



REGIONAL
**ENERGY
SUMMIT**

In Coordination With Consumer Energy Alliance

CSG SOUTH REGIONAL ENERGY SUMMIT

JULY 11, 2026 | LEXINGTON, KY

Speaker Bios

Breakout Session 1: Workforce Development for the Energy Economy



Nima Ashkeboussi, Vice President of Government Relations and Communications, Global Laser Enrichment

Nima Ashkeboussi is the Vice President for Government Relations and Communications at Global Laser Enrichment where he leads the policy, legislative, and communication efforts to support the commercialization of next generation laser enrichment technology. Prior to joining GLE, he was with the Nuclear Energy Institute for 8 years and spent 13 years with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Nima has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in environmental planning and management from Johns Hopkins University.



Ryan Sandmann, Legislative Representative, Laborers' International Union of North America

Bio: For the last 14 years, I have lobbied on behalf of The Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) and its 530,000 members-- predominantly on energy infrastructure. Our members build all sectors of energy: from oil and gas, to wind and solar, to hydro and hydrogen, and beyond. Specifically, I work within the regulatory/permitting process for our projects – helping them get through the regulatory process, and into the construction phase. Simultaneously, I lobby Congress and the appropriate agencies for pro-energy related policy.



Clay Scofield, Executive Director, Energy Institute of Alabama

Clay Scofield is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Energy Institute of Alabama. Before assuming this role in 2025, he served as Executive Vice President of the Business Council of Alabama. Prior to entering the private sector, Scofield represented northeast Alabama in the Alabama State Senate from 2010 to 2023. During his legislative tenure, he was reelected three times without opposition and, in 2020, was unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate Majority Leader.

Before his public service career, Scofield earned a degree in Agricultural Business and Economics from Auburn University and founded Clay Scofield Farms, a commercial poultry operation. Throughout his career, he has focused on advancing Alabama's agriculture, business, energy, and economic development priorities through both legislative leadership and private-sector advocacy.

A native of Guntersville, Alabama, Scofield divides his time between Montgomery and Guntersville with his wife, Jade, and their son, Will.



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

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



Jennifer DeCesaro is Senior Vice President, Industry Operations at the Edison Electric Institute (EEL), leading EEL's energy security and industry operations team, which supports the efforts of the nation's investor-owned electric companies to develop and maintain critical energy infrastructure to meet rising demand while maintaining reliability and affordability.

Prior to joining EEL, DeCesaro served in multiple roles at the White House National Security Council from March 2021 through January 2025. As Senior Director for Resilience for the Council, she helped coordinate federal response efforts to major disasters, including the Maui wildfires, the Palisades and Eaton fires, and Hurricanes Fiona, Helene, and Milton.

DeCesaro also spent 15 years at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) where she held multiple roles, including Special Advisor for Renewable Energy and Transmission; Senior Advisor to the Director of the Grid Deployment Office; the Director for Recovery and Critical Energy Infrastructure in the Office of Electricity; Director of the Technology-to-Market Program in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Market Transformation Lead for the SunShot Initiative.

Prior to DOE, DeCesaro worked at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); served as a Project Director for the Clean Energy Group; and worked as an energy policy specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Katie Aittola, Senior Vice President of Supply Chain and Real Estate, Duke Energy



Katie Aittola serves as Duke Energy's senior vice president of supply chain and real estate, as well as chief procurement officer. In this role, she leads all aspects of supply chain operations and real estate strategy. This includes all of Duke Energy's sourcing, procurement and logistics functions, ensuring that the company is guided by strong policy, risk management and digital innovation. In addition, she leads the real estate function, which is focused on optimizing the company's property portfolio – including acquisitions, leasing, development and facilities management.

By building strong supplier relationships and cross-functional alignment with finance, legal and operations, Aittola helps deliver dependable service, cost efficiency, compliance and asset performance that advance the company's strategic objectives.

Previously, Aittola was Duke Energy's senior vice president of enterprise strategy and chief risk officer, overseeing enterprise strategy as well as risk management, including market, credit, operational and strategic risk management. She was also responsible for leading the company's insurance and finance IT functions. She held this role from 2020 until her current appointment in January of 2026.

