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West Virginia and the Future of Energy Innovation



Joe Manchin
United States Senate

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) was sworn into the United States Senate on November 15, 2010 to fill the seat left vacant by the late Senator Robert C. Byrd. In 2012, he was elected to his first full term. Manchin is a Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs.

There is an ocean of energy beneath us. We're proud of our energy history in West Virginia, and we know that the coal we mined powered our nation to be the superpower we are today. As Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am well positioned to ensure that West Virginians have a seat at the table as we look to the future of energy innovation in the United States.

Climate change is real, and we have seen its effects first-hand in the Mountain State. In June 2016, West Virginia experienced unprecedented flooding, killing 23 of our friends and neighbors and causing horrific damage across the state. Scientists tell us this is part of a pattern of increasingly frequent extreme weather events throughout the

With this in mind, I introduced the bipartisan *Enhancing Fossil Fuel Energy Carbon Technology (EFFECT) Act* to increase support for critical research and development programs at the Department of Energy Office of Fossil Energy. Carbon capture, utilization and storage are among the most critical technologies we can invest in. Supporting the Department of Energy to get these important technologies to market will benefit the environment while allowing us to maintain affordable and reliable energy domestically, and American leadership globally. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed the EFFECT Act with bipartisan support in July 2019.

The EFFECT Act is one of 49 cleaner energy solutions we have passed out of the Senate

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region, underscoring that climate change is not just a West Virginia problem; it is a global problem that will require global solutions.

Energy experts agree that fossil fuels like coal and natural gas will be part of our energy portfolio through 2040 and likely beyond. That's why the United States needs to lead in technological innovations designed to reduce our carbon emissions.

Energy and Natural Resources Committee. We passed the bipartisan *Energy Efficient Government Technology Act* to require the federal government, our country's largest energy consumer, to develop and implement strategies to increase their energy efficiency. The *Clean Industrial Technology Act* passed the committee in September and would engage our manufacturing and industrial communities to work together on solutions



to lower greenhouse gas emissions while also cornering the global market for new technologies. We also passed the *Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act* to address grid-scale energy storage systems. The committee is also working on legislation to invest in nuclear, solar, wind, geothermal and hydropower technologies. I'm proud of the innovative solutions the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is working on.

I'm also determined to make sure our West Virginia families are explicitly included in these solutions and not excluded from them. In order to strengthen our workforce, we need programs that support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) training, whether that be traditional four-year universities or community/technical colleges, so that our West Virginia workers are at the forefront of the clean energy future. We also can and should be looking to support and invest in the next generation of workers across all sectors at a much earlier age by facilitating more opportunities for hands-on vocational training and stronger STEM education in our middle schools and high schools.

West Virginia is great because our people are great, and I guarantee you won't find better or harder workers anywhere else in the country. While the energy industry is changing and the careers of the future may look different than generations before, our workforce, given the right support and training, can and will rise to the occasion and continue to power our country for decades to come.

Like every West Virginian, I'm proud of the role we play in providing energy security to our fellow Americans across the country. As Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I will continue to advocate for innovative solutions that address climate change, maintain our energy independence and provide good jobs for West Virginia workers. W



Photo Caption 1 Senator Manchin hosts a Broadband and Wireless Connectivity Town Hall with Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel at Lewis County High School in October 2019, in Weston, West Virginia.

Photo Caption 2 Senator Manchin speaks during an Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington, D.C.