

## **Robert People will fight for clean energy and environmental protections to keep our people and our world healthy.**

*Since Donald Trump's term started in 2025, his administration has made decisions for the benefit of the fossil fuel industry and to the detriment of regular people. As the Representative for district 15, Laurel Lee has supported the administration as they have paid taxpayer dollars to cut clean energy projects. She has voted to sacrifice public lands for subsidization of the fossil fuel industry.*

### **Policy Proposals**

#### **Clean Energy:**

- Restore and expand clean energy investments for investments in wind, solar, and battery storage
- End fossil fuel subsidies
- Federal clean energy standards targeting 100% clean grid by 2040

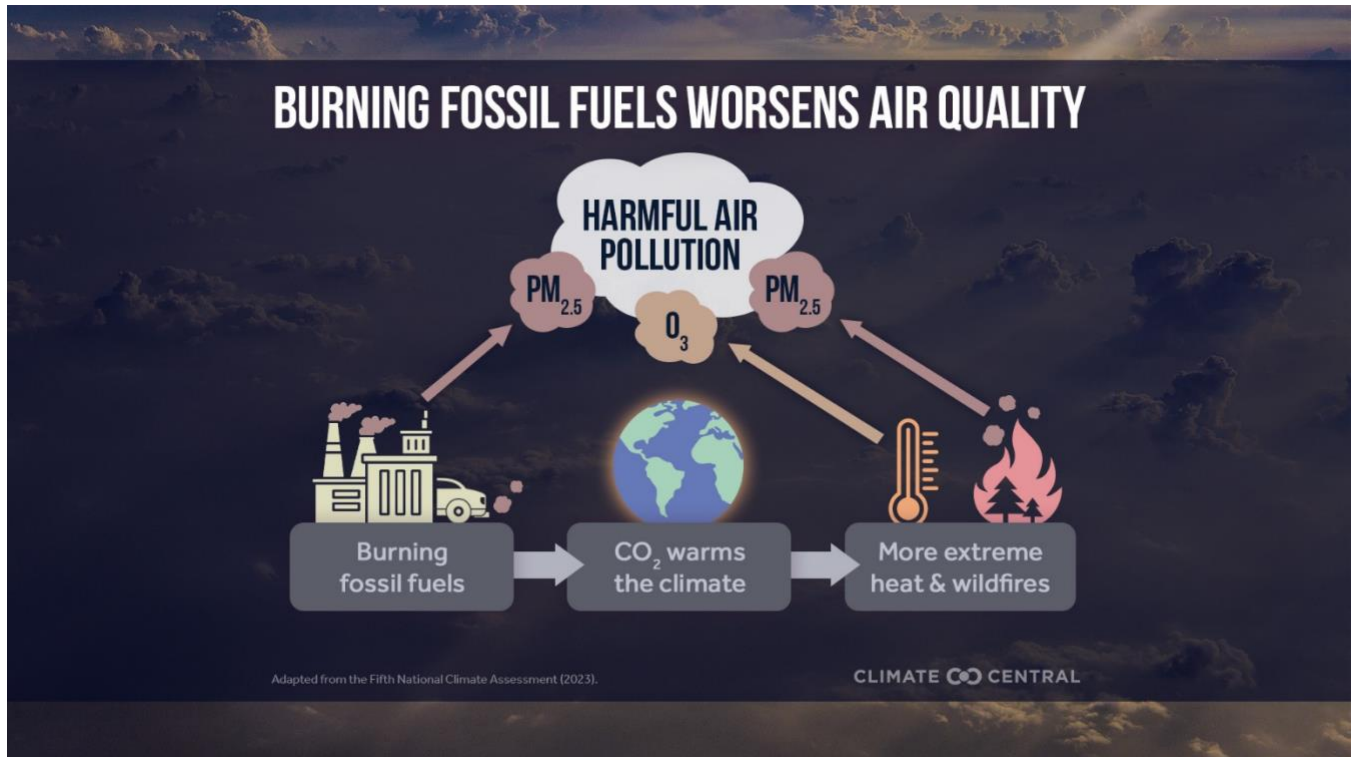
#### **Environmental Protections:**

- Restore EPA standards
- Preserve Endangered Species protections
- Center environmental justice in climate legislation – ensuring communities most impacted by pollution are the first to benefit from clean energy

#### **Clean Energy:**

**Clean Energy Investments:** The Trump administration paid a French energy company almost 1 billion dollars to halt wind energy projects that could have powered 1.3 million homes and businesses. The repeal of these led to the loss of 35 billion in investments and nearly 40,000 manufacturing jobs. It's projected to add \$28 billion to energy bills by 2030. The Inflation Reduction Act passed under President Biden included the largest clean energy investment in history but many of the provisions were eliminated or scaled back by Trump administration legislation such as the One Big Ugly Bill. The Iran War further highlights the need for investments in clean energy as it is largely protected from geopolitical impacts unlike the price of oil. Despite the administration's attacks on renewable energy, it still rose to 26% of power produced in 2025. To further the goal of

increasing our use of clean, renewable energy, Robert People will support legislation that aligns with the recommendations made by the Climate Action Campaign: <https://www.actonclimate.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CAC-Principles-for-Clean-Energy-Deployment.pdf>



**Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** Fossil fuels worsen air quality resulting in negative health impacts for residents and contributing to worsening climate crises. Fossil fuels are coal, crude oil, and natural gases all of which have high carbon content. These resources are extracted through drilling, mining, and fracking – all processes which have their own negative environmental impacts. These processes leach nutrients from our land and disrupt critical wildlife habitats. All of these can pollute drinking water and jeopardize freshwater and ocean ecosystems. They also produce large amounts of wastewater which can leak or overflow into aquifers and waterways. Even before they are burned fossil fuels emit air pollutants that have been linked to cancer and blood disorders. Burning these carbon-rich resources results in large amounts of carbon dioxide. In fact, burning fossil fuels accounts for about ¾ of our carbon emissions in the United States. Beyond carbon dioxide, fossil fuels produce mercury, arsenic, benzene, soot, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide, all of which have negative health and environmental impacts. Our seas become more acidic and biodiversity decreases.

The Federal government has provided oil and gas companies with direct financial subsidies, cheap and plentiful land access for operations, and predictable permitting. Fossil fuels are subsidized through tax credits and deductions, special accounting methods, direct payments from taxpayers, mandated leases of public lands, reduced royalties' payments for federal land use, cheaper per-acre rent, streamlined and fast-tracked permits, government services to maintain infrastructure and the military to protect overseas interests, and a lack of accountability for cleanup costs and pollution impacts. Oil, gas, and coal have received \$549 billion in direct tax subsidies over the last 150 years. They also pay about 40% less to lease land than the solar industry median rent. Renewables are the cheapest source of energy yet the Trump administration is pushing to continue giving advantages to the oil, gas, and coal industries. Robert People will support legislation to end subsidies for fossil fuels so that our government is not using taxpayer dollars to incentivize companies to continue business practices that damage our health and our environment.

**Clean Energy by 2040:** Once Congress has restored the focus on clean, renewable energy and stopped the Trump administration's attacks on these initiatives, the focus needs to shift toward the long-term goal of have clean energy by 2040 as outlined by the House Select Committee on Climate Crisis (<https://castor.house.gov/climatecrisis/issues/electric-grid.html>)

## **Environmental protections:**

**EPA Standards:** Since the beginning of his second term, Donald Trump has been focused on promoting energy production using fossil fuels as he promised the oil executives he would do if they supported his campaign. Two months later the EPA announced a plan to roll back 31 environmental protections related to clean air, clean water, and climate change. This has included the 2009 endangerment finding which is the scientific and legal basis for regulating greenhouse gas emissions. Trump also issued seven EPA rule exemptions for six industries which allows 180 facilities to evade hazardous air pollution standards for at least two years. Trump also issues an Executive Order to roll back fuel economy standards set during Obama's presidency. The repeal of these by the Trump Administration will cost drivers a new \$180 billion over three decades with higher fuel, maintenance, and insurance costs. Beyond removing environmental protections, the administration is also not enforcing the laws that still exist. The number of lawsuits for polluting fell to 16 in the first year of Donald Trump's second term, which is 76% -87% lower than the first year of the last three presidential terms, including Trump's first term. In Congress, Robert People will fight for environmental protections and will support legislation which reinstates and reinforces EPA standards. He will oppose measures by congress to approve the removal of protections from public land to allow mining, drilling, or fracking such as the bill that Congress passed removing protections

for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota and the administration's efforts to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

**Endangered Species Protections:** The Trump administration has tried to weaken protections for endangered species. Four provisions that were issues in 2019 and retained under Biden were overturned in court in March 2026. These provisions were the requirement that a species "whole habitat" had to be impacted to prevent projects, a requirement that only the actions that were "reasonably certain" to occur as a result of a project needed to be considered, a requirement that US Fish and Wildlife would accept mitigation efforts based on an entity just saying they would do them with no actual plans, and allowing FWC and NOAA fisheries to ignore negative species impacts. Despite this victory, endangered species protections are still at risk. Specifically impacting Florida and District 15, the endangered species committee issued an exemption for compliance with the endangered species act for oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico. Many of our Tampa Bay residents still remember the BP oil spill in 2010 that greatly impacted our gulf coast wildlife and caused harm to our gulf coast community economies. Robert People will oppose efforts to expand deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and will support legislation to enshrine protections for our biodiversity and to prevent increased climate impacts for our region.

**Center Climate Justice:** Those who live, work, and play in our most polluted environment are often people of color and they are people living in poverty. Every person in the United States should have the same environmental protections and benefits and should be considered in setting policies. We see that this isn't what has been systemically happening in our country when we look at communities like Memphis facing negative impacts of an AI data center or Lowndes County, Alabama with inadequate sewage infrastructure, or Flint, Michigan with lead pipes. Infrastructure improvements are more often made in wealthier and Whiter communities. Marginalized areas have highways, waste storage, industrial warehouses, and a lack of green spaces or shade. Under the Biden administration, 40% of investments in infrastructure were toward climate and clean energy in disadvantaged communities. The Trump administration has gutted environmental justice initiatives, closing all of the EPA regional offices to address this issue and all under the guide of "anti-DEI". As we move forward with policies to increase access to affordable, clean energy and mitigate pollution and environmental hazards, Robert People will always keep these constituents at top of mind. People who have been most impacted for the longest time need to receive the support to improve their environment most urgently. Legislation to address these issues needs to include community feedback on policies and a targeted focus on addressing the most urgent needs first rather than the needs of the people who can donate the most.

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