Aittola joined Duke Energy in 2009 and spent nine years in the finance organization serving in various roles in corporate development and financial planning and analysis. In 2018, she moved to the supply chain organization where she most recently led the risk, governance and business support functions.

A native of Syracuse, N.Y., Aittola earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics with a minor in environmental studies from William Smith College and an MBA from the University of Rochester Simon Business School.

Speaker Bios

Breakout Session 2: The Energy Supply Chain–Securing Materials & Infrastructure, cont'd

Prior to pursuing her MBA, Aittola was an equity analyst with IHS Herold, an oil and gas equity research firm.

Aittola is actively engaged in the community, serving as a board member of the YMCA of Greater Charlotte and Scouting America's Mecklenburg County Council.



Mark Ourada, Director of State Government Affairs, National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Mark Ourada is Director of State Government Affairs at the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). Mark is a former four-term State Senator who served as an elected member of his caucus leadership team for two terms. From his earliest involvement in the Senate, Mark actively served on multiple committees, but he specialized in Utilities, Energy, and Transportation issues. He quickly rose to become a recognized leader, both in his own caucus and across the aisle, especially as a respected voice on Energy and Utilities issues, playing a pivotal role in major and comprehensive energy legislation.

Mark's current work with NEMA – whose core mission focuses on advancing the interests and impact of the U.S. electroindustry—continues his career-long commitment to working to strengthen the entire nation's energy future.

Mr. Ourada has a background in management, and in consulting in Government Relations/ Advocacy. He earned a BA degree in Political Science from St. John's University, Minnesota.

Mark and his wife, Merrilee, and make their home in Buffalo, Minnesota just west of the Minneapolis metro area.



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



Drew Slabaugh, Senior Legal Counsel, SERC Reliability Corporation

Drew Slabaugh is Senior Legal Counsel and has been an attorney with SERC Reliability Corporation for over 12 years.

Born in Tucson, AZ and raised in North Carolina, Drew earned a Juris Doctor from Charlotte School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree with major in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Previously, Drew was a law clerk for Judge Robert Conrad of the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. Prior to attending law school, he was a consumer lending banker with SunTrust bank.

Drew serves as the Secretary of the Board of the Charlotte Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel and also volunteers with the Humane Society of Charlotte and the Charlotte Sports Foundation.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and dog, playing golf, and cheering on the Tar Heels.



David Samford, General Counsel, East Kentucky Power Cooperative

David Samford is the General Counsel for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. (EKPC), a \$4 billion company providing electricity to 1.2 million Kentuckians across two-thirds of Kentucky's geography through sixteen distribution cooperatives. Prior to joining EKPC, David was the owner of a boutique law firm specializing in energy and utility law. He represented both cooperatives and investor-owned utilities in the electric, gas, water and telecommunications industries. David helped energy companies invest billions of dollars in the communities they serve. He led the negotiating team on multiple long-term power purchase agreements with nominal values in excess of \$1 billion and helped shepherd what was at the time the creation of the largest utility in the United States through the Kentucky regulatory process.

David began his many years of public service in the Kentucky State Senate's Republican Leadership Office. He served for many years as General Counsel and Deputy Executive Director of the Kentucky Public Service Commission and the Kentucky Siting Board. He also served as the top attorney for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and as the head of speechwriting and scheduling for a former Kentucky Governor. David served as law clerk to a former Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky and as a Special Justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court. He currently is a member of the Kentucky Executive Branch Ethics Commission and previously was twice appointed as a member of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance. In his spare time, David is both a published author and an executive producer.



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Breakout Session 4: Permitting & Siting Reform



Representative Bob Bromley, Missouri District 162

Rep. Bob Bromley, a Republican, represents parts of Jasper and Newton counties (District 162) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was first elected in November 2018.

In addition to his legislative duties, Bromley is a retired professional engineer of 35 years, as well as a former science teacher, and coach. He also served in the U.S. Army and an additional two years with the Missouri National Guard.

