

POLICY WITH IMPACT

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AFP'S ROADMAP TO

**UNLEASH  
AMERICA'S  
FULL  
POTENTIAL**

THROUGH ENERGY, LABOR  
AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY



PROSPERITY  
IS POSSIBLE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Abundant, Affordable &amp; Reliable Energy</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Opportunity For All</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Empowering People Through Innovation</b> .....	<b>12</b>



At Americans for Prosperity, we believe in the boundless potential of individuals and communities to solve problems, drive innovation, and build a stronger future. Across the country, hardworking Americans are seeking opportunity, flexibility, and growth, but too often, outdated laws and heavy-handed regulations stand in their path. This policy book lays out a roadmap to break down those barriers and empower people to succeed.

Our vision is rooted in the principles of a free and open society. We know that when people are free to innovate, work, and create without unnecessary government interference, prosperity follows. Yet today, federal policies in key areas are constraining growth and limiting choices. Energy regulations are delaying critical projects and jeopardizing America's ability to meet rising demand. Labor laws written for a bygone era are trapping workers in unnecessarily complex systems. And technology policy is veering toward centralized control that threatens innovation.

**This book focuses on three critical areas where policy reforms can unleash opportunity:**

● **Labor Policy**

To restore flexibility and protect independent work in an evolving economy.

● **Energy Policy**

To modernize infrastructure and unlock abundant, affordable energy.

● **Technology Policy**

To preserve a permissionless innovation model and safeguard individual freedoms in the digital age.

**These are not abstract policy debates.**

They affect the daily lives of millions of Americans, whether it's the independent worker seeking flexible hours, the family facing rising energy costs, or the entrepreneur striving to bring new ideas to market. At AFP, we are committed to advancing solutions that put people, not government, at the center of progress. Together, we can create a future where everyone has the freedom and opportunity to thrive.



# ABUNDANT, AFFORDABLE & RELIABLE ENERGY





A growing economy means America's energy needs have never been greater. From powering cutting-edge data centers to fueling homes and industries, demand for affordable, reliable energy is surging.

In 2025 and 2026, U.S. electricity demand is projected to grow more than 2 percent annually, with the fastest growth in areas attracting large data centers and manufacturing facilities, such as Texas and Virginia. The Council of Economic Advisers recently reported<sup>1</sup> that by 2028, U.S. data center expansion will add between 150 and 500 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity use compared to 2023 levels. This surge would nearly double or even triple data centers' share of total U.S. electricity consumption.

Yet outdated infrastructure, complex permitting processes, and overlapping regulatory authorities are leaving critical energy projects delayed or abandoned. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) reports that<sup>2</sup>, across all federal agencies, the median Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) takes nearly 3 years to complete.

Without decisive action, regions face the risk of rolling blackouts, and the United States risks ceding its energy leadership to adversaries. At the same time, U.S. energy exports, particularly liquefied natural gas (LNG), are in high demand<sup>3</sup> worldwide, with growth expected to continue. This offers a strategic opportunity to strengthen our economy and support allies who would otherwise depend on less reliable or less friendly nations. Unless we expand infrastructure and reform the regulatory bureaucracy strangling new projects, the U.S. cannot fully meet these global and domestic needs.



Energy is the foundation of prosperity, yet America's growth is throttled by a permitting system so tangled it threatens our domestic progress and global leadership. Reform is not just necessary, it is urgent. Through modernizing infrastructure and streamlining approvals, we can deliver abundant, reliable energy to power innovation and strengthen national security.

—FAITH BURNS, ENERGY POLICY FELLOW



To secure America’s energy future and drive economic growth, AFP advocates a comprehensive strategy focused on modernizing the nation’s energy systems and removing government-imposed barriers.

To achieve these goals, AFP recommends:

## POLICY SOLUTIONS



### Strengthening the Electric Grid

Ensure 24/7 power reliability as demand increases, particularly in regions experiencing surging data center growth and electrification trends.

### Expanding LNG and Crude Oil Export

Boost domestic prosperity and enhance national security by providing energy to allies, rather than leaving them dependent on hostile regimes.

### Building Critical Energy Infrastructure

Build new pipelines, export terminals, and delivery systems to move energy efficiently across the country and to global markets.

### Reforming Permitting Processes

Eliminate multi-agency bottlenecks and create a streamlined, predictable approval process that encourages innovation and investment.



