



**For Immediate Release**

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**Labor, Industry, and Pro-Energy Professionals Establish Need for Increased Investment in National Energy Infrastructure**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Leaders from all sides of the infrastructure conversation gathered on Thursday for a panel discussion hosted by the [Grow America's Infrastructure Now \(GAIN\) Coalition](#) at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 47<sup>th</sup> [Annual Legislative Conference](#), where more than 9,000 people gather each year to discuss a wide range of policy issues.

"Policymakers on both sides of the aisle agree that increasing development in our nation's infrastructure will have profound effects on our economy," said former Congressman Albert R. Wynn, a strategic adviser to GAIN and panel moderator. "The American Society of Civil Engineers graded our national infrastructure a D+. By ending years of infrastructure improvement delays, we can not only create a wealth of American jobs, but ensure that our country stays on par with a rapidly developing 21<sup>st</sup> century economy."

Panelist Ryan Boyer from the LIUNA District Council of Philadelphia detailed the necessity for energy infrastructure development to thousands of skilled union laborers. "Energy infrastructure development, and infrastructure development in general, supports local communities across the country that rely on such projects for jobs and tax revenue that can be translated into local economic growth and investments in our communities."

The discussion went beyond the economic need for investment in infrastructure, to the implications on our national security that increased energy development provides. "The United States has a rich supply of energy resources, from the Bakken oil fields, to the Utica shale reserves, as well as impressive developments in renewable energy technology," said Paula Glover, President and CEO of the American Association for Blacks in Energy.

"Opening up opportunities for more Americans to be involved in our booming energy industry will help us become less dependent on foreign sources of energy while lowering prices here in the U.S."

P. Anthony Thomas, executive director of the California Natural Gas Producers Association and director of government affairs for the California Independent Petroleum Association, discussed the benefits of investing in infrastructure development, such as the pipeline projects underway all over the country. Thomas stated, "Pipeline projects are the safest and most environmentally friendly way to deliver the nation's energy needs. Protecting domestic oil and gas production not only supports our nation's energy independence but also contributes to high quality careers and generates significant tax revenue."

This panel was just one of a series of policy discussion events at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation conference, which continues through September 24. "The GAIN Coalition is proud to have been a part of an event that works to spur national dialogue on important issues, such as our crumbling infrastructure," said GAIN spokesman Craig Stevens. "We look forward to continuing the conversation."

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