Bromley is a member of the Webb City and Carl Junction Chambers of Commerce, and has been involved in several professional engineering organizations, the Lions Club, and the American Legion. He also has been involved in many activities over the years, such as Boy Scouts, coaching youth sports

Bromley is a graduate of Bismarck High School. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1976 with a degree in Education, and from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a degree in Engineering.

Born in St. Louis, Bromley now resides in Carl Junction with his wife, Sandy. They have four children: Bobby, Charlie, Patrick, and Katie, and are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren. They attend Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where they have been members for 36 years.



Sarah Marshall, Director of Strategic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement, Dominion Energy

Sarah Marshall is the Director, Strategic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement for Dominion Energy where she leads the development and execution of strategic outreach and stakeholder engagement for energy generation infrastructure projects across the company's footprint enabling successful project development and execution. She has been with Dominion Energy for 14 years serving in a number of roles within the Nuclear and Corporate Affairs & Communications organization.

Born, raised, and currently residing in Louisa County, Virginia, Marshall earned her B.A. in Political Science from James Madison University, and M.P.A. from Clemson University.

She currently serves on the Center for Rural Virginia.



Representative Nick Archer, Oklahoma District 55

I was born in Sayre, Oklahoma – but Elk City is where I was raised, where I found my calling, and where proud to be raising my own family today. After graduating from Elk City High School in 2002, I earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. It was there I met my wife, Katie, and together we made the decision to come home – back to Western Oklahoma—to build our lives, start our careers, and invest in the community that invested in us.



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Breakout Session 4: Permitting & Siting Reform, cont'd

Lunch Plenary (Keynote)



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

Eric Skrmetta is a long-serving public servant, energy regulator, and policy leader with more than four decades of experience in law, utilities regulation, energy infrastructure, and federal-state coordination. As Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, he is advancing President Trump's agenda of achieving American energy dominance. In this role, he serves as a senior coordinator for the Power Marketing Administrations, and assisting in the advancement of nuclear, advanced coal, natural gas, geothermal, and hydroelectric energy resources. His portfolio emphasizes the development of resilient baseload power resources to strengthen the U.S. economy and national energy security.

Prior to his federal appointment, Skrmetta served as a Commissioner and Chairman of the Louisiana Public Service Commission since 2009. In that role, he has been a forceful advocate for affordable and reliable energy, advanced nuclear development (including creating the Louisiana LANE Program), enhanced vegetation management, and grid infrastructure resilience. His past volunteer contributions include seven years on the NARUC Board of Directors (as Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Subcommittee) and active representation on regional transmission organizations such as the Southwest Power Pool, Entergy Regional State Committee, and MISO. On NARUC's behalf, he has conducted international seminars on alternative dispute resolution for energy regulators.

A licensed attorney since 1985 (with an LL.M. in Admiralty Law from Tulane University), Skrmetta began his legal career as a public defender. He holds a B.S. in Industrial Technology from Louisiana State University and a J.D. from Southern University Law School. He is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court bar and is deeply committed to ethical governance and transparency in public service.

Speaker Bios

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



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

John Kotek is Senior Vice President for Policy and Public Affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute, and is President of Nuclear Matters, a grassroots coalition of nuclear energy advocates. From 2015-2017, John served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy in the US Department of Energy. John was Staff Director to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, which in 2012 recommended a new strategy for the U.S. nuclear waste management program. John has also served as a Congressional fellow, an R&D program manager at Argonne National Laboratory-West in Idaho, and as a public affairs consultant. He holds a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the University of Maryland.



Shane Lies, Executive Vice President of Nuclear Operations, American Electric Power

Shane Lies is executive vice president, Nuclear Operations, for American Electric Power and is responsible for the company's nuclear generation strategy and growth. Most recently, he was executive vice president, Projects and Services. Lies also served as executive vice president and chief nuclear officer and was responsible for oversight of AEP's Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan. Lies began his career at Cook in June of 1996 as a System Engineer. In 2000, he joined the Operations Department and obtained his Senior Reactor Operator's license. After serving in the control room as a Unit Supervisor, he has held the positions of System Engineering Manager, Operations Manager, Assistant Plant Manager, Engineering Director, Plant Manager, Engineering Vice President and Site Vice President. Lies received his bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering and master's degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University