**Data centers can consume up to 50 TIMES THE ENERGY per floor space of a typical commercial office building; and data centers account for roughly 2% of total U.S. electricity use.**

1- "Short-Term Energy Outlook", STEO, U.S. Energy Information Administration, p. 3., August, 2025, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/>; and "Today in Energy", IN BRIEF ANALYSIS, "After more than a decade of little change, U.S. electricity consumption is rising again", Principal contributors: Mark Schipper, Tyler Hodge, May 13, 2025, <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=65264>

2- "Short-Term Energy Outlook", STEO, U.S. Energy Information Administration, p. 3., August, 2025, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/>; and "Today in Energy", IN BRIEF ANALYSIS, "After more than a decade of little change, U.S. electricity consumption is rising again", Principal contributors: Mark Schipper, Tyler Hodge, May 13, 2025, <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=65264>

3- "The Economic Benefits of Unleashing American Energy", The Council of Economic Advisers, p. 5, July 2025. Id. "Environmental Impact Statement Timelines (2010-2014), Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, January 13, 2025, p. 2.





# OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL







In today's dynamic economy, millions of Americans are seeking flexible work arrangements that better fit their lives and families. Yet federal labor laws—many written nearly a century ago—fail to reflect this shift and are actively holding workers back. Proposals like the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and restrictive employment tests threaten to reclassify self-employed workers, limit entrepreneurial pathways, and undermine small businesses that rely on these models to thrive.

These policies increase the power of federal agencies and union leaders at the expense of workers' freedom to choose when, how, and for whom they work.

AFP believes workers should not be forced into one-size-fits-all arrangements designed for an economy that no longer exists. Instead, policy must protect the freedom to chart individual career paths, foster entrepreneurship, and give Americans the tools they need to succeed in an evolving labor market.



Too often, policymakers cling to **labor frameworks from a bygone era**, forcing modern workers into outdated **categories that stifle flexibility and innovation**. To truly unleash the potential **of America's dynamic workforce**, we must replace rigid mandates with policies **that empower individuals to chart their own paths** in a 21st-century economy.

—AUSTEN BANNEN, EMPLOYMENT FELLOW



**IN 2023, OVER 64 MILLION PEOPLE FREELANCED, AND ONLY ABOUT 8% OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS WOULD PREFER A TRADITIONAL JOB.**



To restore flexibility and expand opportunity, policymakers must act swiftly to preserve the diverse and dynamic labor force that drives American prosperity. To achieve this, lawmakers should embrace bold reforms that modernize outdated labor laws and remove government-imposed barriers, including:



### **Modernizing Employment Classification**

Align federal employment tests under the Fair Labor Standards Act and National Labor Relations Act to provide a single, clear standard that safeguards legitimate independent contracting. This prevents arbitrary reclassification that can strip workers of autonomy and limit entrepreneurial opportunities, while giving businesses confidence to engage flexible talent.



### **Expanding Flexible Scheduling**

Extend to private-sector workers the same benefit federal employees enjoy: the ability to choose between overtime pay or equivalent paid time off. This reform allows employees to bank hours for personal needs such as caring for a family member, furthering education, or managing health issues, giving them more control over their work-life balance.



### **Protecting Worker Choice**

Ensure workers have the freedom to choose arrangements that fit their needs, whether in traditional employment or as independent contractors. Policies should prevent coercive organizing tactics, protect secret-ballot elections, and preserve the right to opt out of union membership or dues, ensuring all workers have a voice in their own careers.



