STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 6-2025

EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE ENERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the prosperity of Montanans depends upon access to affordable and reliable energy supplies;

WHEREAS, energy resources developed in Montana have long powered Montana homes, businesses, and industries with reliable, low-cost energy;

WHEREAS, Montana has a long history of responsibly developing energy resources while protecting our environment;

WHEREAS, Montanans, and all Americans, struggled with historic inflation in 2021 and 2022 and its ongoing impact, with consumers paying more for life's necessities;

WHEREAS, since the cost of energy directly impacts the cost of all goods, increasing the supply of affordable, reliable energy makes life more affordable for Montanans and all Americans;

WHEREAS, rapid advances in technology, including cutting-edge innovation in the artificial intelligence sector, and shifting market forces are driving increased demand for energy;

WHEREAS, with those emerging, energy-intensive industries, servicing new energy loads should not adversely impact Montanans, and should be pursued as a path to new good-paying jobs, growing Montana's tax base, and attracting innovation in the advanced technology and energy sectors;

WHEREAS, with its diverse energy resources and its abundant energy potential, the State of Montana follows an all-of the-above approach to energy, supporting the expansion of energy production in every sector and avoiding market distortions by not picking winners and losers in the energy sector;

WHEREAS, Montana's energy portfolio includes abundant, diverse resources, including coal, oil, natural gas, hydropower, wind, and solar;

WHEREAS, coal remains an essential element of Montana and our energy portfolio, with Montana accounting for about 5 percent of the nation's coal production and Montana's coal-fired power plants representing 37 percent of in-state electricity generation;

WHEREAS, vast potential remains for the responsible development of fossil fuels in Montana, with Montana having substantial deposits of crude oil and natural gas and the largest estimated coal reserves in the United States, approximately 30 percent of the nation's total;

WHEREAS, Montana in 2024 ranked 10th among states with the largest share of electricity generated from renewable energy sources, about 57 percent, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration;

WHEREAS, vast potential remains, too, for the responsible development of renewable, efficient, and flexible resources in Montana, including building upon the state's history of effective hydropower and expanding solar and wind power;

WHEREAS, investments in reliable transmission infrastructure, and emerging energy technologies, including advanced nuclear modular reactors, energy storage, and geothermal, could further diversify Montana's energy portfolio and boost the dependable delivery of energy to customers;

WHEREAS, Montana energy producers and consumers should have greater certainty in the market, stable delivery systems for electricity, efficient permitting and regulatory systems, and an end to frivolous litigation designed to delay or thwart responsible, environmentally-sound energy development;

WHEREAS, it is in our nation's best interest to be not only energy independent but also energy dominant, avoiding a reliance on our nation's adversaries for energy, and given our outstanding energy potential, Montana has a clear role to play to advance that national interest;

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for American energy dominance, President Donald J. Trump has directed federal agencies to unleash America's energy resources by supporting the development of natural resources and generation of affordable, reliable electricity, including through the development of interstate energy transportation and critical energy infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the State of Montana strongly supports President Trump's efforts toward energy dominance, and also recognizes that Congress must enshrine these policies into law so that future administrations may not undermine them through subsequent executive order, as previous presidential administrations have done to effectively shut down energy development and to create carveouts for some energy resources while punitively targeting others;

WHEREAS, Montana stands ready to work with the private sector, local and tribal governments, and federal partners to advance new energy development; and,

WHEREAS, increasing access to affordable and reliable energy is in the best interest of Montana citizens and job creators.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG GIANFORTE, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Mont. Code Ann. § 2-15-122 and any other applicable statutes, do hereby authorize the creation of the Energy Advisory Council, also known as the Unleashing American-Made Energy Task Force ("Task Force"), and order as follows:

PURPOSE

The Task Force shall provide the Governor with short- and long-term recommendations and strategies for Montana to increase the supply of affordable and reliable energy options.

In developing recommendations and strategies, the Task Force shall seek input from Montana citizens, large energy consumers, energy and transmission developers, utilities and rural electric cooperatives, members of the Montana Legislature, associations whose members are impacted by energy policy, advisory groups and researchers focused on energy supply and affordability, and other appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Task Force.

COMPOSITION

The Task Force shall consist of up to 20 members who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall serve as the presiding officer of the Task Force.

The Task Force shall include, but not be limited to, persons from the following categories:

- members or staff of professional associations representing business, industry, and workers;
- members of staff or representatives of electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives;
- state agency directors, or their designees, including from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Commerce;
- elected officials, including state legislators and leaders from local jurisdictions;
- members of state boards, councils, and commissions;
- subject matter experts and researchers; and
- stakeholders.

The Department of Environmental Quality shall provide administrative support for the Task Force.

Given the diverse composition of the Task Force, meetings may be conducted in person throughout the state and/or remotely as determined by the presiding officer.

REPORT

By September 15, 2026, the Task Force shall provide an initial written report to the Governor with recommendations and strategies to unleash American-made energy in Montana, specifically focusing on measures the Governor could immediately implement and those the Legislature could consider and the Governor could sign into law.

The Task Force's report shall identify federal, state, regulatory, and other governmental policies that inhibit or limit increasing affordable and reliable energy supply.

TERMINATION

The Task Force shall cease to exist on September 30, 2027, unless rescinded earlier or renewed by subsequent executive order.

COMPENSATION

Council Members shall be entitled to reasonable travel expense reimbursement under Mont. Code Ann. 2-15-122.

THIS ORDER is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 10th day of September 2025.

GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:

CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State