Representative Sam McKenzie, Tennessee District 15

Sam McKenzie is the State Representative for the 15th District in the Tennessee General Assembly, and is currently the Minority Whip of the Tennessee Democratic Caucus. He attended Austin-East High School in Knoxville before graduating from Fisk University with a B.S. in Physics. After Fisk University, Rep. McKenzie graduated from the University of Memphis with a M.S. in Physics. After 34 years of service, Rep. McKenzie retired from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he was operations manager at the Spallation Neutron Source. He currently owns a small business in Knoxville. He sits on the Board of Directors at ORNL Federal Credit Union and is a member of the Fisk University Board of Trustees, where he chairs the Nomination and Governance Committee. He is also the former District Representative for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Prior to serving in the Tennessee General Assembly, Rep. McKenzie was on the Knox County Commission from 2008 until 2016 where he was co-chair of the Joint Education Committee. Rep. McKenzie served as the Chairman of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators during the 113th General Assembly. Rep. McKenzie is the proud father of three boys and has four grandchildren.



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



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

Brooks McClendon is Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Kay Ivey. Born and raised near Birmingham, Brooks earned a bachelor's degree from Ole Miss before spending nearly five years in Washington, D.C., working in the U.S. House of Representatives. He then transitioned back to Alabama working in communications and government affairs at a manufacturing and industry trade association. Brooks began working for Governor Ivey in 2019 as Senate Liaison and became Deputy Chief of Staff in 2021.



Tim Charters, Director of Upstream Offshore Policy, American Petroleum Institute

Tim Charters is a Director of Upstream Policy for API, primarily responsible for the management of the team responsible for upstream safety and access to federal lands and waters. His direct responsibilities include engagement with BSEE and USCG issues. Tim more than 30 years of experience in Washington, DC having served in Congress for members from California, Arizona and New Mexico, as Staff Director for the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, as well as a former Executive Director of the Western Caucus. In working off the hill, Tim has worked for the National Stripper Well Association, National Ocean Industries Association, as a contract lobbyist for his own firm, and Invenergy, an offshore wind and renewable energy developer.

Tim was born in Van Nuys, California and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Humboldt State University. Tim is married to Ms. Helena Kathryn Blue (now Charters), of San Diego, California and they have five children, Kyra (22), Kylie (20), Krystal (18), Ryan (16) and Jayden (15).

In his spare time, Tim is a hunter, fisherman, Assistant Scoutmaster, Knight of Columbus, and former Chairman of the Federal City Chapter of Ducks Unlimited.



James Schindler, Federal Policy Advisor for Upstream and Midstream, Shell USA

James Schindler is a Senior Advisor for Upstream and Midstream Federal Policy and Advocacy, supporting Shell's onshore and offshore oil and gas portfolio.

Prior to joining Shell, he served as Counsel on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation under Chairman Ted Cruz. In his time on Capitol Hill, James closely collaborated with numerous Executive and Legislative branch offices, drafted legislation, and coordinated stakeholder efforts. This work culminated by passing legislation to modernize mariner credentialing, to provide greater regulatory certainty for energy permitting, as well as successfully negotiating with the U.S. Department of Energy for licenses to expand U.S. gas exports.

From 2017 to 2020, James played a pivotal role as the highest-ranking appointee at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in the Department of the Interior, overseeing federal offshore oil, gas, and wind lease sales; spearheading regulatory reforms; championing increased access; and streamlining permitting. This work included permitting the first-ever renewable energy project in federally controlled waters.

James is originally from New Orleans and is a graduate of Tulane University and New England School of Law in Boston.

Speaker Bios

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

Bubba McDonald, Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission



Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Jr.
Serves Through: December 31, 2026
Chairman 2018-2020
Commissioner Since: January 1, 2009
Elected: 1998, 2008; Re-elected: 2014, 2020
Republican, Clarkesville, Georgia

McDonald, who served 20 years as a state Representative, was appointed to the Commission in June 1998 by Governor Zell Miller to fill a vacated post and then re-elected in a special mid-term election in November 1998. He held the seat until 2002. In 2008 and in 2014, Georgians again elected McDonald to serve on the Commission.