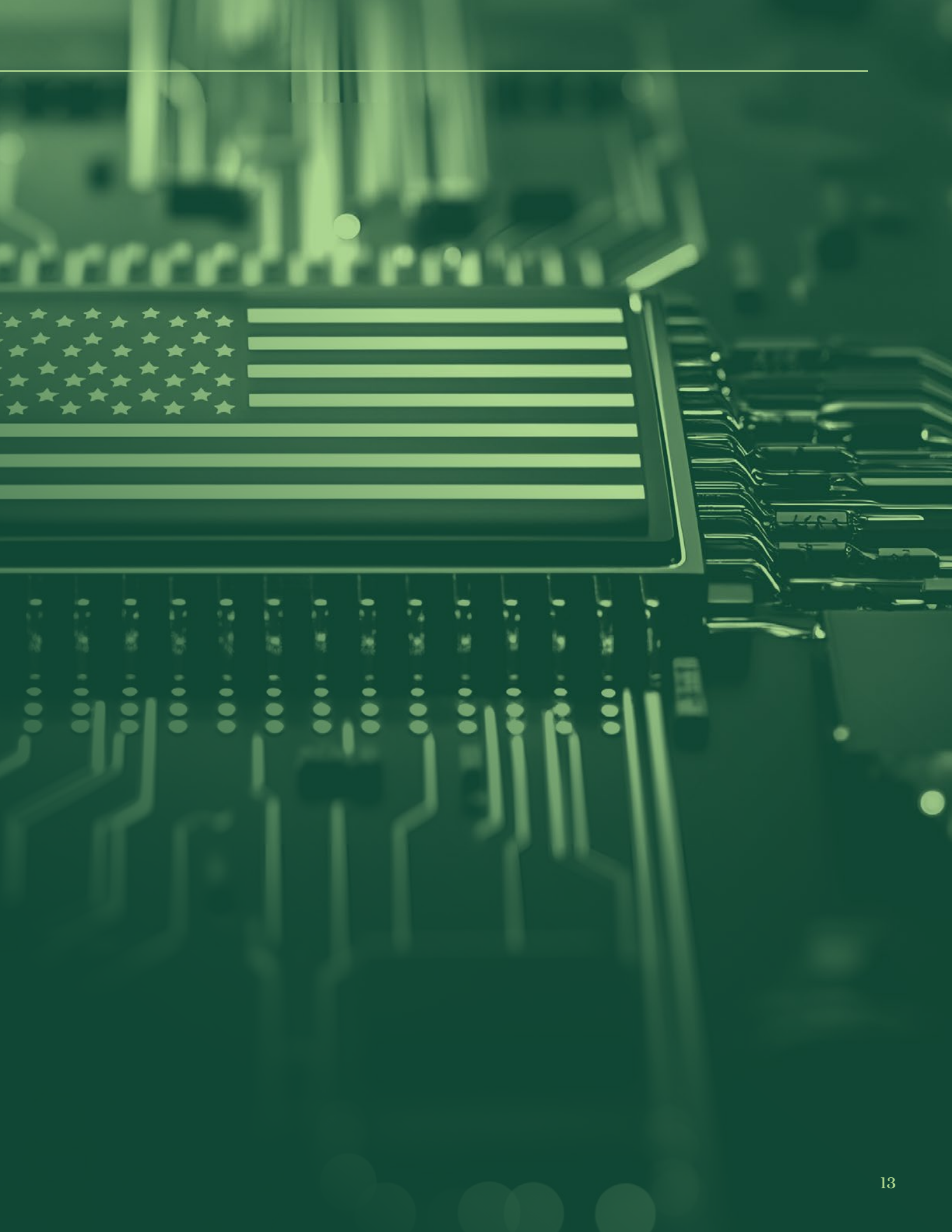
### **Expanding Access to Portable Benefits**

Enable individuals to obtain health, retirement, and other benefits that move with them from job to job. Reforms should make it easier for small businesses, independent contractors, and other entities to pool together for affordable health coverage and legalize portable benefit arrangements covering health care, retirement savings, and more. These changes empower workers in flexible arrangements to build long-term financial and personal security without sacrificing independence.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.franchise.org/impact-of-franchising/#:~:text=Discover%20how%20the%20franchise%20business,upward%20mobility%20and%20professional%20success.>

# EMPOWERING PEOPLE THROUGH INNOVATION





Innovation has always been the greatest driver of progress. From the printing press to the internet to artificial intelligence, technology has lifted billions out of poverty, connected people across the globe, and expanded individual freedom. Today, however, government overreach threatens to stifle this progress. Heavy-handed regulations and sweeping surveillance programs, punish success and risk turning technology policy into a tool for centralized control.

AFP believes people, not government bureaucracies, are the best engine of innovation. Instead of empowering entrenched interests or politicizing the digital economy, American policy should foster an environment where entrepreneurs can build, experiment, and scale solutions that improve lives. A decentralized, permissionless innovation model protects free speech, spurs competition, and keeps the United States at the forefront of global technological leadership.

## TO SECURE AMERICA'S FUTURE AS A HUB OF INNOVATION, **LAWMAKERS SHOULD**

### **Future-proof the American Economy**

Support light-touch, permissionless innovation policies to power emerging technologies and sustain growth.





Policymakers must embrace a framework that protects liberty, encourages competition, and enables technology to remain a force for human flourishing.

### **Connect Americans to the Future**

Expand broadband access through market-driven solutions, closing the digital divide and unlocking opportunity in underserved communities.

### **Clear Regulatory Barriers**

End outdated rules that hinder technologies like blockchain, gig platforms, and telehealth, empowering individuals and communities to solve challenges from the bottom up.

### **Reject Government Expansion**

Prevent new regulatory bodies from consolidating power and threatening free expression, as seen in troubling international precedents.

### **Enact Sensible Federal Privacy Policy**

Replace the de facto national standard created by California's patchwork rules with balanced protections that empower individuals and avoid punishing small innovators.





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