss persistent constraints, including shortages of transformers and gas turbines, interconnection delays, and broader bottlenecks affecting critical components. The session also examines the balance between expanding domestic manufacturing capacity and managing global dependencies, along with state-level strategies to reduce risk, enhance coordination, and strengthen supply chain resilience.

Moderator:

- Jennifer DeCesaro, Senior Vice President of Industry Operations, Edison Electric Institute

Panelists:

- Katie Aittola, Senior Vice President of Supply Chain and Real Estate, Duke Energy
- Scott Duff, Head of Government Relations, General Matters
- Mark Ourada, Director of State Government Affairs, National Electrical Manufacturing Association

10:30-11:30 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 & BREAKOUT SESSION 4

Breakout Session 3: Energy Reliability in a High-Growth Region

This breakout session focuses on maintaining energy reliability as the South experiences sustained population and economic growth. Panelists will examine how states can manage increasing peak demand while addressing transmission constraints and enhancing coordination across grid operators and neighboring states. The session will also draw on lessons learned from recent extreme weather events, including winter storms, hurricanes, and prolonged heat waves, and how those experiences are shaping more resilient energy systems.

Moderator:

- Danielle Russo, Executive Director Securing America's Future Energy Center for Grid Security

Panelists:

- Jenny Netherton, Energy Modernization Officer, Pew Charitable Trust
- Drew Slabaugh, Senior Legal Counsel, SERC Reliability Corporation
- David Samford, General Counsel, East Kentucky Power Cooperative

Breakout Session 4: Permitting & Siting Reform

This breakout session explores the evolving landscape of permitting and siting for energy infrastructure across the South. Panelists will discuss how states can balance the need to accelerate project timelines with meaningful community engagement and community impacts. The session also addresses the complexities of transmission siting across state lines and highlights best practices for advancing critical infrastructure while maintaining public trust and transparency.

Moderator:

- Representative Bob Bromley, Missouri District 162

Participants:

- Sarah Marshall, Director of Strategic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement, Dominion Energy
- Representative Nick Archer, Oklahoma District 55

11:30 AM

LUNCH BUFFET OPENS

NOON-1:00 PM

LUNCH PLENARY (KEYNOTE)

Theme: "Powering the South's Next Phase of Growth"

This lunch keynote highlights the South's role as a leading driver of national population and industrial growth, and the energy demands fueling it. The address will underscore the importance of balancing reliability, affordability, and economic competitiveness as demand rises due to AI, reshoring, and electrification. It also offers a forward-looking perspective on how states can lead in meeting these challenges while navigating evolving federal dynamics and sustaining long-term economic growth.

Introduction:

- Senate President Robert Stivers, Kentucky District 25

Speaker:

- U.S. Department of Energy Principal Deputy Under Secretary Eric Skrmetta

1:15-2:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 5 & BREAKOUT SESSION 6

Breakout Session 5: Nuclear Energy – From Large-Scale to SMRs

This panel session examines the evolving role of nuclear energy in meeting the South's growing demand for reliable, dispatchable power. Panelists will explore how both large-scale nuclear facilities and emerging Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) can support long-term energy needs and grid stability. The session also addresses state readiness and policy frameworks, along with key considerations related to financing, project timelines, and regulatory pathways shaping nuclear development.

Moderator:

- John Kotek, Senior Vice President of Policy & Public Affairs, Nuclear Energy Institute

Panelists:

- Shane Lies, Executive Vice President of Nuclear Operations, American Electric Power
- Representative Sam McKenzie, Tennessee District 15
- Matt Rasmussen, Senior Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority

Breakout Session 6: Offshore Energy's Role in Powering America

This breakout session explores the role of offshore energy in supporting domestic production and national energy priorities. Panelists will discuss new opportunities for oil and gas leasing across key regions, including the Gulf of America, the Pacific, and Alaska, as well as the importance of coastal resiliency programs such as GOMESA and revenue sharing. The session also highlights emerging offshore opportunities, including carbon capture and wind, and their potential to contribute to a diverse and resilient energy portfolio.

Moderator:

- Brooks McClendon, Staff, Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition (OCSGC) Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor Kay Ivey

Panelists:

- Tim Charters, Director of Upstream Offshore Policy, American Petroleum Institute
- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- James Schindler, Federal Policy Advisor for Upstream and Midstream, Shell USA

2:30-3:15 PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 7 & BREAKOUT SESSION 8

Breakout Session 7: Energy Demand from Data Centers & Advanced Manufacturing

This panel session focuses on the growing energy demands driven by data centers and advanced manufacturing and the implications for grid planning and integration. Panelists will examine strategies such as co-location, dedicated generation, and improved load forecasting to manage large-scale demand effectively. The session also explores the balance between state incentive programs and fair and transparent grid cost allocation as states work to attract investment while maintaining system reliability and affordability.

Moderator:

- Bubba McDonald, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission

Participants:

- Ray Fakhoury, Manager of Energy Services, Amazon Web Services

- Laura Beauchamp, Vice President of Business Operations and Strategy, Entergy Louisiana
- Patrick Sullivan, President, Mississippi Energy Institute

Breakout Session 8: Pipeline Infrastructure Expansion in North America

This breakout session explores the role of pipeline infrastructure in supporting energy reliability and economic development across North America. Panelists will examine ongoing constraints, including permitting barriers and capacity limitations, as well as the continued importance of natural gas in meeting regional demand. The session also highlights cross-border dynamics between the United States, Mexico, and Canada, and opportunities for greater regional coordination.

Moderator:

- Dr. David Gattie, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Engineering, University of Georgia

Panelists:

- Tyler Majchrzak, Manager of State Affairs, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
- Drew Lohoff, Director of Government Affairs, Colonial Pipelines
- Adam Parker, Manager of External Affairs, Enbridge
- Karen Rugaard Ward, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Plains All American

3:30-4:00 PM

BOURBONS AND BEERS RECEPTION

(Tables: CEA / Xalter / Friends of Coal)