McDonald has a deep knowledge of the energy industry. He puts that knowledge to work as a member of the Electric Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and as an executive member of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition.

During his time on the Commission McDonald has presided over the advent of solar power in Georgia resulting in the state becoming one of the top five fastest growing in the nation for solar energy. He has accomplished this through a conservative and thoughtful free-market approach without putting upward pressure on rates and without state-sponsored financial incentives. In 2013, Georgia had virtually no solar power on the grid. McDonald was able to garner support to add 525 megawatts of solar energy to the portfolio of the state's investor owned utility. Currently, utility companies are erecting solar power facilities that will provide a total of 4,610 megawatts of solar energy by 2022. McDonald has also supported the construction of solar facilities at six of Georgia's military bases, contributing to national security and helping to protect the bases from future base closure proposals.

McDonald is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a BBA in Business. He also served six years in the Georgia Air National Guard. He owns businesses in the private sector and is married to Shelley McDonald. He was married to the late Sunny Nivens McDonald for 45 years. He has a son, Lauren, three grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren.

Ray Fakhoury, Manager of Energy Services, Amazon Web Services



Ray Fakhoury is an energy policy expert focusing on carbon free energy and transmission infrastructure development. Currently serving as a Policy Manager at Amazon Web Services, he works to advance carbon free energy initiatives and shape energy policies across various U.S. energy markets. With experience spanning both public and private sectors, Ray has played key roles in expanding carbon free energy opportunities and building strategic partnerships between industry stakeholders, nonprofit organizations, labor groups, and policymakers.

His career encompasses work with leading energy companies, policy advocacy organizations, and government institutions, where he has consistently championed the advancement of carbon energy solutions. Ray holds a degree from the University of California Santa Barbara and serves on the boards of prominent carbon free energy organizations, contributing to the broader conversation around energy expansion.



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Breakout Session 7: Energy Demand from Data Centers & Advanced Manufacturing, cont'd

Laura Beauchamp, Vice President of Business Operations and Strategy, Entergy Louisiana

Laura Beauchamp is the Vice President of Business Operations and Strategy for Entergy Louisiana, where she leads the strategy required to power one of the nation's most energy-intensive states. With more than 25 years of experience in the utility industry, she leads the decisions that shape Louisiana's energy future.

Laura oversees the infrastructure strategy needed to support a rapidly evolving energy landscape, with a focus on large-load growth, including the expansion of the state's data center sector. As demand accelerates, Laura is leading efforts to deliver reliable, scalable, and sustainable energy solutions. Her portfolio includes generation and transmission strategy, integrated resource planning, and energy efficiency and demand response programs—balancing industrial growth with system reliability and affordability for customers.

A seasoned regulatory leader, Laura represents Entergy before the Louisiana Public Service Commission and federal agencies, translating technical complexity into clear, actionable policy. She also serves as an adjunct lecturer at Tulane University A. B. Freeman School of Business and sits on advisory boards supporting energy research at Tulane University and Louisiana State University.

A graduate of Tulane University, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Management (Finance) and an MBA.



Patrick Sullivan, President, Mississippi Energy Institute

Since July 2011, Patrick Sullivan has served as President of the Mississippi Energy Institute (MEI), a private, non-profit business created to support research and energy policy to foster economic growth in Mississippi. Patrick concurrently serves as President of the Southeast Oil and Gas Association, which began operating in 2020.

In May 2020, Patrick was appointed by Governor Reeves as Chairman of the State Workforce Investment Board, created to be an advisory board for state workforce development strategy. Patrick also serves as Chairman of the State Longitudinal Data System.

Prior to his work at the Mississippi Energy Institute, Patrick served both as Policy Advisor and as Executive Director of Recovery and Renewal for Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour. Serving as Policy Advisor to Governor Barbour from 2006-2011, he had oversight of issues pertaining to energy, transportation, environment, agriculture, natural resources, and economic development. In July 2010, he was named Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Recovery and Renewal, which was the primary entity responsible for coordinating disaster assistance, overseeing state-level response and assistance for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the April 2011 tornado disasters, and the 2011 Mississippi River flood.

Patrick is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a Master of Agribusiness Management and resides in Madison, MS, with wife, Elizabeth, and two sons, Garrett and Jake.





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Breakout Session 8: Pipeline Infrastructure Expansion in North America

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



David Gattie is an Associate Professor of Engineering and a Senior Fellow in UGA's Center for International Trade and Security and School of Public & International Affairs. He has 14 years of experience in the private sector. David conducts research in the area of energy policy and integrated energy resource planning for the electric power sector and leads UGA's Energy Security Studies Program (ESSP) – a collaboration between UGA's College of Engineering and School of Public & International Affairs and administered through UGA's Center for International Trade & Security. Research at ESSP is focused on the U.S. national security implications of energy and energy technologies within the challenges of 21st century great power competition. David also has provided testimony before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee and various state legislative bodies in the U.S.

Tyler Majchrzak, Manager of State Affairs, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation



Tyler Majchrzak is the State Affairs Manager with Chesapeake Utilities Corporation for the Delmarva Region.

A native of Maryland's Eastern Shore, Tyler earned his B.A. in Agriculture Education from the University of Kentucky, where he combined his passion for agriculture with a strategic focus on Political Science. He launched his career in the Midwest, excelling with a specialized veterinary practice that served clients nationwide, before returning to the Delmarva region. There, he distinguished himself as a loan officer at a leading agricultural financial institution and quickly advanced to spearhead government affairs, collaborating with lawmakers at both the state and federal levels. This diverse background ignited his unwavering commitment to advocacy and public policy. Today, Tyler forges impactful partnerships with policymakers to drive transformative change in the natural gas sector across the Delmarva Peninsula.

Tyler and his wife, Morgan, make their home in Hartly, Delaware, where they enjoy an active life with their two dogs.

Speaker Bios

Breakout Session 8: Pipeline Infrastructure Expansion in North America, cont'd



Drew Lohoff, Director of Government Affairs, Colonial Pipelines

Drew Lohoff is the Director of Government Affairs for Colonial Pipeline Company, the largest refined petroleum products pipeline system in the United States. He joined Colonial Pipeline in October 2015 with prior experience in the legal and midstream space.

Drew is responsible for stakeholder engagement with federal and state stakeholders on Colonial's operational, growth and regulatory outreach, and also seeks stakeholder feedback on the company's strategic direction and initiatives aligned with the Company's mission. He has a passion for promoting safe operations, regulatory compliance and commitment to excellence.

In 2017, Drew assumed his current role as the lead for the Government Affairs team to promote outreach and engagement with Colonial's key state and federal stakeholders, as well as advising the Company on new policy developments, statutes and regulations. Previously, he led the company's pipeline compliance function, serving as the corporate representative for two NTSB investigations

In addition to Colonial's commitment to stakeholders, Drew's focus includes expanding relationships with environmental stewardship, engagement and research organizations. He actively engages with Riverkeepers, Nature Conservancies and local organizations to promote environmental stewardship, while upholding the Company's commitment to conservation.

Prior to Colonial Pipeline, Drew provided regulatory and environmental counsel to the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), and led pipeline industry teams on both compliance and emergency response initiatives.

He holds a bachelor's degree from DePauw University and a Juris Doctorate from Marquette University Law School.



Karen Rugaard Ward, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Plains All American

Karen Rugaard Ward leads North American government and public affairs for Plains, a premier Houston-based crude oil pipeline, transportation, and logistics company with operations across the United States and Canada. In this role, she works at the intersection of energy infrastructure, public policy, regulatory affairs, and stakeholder engagement.

Karen previously led U.S. stakeholder relations for Plains, managing external affairs strategy for multiple capital expansion projects. Before joining Plains, she directed statewide media relations for the Texas Department of Transportation and led communications for the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault in Austin.

Karen holds a BBA from the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business. She serves on the Kay Bailey Hutchison Energy Center Advisory Council at the University of Texas, is a Director in the Texas Lyceum, and is a Gold Award Girl Scout.